

THE goldfinch

The Iowa History Magazine for Young People

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Margaret Atherton Bonney, Editor

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WAR!

Can the U.S. Remain Neutral?

1940

FRENCH TROOPS SURRENDER

Washington, D.C., June 1940 — France has surrendered to Italy and Germany. This gives Germany control over land from which it can launch direct attacks upon England. Six European countries have surrendered in the past three months as strong German forces have overrun Europe. Some say that Hitler plans to march into London in two more months.

Ban Export of Scrap Metal to Japan

Washington, D.C., September 1940 — The United States has banned further shipments of scrap metal to Japan. The Japanese have purchased American steel and iron scrap to build a military force that has waged undeclared war against China for the past three years.

First Peacetime Draft

Washington, D.C., September 1940 — President Franklin D. Roosevelt has signed into law the nation's first peacetime draft bill. The President said that it was important that the United States increase its military strength to

avoid "the terrible fate of nations whose weakness invited attack." He said that some citizens will not be needed for the military and can serve their country best by holding their posts on the production line.

IOP WILL BE NEAR BURLINGTON

Housing A Problem

by Jeffrey Madsen

Burlington, November 1940 — The United States government has authorized the purchase of 20,000 acres of farm land west of Burlington for a defense plant. Nearly 200 families live on this 35-mile square tract of land. Most families do not want to move, but are offering their "whole-hearted cooperation" for the U.S. defense measures anyway.

The construction of the Iowa

Ordnance Plant (IOP) will change the lives of southeastern Iowans. Many people will soon arrive to construct and operate the plant. As these workers move into the area, more fire and police protection will be needed. New streets and railways will also be needed, as will improved water, sewage, and garbage facilities.

A housing shortage has developed because many construction workers are moving into the area. The government plans to establish trailer camps which will serve as temporary housing for many workers and their families.

1941

SCHOOLS NEED CLASSROOMS

by Jeffrey Madsen

Burlington, February 1941 — Three thousand workers are now employed at the Iowa Ordnance Plant construction site. Most of these workers are newcomers to the Burlington area. Many have school age children and crowding has become a problem in the local schools. Plans will be made this summer to build more classrooms for the coming school year.

LEND-LEASE BILL SIGNED

Washington, D.C., March 1941 — President Roosevelt has signed the bill that will make possible shipments of munitions, war equipment, and food to Britain and other nations fighting the Axis powers. It is hoped the supplies will aid the Allies in their war against Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Axis n. — the alliance of Germany, Japan, and Italy during World War II.

Allies n. — the countries that fought against Germany, Japan, and Italy in World War II.

BEGIN SELLING DEFENSE BONDS

Washington, D.C., May 1941 — President Roosevelt bought the first defense savings bond and stamp last night. He asked his fellow Americans to purchase bonds to help finance the production of ships, airplanes, tanks, and guns.

The new defense program will boost defense spending to 20 percent of the national income. Much of the war material will be sent to help Britain defend itself against Germany and Italy.

U.S. Stops Oil For Japan

Washington, D.C., August 1941 — The United States government has ordered all oil exports to Japan stopped. This country supplies more than two-thirds of the gasoline and lubricants that Japan needs.

The action was taken to impress Japan with the U.S. opposition to its armed expansion in Asia, which now threatens American territory (the Philippines).

U.S. WARSHIP SUNK WEST OF ICELAND

Washington, D.C., November 1941 — The Destroyer Reuben James was torpedoed and sunk two days ago off the coast of Iceland. It is the first American warship sunk since the European war began. "American destroyers have no business entering the war zone," a Berlin spokesman said. "Whoever participates in a **convoy** becomes part of an English formation and must accept the risk."

convoy n. — a group of ships guarded by an armed escort.

PLANT BRINGS MANY CHANGES IN ONE YEAR

by Jeffrey Madsen

Burlington, November 1941 — Just one year ago the government purchased the land where the Iowa Ordnance Plant stands today. Now three loading lines at the IOP are producing fuses, shells, and bombs. The aerial bomb line is over a mile long!

Labor is scarce because the plant employs all available workers in the area. Employees are earning good wages because of this labor shortage. Businesses in the area report booming sales.

Many city improvements have been completed. Miles of new streets, curbs and sewers have been built. New city equipment has been purchased to meet the

AMMUNITION PRODUCTION BEGINS AT IOP

by Jeffrey Madsen

Burlington, October 1941 — Production of ammunition has started at the IOP. A peak of nearly 13,000 workers was reported at the site during the summer. More than 400 buildings have already been completed at the plant area.

U.S. NO LONGER NEUTRAL

Washington, D.C., November 1941 — Congress today voted to repeal the 1939 **Neutrality Act**. The navy will now put guns and gun crews on cargo ships. Naval and air patrols will also travel across the Atlantic to protect American ships sailing for the British Isles.

Neutrality Act — A law that prevented the United States from selling arms to countries that were at war.

demands of the growing population.

Many workers have found housing in nearby towns. This means changes in these communities also. Mrs. Lloyd Kelly of Mediapolis says:

By the establishment of the Iowa Ordnance Plant 15 miles from Mediapolis, all empty houses have been filled — including newly-made apartments and furnished rooms in private homes.

All business has shown a sharp increase with the larger population, but the biggest benefit from this project is the employment of local people.

JAPANESE ATTACK U.S.

Des Moines, December 7, 1941 — Bitter resentment against Japan swept the state this afternoon as press wires and radio brought news that Japan had declared war on the United States after bomber attacks on Pearl Harbor, Wake Island, and the Philippines.

Hundreds of telephone calls poured into the offices of this paper where up-to-the-minute news was carried by the Associated Press. Hundreds of people had ears "glued" to radios.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt is expected to ask Congress for a

declaration of war against Japan tomorrow.

20-44 Draft Age Limit Set by Congress

Washington, D.C., December 1941 — Military draft age in the army and navy will begin at 20 years and include men up to age 44. The new draft bill requires all men between age 18 and 65 register. Formerly, only men between age 21 and 35 were required to register.

IOWANS FLOCK TO RECRUITING OFFICE

Des Moines, December 11, 1941 — Since Monday morning, at least 238 young men have signed up for service in one of the four major branches of the armed forces — army, navy, coast guard, or marines.

ALL TIN UNDER U.S. CONTROL

Limited Civilian Use is Ordered

Washington, D.C., December 1941 — Effects of the Pacific war on imports from the Far East have caused the government to take control of all tin supplies in the United States. This includes shipments of tin already on the way to this country. Almost all tin used in the U.S. is imported from British Malaya and the Netherlands Indies.

A government order limiting the use of tin and tin-lined cans will be issued within the next few days.

Iowa Farmers Ready for Food Drive

Des Moines, December 1941 — Iowa farmers are off to a good start on providing food supplies for the United States and the Allied nations in the war against Axis powers.

Since last spring Iowa has increased production of pork, milk, and eggs. Large quantities of Iowa pork, lard, eggs, and dairy products have been sent to Great Britain under the **Lend-Lease** Act.

Iowa farmers have every intention of meeting the goals set by the United States Department of Agriculture under the food-for-freedom program. Farmers' contributions to the national defense and the war effort will remain important for the duration.

lend-lease n. — a government program which furnished aircraft, ships, munitions, food, and other items to a friendly nation whose defense was important to the United States.



U.S. DECLARES WAR WITH GERMANY AND ITALY

Washington, D.C., December 11, 1941 — Congress today voted for a declaration of war against Germany and Italy. President Roosevelt signed the declaration against Japan's two Axis partners at 3:06 P.M.

NURSES ASKED TO REGISTER

Des Moines, December 1941 — The Des Moines Red Cross nursing service reports that nearly 500 nurses in Polk County and in 17 surrounding counties are eligible for duty. These people should register at once. Requirements state that those eligible must be RNs (registered nurses), between 21 and 40 years of age, single, and physically fit.

Salaries begin at \$70 per month and include room and board. Nurses also receive six uniforms, a pair of shoes, and a cape.

Silk Stocking Supply in U.S. Nearly Gone

New York, December 1941 — American women won't be able to march in the Easter Parade with silk stockings if they wait until then to buy them.

The government placed an **embargo** on Japanese silk last July, and the supplies of silk have decreased rapidly. Silk now is being made into war equipment such as parachutes and powder bags for big guns. Researchers are working to develop a product to replace silk. Nylon production is expected to increase.

embargo n. — a government order to stop trade of certain goods with a certain country.

FIVE BROTHERS ENLIST IN NAVY

Waterloo, December 1941 — The Sullivan brothers, five husky sons of Mr. and Mrs. T.F. Sullivan of Waterloo, went to Des Moines to take their physical examinations, sign final papers, and repeat the oath of allegiance that will admit them to the United States Navy. They are George Thomas, 27; Francis Henry, 25; Joseph Eugene, 23; Madison Abel, 22; and Albert Leo, the youngest, who is 19 and the only married one of the five. Albert has been married two years. His wife and 10-month-old son live in Waterloo.

For two of the brothers this is a return engagement. Francis and George completed four years of service in the navy just six months ago, returning to Waterloo from Pearl Harbor, where they were stationed on a destroyer. The Sullivan brothers attended school in Waterloo and were all employed at the Rath Packing Company.

IOWA HAS ONLY 5 JAPS

Des Moines, December 1941 — Iowa has 29 people of Japanese descent. Only five are foreign-born, the Census Bureau at Washington, D.C., has announced. The other 24 people were born in the U.S. and are therefore citizens.

The state having the greatest number of Japanese is California with 93,717. Of these, 33,569 are foreign-born.

Jap n. — a word used in scorn of the Japanese during World War II.

ARMY AIR BASE FOR SIOUX CITY

Washington, D.C., December 1941 — The War Department has selected seven locations in the Midwest and Southwest as sites for new air bases. One of the sites is at Sioux City, Iowa. The selections were made "to provide the means for greater aerial protections for the United States." Air bases are being constructed in areas where none presently exist.

FARM MACHINERY SCARCITY SEEN

Des Moines, December 1941 — All indications point to greater scarcity of new farm implements and equipment. Farmers are urged to order parts and make repairs on their farm machinery now. The farm machinery repair and parts campaign was thought to be a vital defense job before the declaration of war, but since then it has become even more important.

TIRE RATIONING BEGINS TOMORROW

1942

Des Moines, January 1942 — The rubber shortage in this country is critical. Ninety-eight percent of our rubber supply comes from the Far East. The war in the Pacific has cut off supplies from this source. Rubber rationing will be necessary until the situation changes.

Applications must be made to your local tire rationing board to receive a certificate which allows

the purchase of a new tire. Local rationing boards have been set up throughout the state. Board members serve without pay. Auto owners who use their cars for private transportation will not be eligible for new tires.

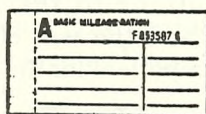
Non essential goods made with rubber, such as tennis and golf balls, bathing suits, and rubber toys may be eliminated "for the duration."

duration n. — the amount of time during which something lasts.

essential adj. — necessary; not to be done without.

TO MAKE TIRES LAST

Gasoline is rationed:



Speed limit is set:



Tires must be inspected:



You must sell all unmounted tires to the Government:



FARMERS HELP UNCLE SAM

State Ready to Shatter All Records

Des Moines, January 1942 — The wartime food needs of the U.S. and the Allies will require increased farm production in 1942. Iowa farmers will shoulder a large portion of the responsibility for providing more "food-for-freedom."

State farmers will be asked to produce more hogs and eggs and to increase their acreage of soybeans and flaxseed. Farmers will also increase corn production, planting more than 9 million acres of corn.

It is estimated that Iowa farmers will receive good prices for these products. The total income for all the state's farmers will be near a billion dollars.

Iowa farmers already have declared their intention to exceed the goals set for farm production.

DRAFT FILL-IN NEED IS TOLD

Des Moines, January 1942 — Industry will need replacements for the employees who will soon be drafted under the Selective Service Act. Employers should be ready to train women as well as men above the draft age to replace those employees who enter the service.

STOP ALL AUTO SALES

Des Moines, January 1942 — The government has prohibited the purchase, sale or delivery of new passenger cars and trucks until an automobile rationing system can be established.

You'll Wear Plain Colors — Plainer Styles

New York, January 1942 — Americans, in order to keep their army the best dressed in the world, are going to wear clothes of more serious color and plainer cut.

The time may come when Mr. and Mrs. John Citizen will be able to buy far fewer suits and dresses, but right now the huge woolen industry is trying to work out this problem:

Conserve wool, make at least 20 million soldier uniforms as well as millions of army overcoats, socks and other items; at the same time keep the supply of civilian clothing at present levels.

The average American civilian uses about nine pounds of wool a year, but the government supplies the soldier in training with about 100 pounds and the soldier in action with 279 pounds. Hence the amount of wool civilians may use for things like clothes, rugs, and blankets, must be reduced.

This does not mean there is a shortage of wool clothing. So far as men's suits are concerned, it is pointed out that thousands of men who formerly wore civilian clothes now are wearing or will be wearing a uniform. Further, there now is a large supply of wool cloth and clothing in factories and stores.

So to start with, the clothing industry in 1942 will cut their numbers of colors for men's and women's clothes. This will allow chemicals usually used for dyeing to be used for making explosives instead.

Soon it may not be fashionable to wear doublebreasted suits, since the extra material in that style is not essential, and the flaps on pockets and the cuffs on trousers may disappear. From now on there will be more plain colors. This should not be a great hardship for women. Most of women's clothes are black just now.

Students Aid War Effort



Students bring in scrap metal during a drive at Hampton.

PRIORITIES FOR FARM MACHINERY

Repair Program Stressed

Washington, D.C., January 1942 — Farm machinery manufacturers announced today that a limited supply of both new machinery and repair parts will be available in 1942.

Drug Store to Gather Used Paste Tubes for National Defense

Manilla, Iowa, February 1942 — Agencies for the salvage of tin, a vital metal, have urged the reclamation of the metal from old shaving cream and toothpaste tubes, which are almost pure tin.

Eighty-five percent of the tin used in the United States last year went into these tubes. It is estimated that there are about 6,000 tons of tubes in the hands of the public now. Manilla residents should take their tubes to the collection boxes at Carnahan's Drug Store.

TO REGISTER FARM LABOR

Workers Needed to Plant and Harvest Bigger Crops

Des Moines, February 1942 — The employment offices in Iowa will sponsor a campaign to sign up people willing to do farm work. The fear of a labor shortage has had farmers worried about increasing their production.

It is hoped that the campaign will find the extra labor and that all available workers will be registered so that farmers may be assured of the help when it is needed.

CARRY PACKAGES TO AID WAR EFFORT

Traer, February 1942 — Governor George Wilson has appealed to the retail stores and people of Iowa to do everything possible to reduce store delivery service. We are sure that most store owners will do so — if their customers will cooperate also. This will help conserve gasoline and release delivery truck drivers for essential war work. It is believed that not many customers will object to placing limits on the free delivery service enjoyed in the past.

BOY SCOUTS TO HELP ON FARM

Des Moines, February 1942 — The Tall Corn Council of the Boy Scouts of America is setting up a program to help meet the farm labor shortage which is expected to grow as the war progresses. The first step toward organization of older boys in cities and small towns has begun.

Plans call for placing Boy Scouts between ages 14 and 18 on farms for the summer months.

To Increase Dried Egg Output

Ames, February 1942 — Federal authorities have announced a huge increase in the production of dried eggs as a wartime goal. Iowa egg producers are helping to achieve this mark by stepping up the output to supply increased lend-lease shipments to Britain.

Iowa now has four egg drying plants — at Dubuque, Denison, Des Moines, and Manning. If run on a 20-hour basis daily, these plants can produce 15 million pounds of dried eggs a year.

Other large plants are located in Omaha, Neb., and in adjoining states.

FIVE IOWA BROTHERS SHIPMATES ON NEW CRUISER

Waterloo, February 1942 — In December the five Sullivan brothers of Waterloo enlisted in the navy at Des Moines. When they enlisted the brothers requested that they be allowed to serve together. They are now shipmates aboard the new 6,000-ton Cruiser Juneau.

IOWA CHILDREN USING SPENDING MONEY FOR DEFENSE

Des Moines, March 1942 — Iowa boys and girls are doing their part for the war effort by using their allowances and earned spending money to purchase defense stamps and bonds.

All schools in Calhoun County are selling defense stamps and bonds.

Within six weeks, 7,000 Ottumwa children bought 40,000 stamps, and at Eldon a teacher takes her pupils to the post office once a week to buy stamps.

CEREMONIES TO MARK OPENING OF AIR SCHOOL AT SUI

Iowa City, April 1942 — Ceremonies marking the opening of a naval aviation cadet preflight training center at the University of Iowa will be on April 15.

The first group of cadets will arrive on May 28. Eventually a total of 2,000 men will be in training.

Iowa is one of four universities selected for this huge preflight training program, the others being the Universities of North Carolina and Georgia, and St. Mary's College in California.

FIRST WOMEN'S MILITARY SERVICE CORPS IS FORMED

by Ingrid Aanensen

Des Moines, May 1942 — On May 14, President Roosevelt signed a bill allowing the first women's auxiliary corps in the history of the U.S. to be formed. As a result, women from all parts of the country have written or telephoned the Des Moines army recruiting station to enlist.

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) will set up its officers' training school here, at Ft. Des Moines. This site was chosen because of Iowa's central location in the country. Formation of the first women's military service branch arose from the need to free men for combat duty. The WAACs

will perform a total of 62 noncombat tasks, all necessary to the war effort.

Women who wish to join the WAAC must meet certain requirements. A woman must be between ages 21 and 45, a U.S. citizen, and a high school graduate. At the recruiting station women fill out an application form. On this form they will write about their health, education, work experience, and activities.

The women must then take both a physical and a mental alertness examination. The army has established weight requirements that are related to height. No woman under 5 feet tall or 105

pounds will be accepted, and no women over 6 feet tall will be accepted.

WAVES FORMED — ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

by Ingrid Aanensen

Cedar Falls, July 1942 — Because of the success of the WAACs, Congress has passed a bill allowing a new branch of the armed forces to be formed for women. This new addition belongs to the U.S. Navy.

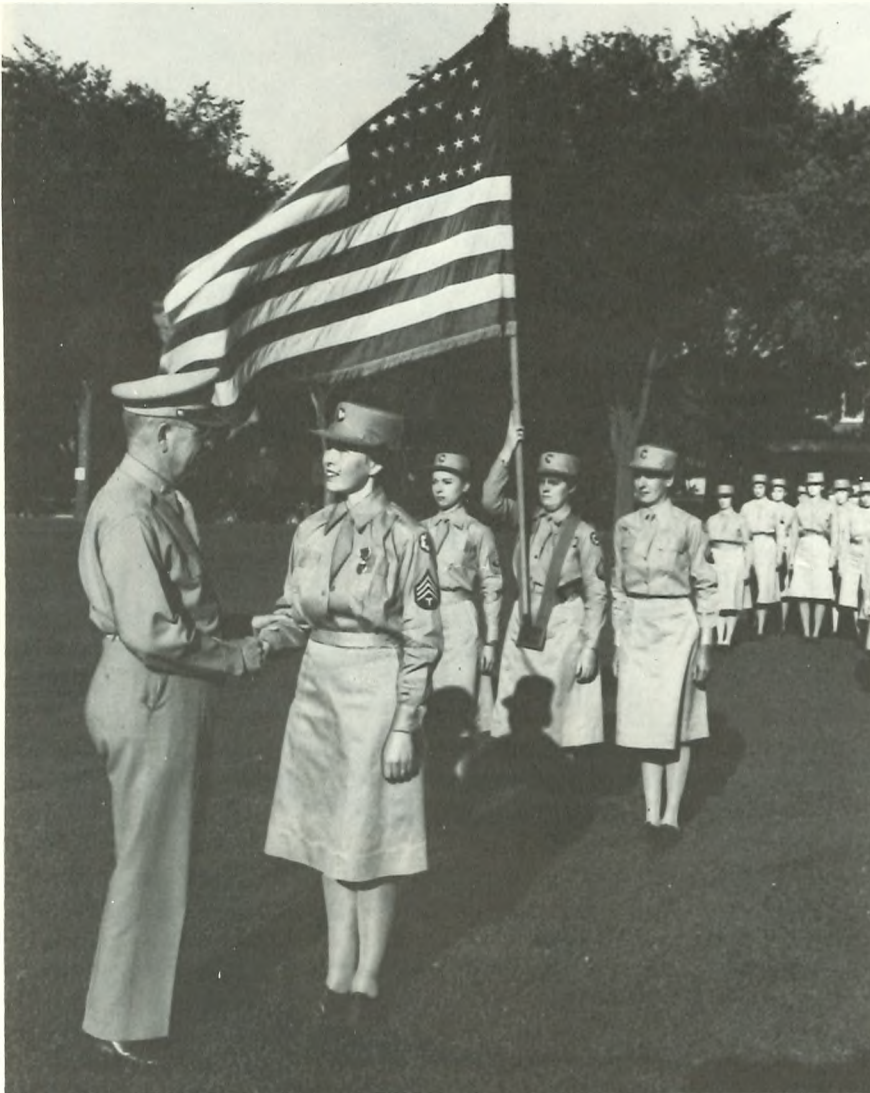
Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) is now taking applications for women across the country, between ages 21 and 50, who wish to help the war effort.

The application procedure is the same as that for the WAACs, but the WAVES' requirements are a little higher. Applicants must have a college degree, or at least two years of college and two years of business experience. While married women are accepted, no women with children under 18 should apply.

All women accepted into the WAVES will be sent to the Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls, where they will begin officer candidate training school. This school is the first of its kind in the nation.

The women's salaries will be equal to those of the men in the navy, and within their branch they will hold the same rank and authority. The only difference is that women will only be allowed to serve on shore. WAVES' duties will include communications and administration work, parachute rigging, **aerography**, storekeeping, and radio operations.

aerography n. — the observation of weather and preparation of weather forecasts for flying conditions.



WACs on the parade ground at Fort Des Moines.

MANUFACTURERS BEGIN WAR EFFORT

by Jeffrey Madsen

Des Moines, July 1942 — Iowa industry is gearing up for wartime production. The federal government has contracted with Iowa industries to produce supplies and equipment for the U.S. armed forces. In some cases private industries must **retool** to produce these defense products, and this takes time.

Production lines at the Maytag Company in Newton are being retooled so that bomb fuses and aircraft hydraulic cylinders can be manufactured instead of washing machines. Most industries will produce supplies and equipment similar to those made before the war.

The list of war-related products being manufactured in Iowa is long and varied. A few of these products and their manufacturers are: boxes for shipment of meat overseas (Meader Brothers Box Company); raincoats and ponchos (Collegiate Manufacturing Company at Ames); field tents (Clinton Garment Company and Mason City Tent, Awning and Canvas

retool v. — to make changes in machinery so that a new kind of product can be manufactured.

100,000 Japs Now Cleared from Coast

Los Angeles, August 1942 — Almost 100,000 Japanese have been moved from their West Coast homes and farms. Large groups are now on their way to inland camps. The western portions of Washington, Oregon, and California are now considered military areas and all people of Japanese ancestry — both **aliens** and citizens — must be moved from these coastal areas.

alien n. — a person who is not a citizen of the country in which he or she lives.

Company); gunstocks (West Burlington Walnut Company); and bombs, tractors, and trailers (John Deere, International Harvester, and J.I. Case Companies).

These government contracts will create more jobs in the state. Although Iowa workers will be earning more money, there will be fewer goods to buy because most industries are switching from the production of civilian to military goods.

Defense Bond and Stamp Sales at Iowa Theaters Start

Eagle Grove, September 1942 — The theaters of Iowa are sponsoring bond and defense stamp sales during September. At Monday night's show a short "Salute to Our Heroes" was presented. First day sales at the Princess Theater totaled over \$900.



Iowa State Historical Department, Des Moines

John and Barton Marschall buy a war stamp for admission to a movie at the Windsor Theater in Hampton.

LABOR SHORTAGE CONTINUES

by Jeffrey Madsen

Burlington, December 1942 — At the IOP, "Iowa's largest enterprise," a new power plant and huge water storage tank have been constructed to meet the ever-increasing needs at the plant. A new field hospital and fire department have also been created at the plant. This increases safety and reduces the burden on city services. Production at the plant is going strong. About 35 million ammunition **components** were produced in October alone. Labor shortages continue to be a problem in the area as defense projects draw workers from other industries. One local firm needs another 200 to 400 workers.

components — the parts used to make up the whole of something.

1943

WAVES WELCOME NEWLY ARRIVED SPARS

by Ingrid Aanensen

Cedar Falls, January 1943 — Training for 150 SPARS (Women's Reserves of the United States Coast Guard) began at the Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls this month.

The reserve was formed in November of 1942, to take over onshore jobs so that Coast Guardsmen might be released for sea duty. The SPARS received their name from the Coast Guard motto, "Semper Partus" (Always Ready).

The SPARS will remain at I.S.T.C. until the Coast Guard sets up a training school in Florida.

FIVE IOWA BROTHERS 'MISSING'

Waterloo, January 1943 — The navy has notified Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Sullivan that their five sons are "missing in action" following the sinking of the Cruiser USS *Juneau* in sea battles around the Solomon Islands last November.

All the brothers were single except Albert, whose wife and 22-month old son joined the brothers' mother, father, and only sister in their grief-stricken home. "The boys always wrote at the end of their letters, 'Keep your chin up,'" Mrs. Sullivan recalled. "And now's a good time to do just that."

SCHOOL KIDS BUY STAMPS

*Pupils at Washington Buy
\$2,501 in Stamps*

Washington, February 1943 — Since the opening of the 1942-43 school year, pupils of the Washington Junior High School have purchased war stamps equivalent to the cost of an army field ambulance. If purchases continue at the same rate during the rest of the school year the value of these purchases will be equal to that of an army scout car, or five jeeps.

Our Job is Just Beginning

Newton, February 1943 — Buying war bonds is just one of the many jobs ahead. The money is used to pay for defense, and is an investment as well. Last year, Iowans bought \$180 million in bonds.

Clinton Chosen as Machinist Center for Women

by Ingrid Aanensen

Clinton, October 1942 — The federal government will set up a machinist training center for women, to be located at Clinton, Iowa.

Women between ages 16 and 25 will learn the skills needed for war work, so they may replace the men needed for military service.

The decision to set up a training center was made after the draft age was lowered from 21 to 18. Men who are under 21 are now free to leave their jobs and join the service.

The Clinton center is the only one of its kind in the five states it will serve. These states are Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota. Women from these states will be given room and

board, as well as \$10 a month. They will learn to operate at least two industrial machines. After they complete their training, the women will be given jobs at the Rock Island Arsenal in the Quad Cities, where 5,000 women are needed to replace the men who formerly worked there.

TO LIMIT USE OF NEWSPRINT

Washington, D.C., December 1942 — The War Production Board today ordered the amount of newsprint paper used in 1943 to be reduced. More reductions may come in the future. Magazines, too, are affected by this order.

SPRING SCRAP DRIVE PLANNED

Sioux City, March 1943 — Committee members are planning the 1943 spring scrap drive for Sioux County, which will be conducted at the end of this month.

Plans are being made for a house-to-house, and a farm-to-farm drive in an effort to reach the county's goal of 1,514 tons of metal.

Metal scrap, such as barbed wire, tin foil, razor blades, and keys are desperately needed. These materials are melted down and made into guns and ammunition, which are necessary for the U.S. to win the war.

Members are urging all residents to pitch in and make this drive a successful one.

AVIATION CANDIDATES FALL IN WITH WAVES, SPARS AT I.S.T.C.

Cedar Falls, March 1943 — The WAVES and SPARS at Iowa State Teacher's College will soon have yet another addition to their ranks.

There will be 420 Army Aviation candidates arriving at I.S.T.C. this month for a five-month course to prepare them for preflight schools.

These aviation candidates are members of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASPS). After preflight and flight training, the WASPS' will **ferry** all types of U.S. military aircraft from factories to airfields. Other noncombat work includes towing targets, messenger duty, and airplane testing.

ferry v. — to deliver by flying to a particular destination.

WOMEN "MAN" MACHINES AS WAR GOES ON

Des Moines, April 1943 — Iowa women who were once housewives, beauticians, secretaries, and waitresses are now taking over jobs formerly held by their husbands, brothers, and boyfriends who are being called into the service.

The John Deere factory in Waterloo now has over 300 women welding and riveting. Before the war no women worked at Deere. Now women are not only working, but they are working the same hours at the same jobs and for the same wages as men.

The railroad is another area where women are holding jobs for the first time. In Clinton, Boone, and Council Bluffs, these "Wipes" (as the women call themselves) of the Chicago and Northwestern railroads clean the locomotives with live steam and hot water.

Women are working for the first time at the Brick and Tile Company in Sheffield. Their job is to lift tile from the conveyor belts and load it on trucks. They also run the forklifts that haul the brick and tile around the shop.

The work at these three plants was thought to be too heavy for women. But with most of the men being called to serve in the armed forces, employers were left with little choice but to hire women. The employers are surprised and happy with the work of the women. They claim that women workers do as good a job, if not a better job, than men, and that they have a better rate of attendance.

Paper Drive Successful



Iowa State Historical Department, Des Moines

Loads of paper are piled into a truck during a successful paper drive.



TRAINING CAMPS SET UP FOR WAR WORKERS

Chariton, May 1943 — Expertly equipped, government-owned shops have been set up in 21 Iowa cities for the training of high school graduates for war work.

Trainees will be taught such skills as drill press operation, industrial sewing, welding, radio repair, clerical work, auto mechanics, and aircraft and farm implement repair.

582,000 IOWANS AIDING WAR

Des Moines, June 1943 — Nearly 582,000 Iowans — about one person for every family in the state, are working directly for the war effort.

They include men and women in the uniform of the army, navy, Coast Guard, and marines, and also farmers and workers in war production plants.

Farming	28,000
Army, navy	
Coast Guard, marines	200,000
WAACs, WAVES, SPARS,	
women marines	2,000
War Industry	100,000

Farming has been declared as a necessary war function and most farm workers have been **deferred** from the draft to make the food front successful. The number of farm workers listed does not include women who work on the farm.

At present almost one-third of all war production workers in the state are women.

deferred v. — to put off or delay until a later time.

WAGS WILL GET 16 DOG RECRUITS

Davenport, September 1943 — Sixteen dogs from towns in Iowa and western Illinois will be shipped to Ft. Robinson, Neb., to start training for army service in the Dogs for Defense, Inc.

OPEN HOSTEL FOR NISEI

Des Moines, September, 1943 — A **hostel** for Americans of Japanese ancestry has been opened by the American Friends Service Committee at 2150 Grand Ave. It will be "home" to Japanese-Americans released from relocation camps while they search for jobs.

The first guest arrived yesterday. He is Koe Yoshida, 24, of California. He came here from the Granada, Colo., relocation center. Before the war Yoshida had operated a truck farm, specializing in tomatoes.

About 125 American-born Japanese have been placed in jobs in Iowa so far. All Japanese coming into the state "are of proved loyalty," and American citizens.

hostel n. — a lodging place

WAR PRISONER CAMPS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Clarinda, October 1943 — Two permanent prisoner of war camps are now under construction at Clarinda and Algona. Each camp will house about 3,000 men. It is expected that 500 officers and guards will be on duty at each camp.

1,138 Pounds of Salvage Fat Collected

Mason City, April 1943 — Salvage grease collected Saturday by Cub and Girl Scouts totaled 1,138 pounds, it was announced by the Women's Salvage Committee. This shows that more and more housewives realize the importance of saving left-over grease in the kitchen. Proceeds from the sale of grease at 4 cents a pound totaled \$45.52. The money went to the Cub and Girl Scout organizations for special wartime projects.



Germans from the Clarinda prisoner of war camp help with the harvest.

A VISIT TO THE SCHICK ARMY HOSPITAL

Clinton, September, 1943 — A visit to the new Schick General Army Hospital here brings the war close to home. Men wounded in action, injured in the service, or who become sick in the service, are treated at this hospital. In addition to serving as a general hospital, Schick has been designated as a neurosurgical center.

The 100 buildings provide beds for 1,500 patients, cared for by a staff of 1,280 people. Presently, the 91st Field Hospital Unit is in training at Schick.

field hospital — A military group of surgeons, nurses, and trained medical personnel with equipment for establishing a temporary hospital.

ENROLLMENT FOR WAR WORK COURSES DOWN

by Ingrid Aanensen

Des Moines, October 1943 — Although training courses are offered at West High School to help women prepare for war work, few are enrolled. The reason is that the demand for workers is so great, that employers are hiring untrained women.

Of the 300 persons taking the courses, less than 50 are women. Last year over 300 women completed the course.

Both the men and the women taking the courses believe that their training will not only prepare them for war work, but will also help them find jobs after the war is over.

RETAILERS NEED TRAINED HELP

Training Course for Workers Offered

Des Moines, October 1943 — Retail merchants say there is a shortage of trained help to replace employees leaving for war industry work. A training program has been planned to give the proper background to those who are willing to help out. A 12-hour course will be held two afternoons a week.

NEW CROP FOR HANCOCK COUNTY

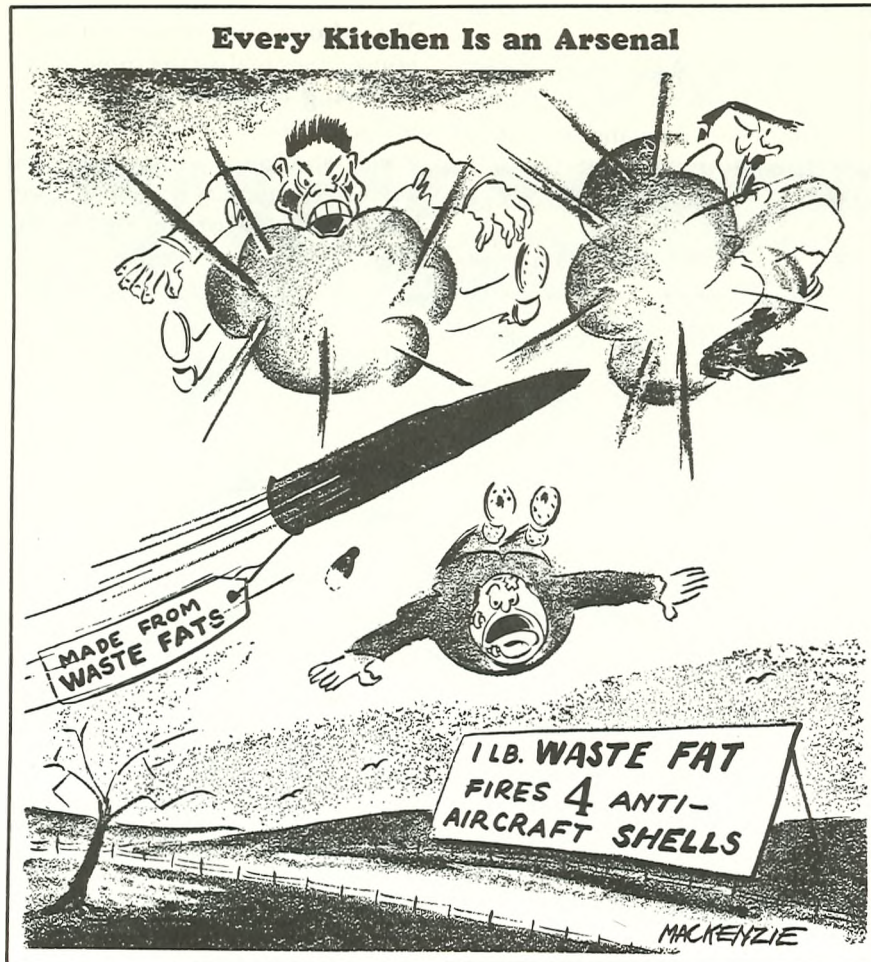
Britt, November 1943 — 1943 marks the beginning of a new fiber crop for Hancock County. Although some farmers do not feel that hemp is the most profitable crop they can grow, they should remember that we grow hemp to help the war effort.

Meat Points Given for Waste Fat

Cedar Rapids, December 1943 — Beginning December 15 housewives will receive meat coupons worth 2 points per pound for every pound of waste kitchen grease turned in at the butcher shop — in addition to four cents a pound for the grease.

There is a critical shortage of fats which are necessary for the production of many war materials such as synthetic rubber, lubricating greases, explosives, and medicines. It is believed that only one-half of the housewives are bringing in their unneeded household fats.

synthetic adj. — natural product is composed; artificial.



1944

HEMP FIBER PROCESSING BEGINS IN IOWA FALLS

Graduate of East High Fails to Return After Italian Mission

Relocation of Japanese- American Citizens Proposed to Ease Labor Shortage

Clinton, February 1944 — Clinton businessmen have been asked to find out how local residents feel about hiring American citizens of Japanese descent in Clinton.

It is hoped that this will help relieve the labor shortage. It will also move the Japanese-Americans out of relocation camps and make them self-supporting citizens. "It must be made clear to everyone," a spokesman declared, "that these people are not prisoners of war. They are American citizens who were rounded up throughout the nation after Pearl Harbor because of their Japanese ancestry." More than 10,000 Nisei are now in the U.S. armed forces.

descent n. — ancestry.

Nisei n. — a person born in the United States whose parents are Japanese immigrants.

Iowa Falls, March 1944 — The first hemp fiber to be grown and milled in Hardin County was carried off the machine line at the new Iowa Falls processing plant yesterday. The fiber will be baled and shipped to another location to be made into rope.

ONLY BEEF STEAKS, ROASTS TAKE POINTS

Albia, May 1944 — Effective at midnight, all meats except beef steaks and beef roasts, will be ration-free. This includes all cuts of pork, veal, and mutton, and all beef (except steaks and roasts), including hamburger and beef stew meat.

This action has been taken because of the halt in lend-lease pork buying and because of reduced army and navy meat demands.

GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR TO BE EMPLOYED IN IOWA CANNING PLANTS

Ackley, August 1944 — About 175 German war prisoners are being brought from the prison camp at Algona to work in the



Second Lt. Norman A. Bennett

Sioux City, December 1944 — Second Lt. Norman A. Bennett navigator on a Liberator bomber is missing in action, according to a War Department message received by his wife, Mrs. Winnifred Bennett.

canning factories at Marshalltown, Ackley, Hampton, Grundy Center, and Reinbeck. Workers will receive room, board, and 80 cents a day. They have the same food as U.S. soldiers and are subject to international rules for treatment of war prisoners.

GROVE LEADS IN MILKWEED

664 Bags Collected in County,

Greenfield, November 1944 — Adair County rural schools have received \$132.80 for 664 bags of milkweed pods collected. Grove No. 5 collected the most bags, 100. Milkweed floss is used in place of kapok, now unavailable because of the war. Kapok is used in sleeping bags and life preservers.

COUNTY (MAJOR CITY)	1940 WORK FORCE		1944 WORK FORCE	
	Total	Women	Total	Women
Blackhawk (Waterloo)	31,500	7,500	33,000	10,750
Cerro Gordo (Mason City)	15,500	3,700	15,500	4,600
Clinton (Clinton)	12,300	2,800	12,400	3,400
Des Moines (Burlington)	13,300	3,100	19,750	7,500
Dubuque (Dubuque)	23,300	6,000	23,600	7,000
Jasper (Newton)	10,200	1,600	11,800	2,900
Linn (Cedar Rapids)	33,250	8,150	38,350	14,900
Polk (Des Moines)	70,000	21,000	79,000	29,500
Wapello (Ottumwa)	14,500	3,000	15,500	3,400
Woodbury (Sioux City)	37,300	10,100	38,500	13,000
(Quad Cities)	82,500	18,500	99,500	28,900

1945

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT DIES

Warm Springs, Georgia, April 12, 1945 — The White House has announced that President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage this afternoon. Vice President Harry S. Truman has been notified. The secretary of state has been advised. A cabinet meeting has been called.

GERMANY SURRENDERS!

Dubuque, May 8, 1945 — Victory in Europe was won by the Allies yesterday. Germany surrendered to the western Allies and Russia in a red schoolhouse which serves as the headquarters of General Dwight D. Eisenhower in Reims, France.

The news of the Nazi surrender brought joy to this city, but the celebrations were quiet because many families have loved ones still fighting in the Pacific.



JAPANESE SURRENDER

Washington, D.C., August 15, 1945 — President Harry S. Truman has announced that the Japanese government has accepted the Allied terms of surrender. A cease-fire has been issued to the American forces.

536 Japanese-Americans Relocated in Iowa

Des Moines, July 1945 — There are now 536 Japanese-Americans living in Iowa. Since the West Coast was opened January 1 for the return of relocated Japanese, only 16 Japanese-Americans have left Iowa. It is said that the biggest factor preventing their return to the West is the lack of housing in the West.

PEACE PRODUCTS START IN IOWA

Plants Retool

by Jeffrey Madsen

Des Moines, August 1945 — The surrender of Japan this month brought a sudden end to war production in Iowa as government contracts were canceled. Unemployment is a problem now, although more and more workers are being called back to their jobs as peacetime production increases and gathers strength. The Des Moines and Burlington areas have been hit hard by unemployment since the closing of the two big defense plants. Efforts are being made to convert these huge plants to peacetime production in order to provide jobs for Iowans.

Iowa industry has begun the shift back to production of civilian goods. For the Iowa family this means that fountain pens, washing machines, refrigerators, radios, and lawn mowers, as well as bulldozers and farm machinery will soon be available.



Iowa State Historical Department, Des Moines

People all over the nation held parades to celebrate the end of the war.

WOMEN CLOCK OUT OF ORDNANCE PLANTS

by Ingrid Aanensen

Des Moines, August 1945 — With the end of the war, many defense plants in Iowa have had their war contracts canceled, and they will be letting many of their workers go. Most of the workers being dismissed are women.

The biggest cut in women workers is at the Hinson Manufacturing Company in Waterloo, where 238 of the 250 employees laid off are women.

The Century plant in Cedar Rapids dismissed 570 women. The total number of employees released there was 700.

The two radio crystal finishing plants in Council Bluffs reported that most of the 527 employees laid off in their plants were women. The return of war veterans is part of the reason for these layoffs.

Many married women workers are eager to return home to care for their families. Other women, however, have enjoyed earning their own living. Many hope to find different jobs, but few wish to go back to working as waitresses and maids. Some have even decided to start their own businesses.

CLARINDA AND ALGONA POW CAMPS TO CLOSE

Algona, September 1945 — The War Department has announced that the Clarinda and Algona prisoner of war camps will close by the end of the year. Prisoners will be transferred to other camps and eventually sent to their homelands.

Prisoners of war will no longer be needed for labor in the Midwest. A surplus of available labor is pouring out of recently closed war plants. There is no longer a labor shortage.

CONVERT TO PEACETIME PRODUCTION

by Jeffrey Madsen

Burlington, September 1945 — Now that the war is over and production has stopped at the IOP, production information has been released. In four years of operation the plant paid over \$62 million to workers. Much of this money was spent in the Burlington area. More than 24,000 people worked at the plant during the war. Now only 1,000 people still have jobs. Many former workers have either moved or are trying to find peacetime jobs.

Many people are wondering what will become of the huge Iowa defense plants in Des Moines and Burlington. The government plans to sell the Des Moines plant to some other industry which can convert it to peacetime production.

The Burlington plant will continue to be government-owned for the next few years, and it will produce fertilizer for shipment to

war-torn countries overseas. In the future, it is thought that the IOP power plant will be used to furnish electricity for the city of Burlington.

About 14,000 acres of land surrounding the plant will be leased to farmers by the federal government. Corn and soybeans soon will ripen in the fields as if the huge plant had never existed.

WACS TO BE REDUCED FROM 100,000 TO 30,000

by Ingrid Aanensen

Des Moines, September 1945 — Though the WACs will always remain a part of the armed forces, the enlistment and training of the WACs has now ended.

The over-all plan is to reduce the corps to 30,000 or fewer by July 1946. WACs serving overseas will probably return to the United States by April 1946.

At its top strength, the WAC had 100,000 women enlisted with 18,000 of them serving overseas in 21 different countries.

Hemp Plant Closes



Iowa State Historical Department, Des Moines

Workers comb hemp fiber for the last time.

One Step Further . . .

1. Manufacturing plants all over the nation converted to war production during World War II. Name some war materials made in Iowa during the war. What did the manufacturers make before they converted their factories?
2. When a new and large industry is created quickly, it causes many changes in nearby towns and cities. Look at the stories about the Iowa Ordnance Plant. List the changes caused when this large industrial complex was built.
3. Name four things school children did to help the war effort.
4. Discuss the way American citizens of Japanese ancestry were treated during World War II. How does this experience compare to that of German immigrants during World War I? (See the *Goldfinch*, November 1981.)
5. Name some of the kinds of military training given in Iowa during the war.
6. During the 1930s the German, Italian, and Japanese governments sent armies to take control of neighboring countries. Although the American people became alarmed over this military action, the strong desire to stay out of war kept the United States from taking part. What did the U.S. government do to aid the countries attacked by the Axis powers before the United States entered the war? How did these actions directly affect the way of life in Iowa?
7. Talk to a friend, neighbor, or family member who lived in Iowa during World War II. Ask about the changes in the way people lived because of the war, such as work locations, wages, and types of work; scarcity and conservation of food and materials, and scrap drives; effects on families who had members in the military, and Civil Defense (a topic not discussed in this issue).
8. Why do you think the government decided to put prisoner of war camps in Iowa? How did the prisoners help the U.S. war effort?
9. Women who had never worked outside their homes worked at many different kinds of jobs during the war. Make a bar graph to show the increase in the total work force and the number of women in the work force. (See December 1944.)
10. What happened to the people working in Iowa defense plants once the war was over? What kinds of problems do you think this created for workers and owners?
11. Who filled the jobs left open when men and women joined the military?
12. Make a list of the things that were scarce during the war. Why were these items hard to get? How were they used for the war effort? How were these scarce materials conserved and equally distributed among people?

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