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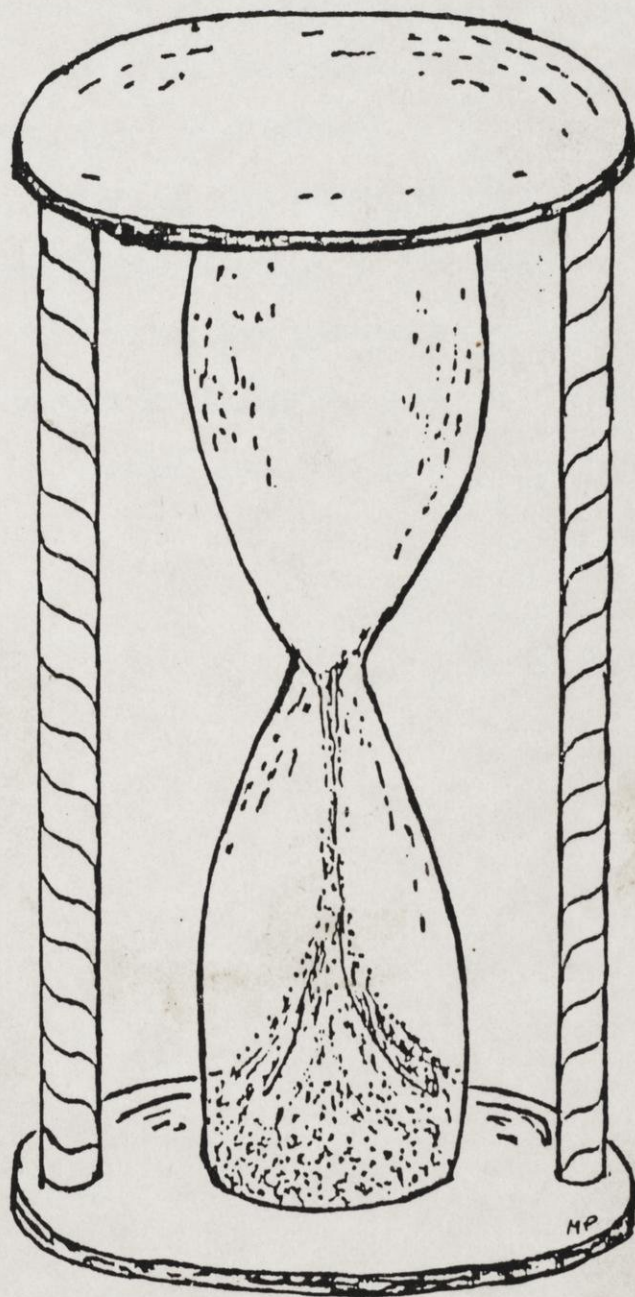
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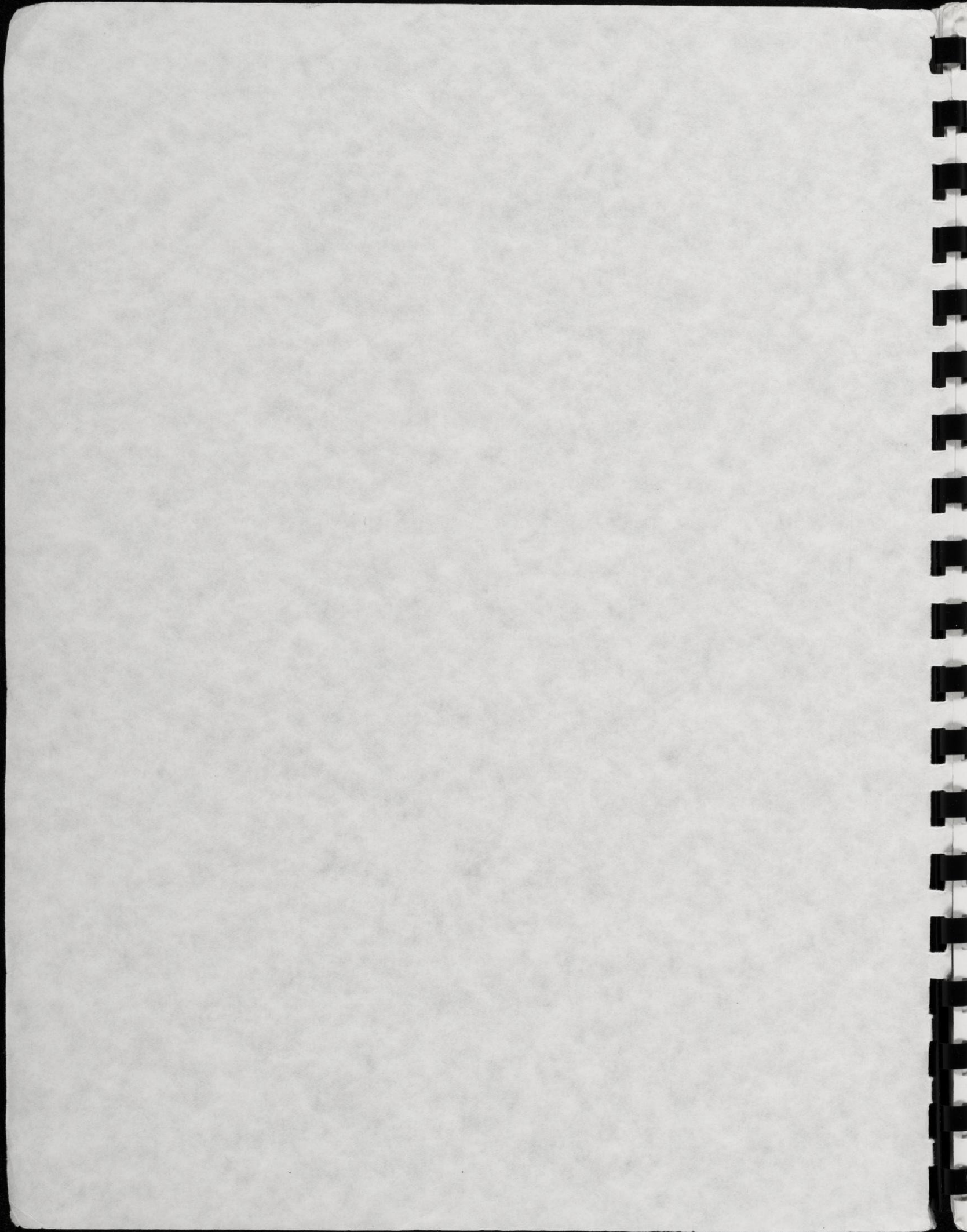
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A TIME GONE



1940-50

By Rosemary Ziehli



This booklet is dedicated to
Mr. Herbert Adams,
a former editor of the Ballville Recorder and to all the men
and women of the community of Ballville who lived these events
during the years of 1940 through 1949.

Waves upon the beaches
wash the footprints out to sea.
Torn pages of a calendar
tell of days that used to be.
Sand sifting through an hour glass
records time passing on.
Each in its own perspective
remind us of time gone.

Rosemary Ziehli
April 1984

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Rosemary Ziehl

May 6, 1983

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I chose to compile these facts and write this text for this booklet because I wanted to let people know and to remind them just what sacrifices were made by the so called "average American" in the small community during a very important decade in history. I have tried to depict what it was like on the homefront and battlefield in World War II, and the transition in our lives after the war.

Belleville is a town of many heroes, both decorated and unsung. People, who were children, but have since become adults will remember these things. To them, these may be happy times. There are those still living, who were adults then and may have a different view on the subject at hand. None-the-less it is a time that was and we hope will never happen again.

I saw the community through the eyes of the RECORDER editor, Herbert Adams. Mr. Adam's death was untimely since he did not live to see the end of the war or the post war boom. The newspapers of the community published during his time as editor leave a very vivid picture in my mind of the home, community and friends that he was so proud of! He seemed to have a deep sense of patriotism and personal responsibility to his community through his paper. In putting it in print each week, he has to some degree become a historian.

From reading the reports of the fellows in service, I learned a great deal. They never lost hope, were happy to have a hometown to back them and shared their feelings with their neighbors through letters to the editor. Even though, sometimes there was an ocean between them.

If I learned anything at all from my research, it was the community spirit by which people pulled together. There were scrap drives, rationing and war loans. There was also the school proms, free movies and summer band concerts. There was a pride in the fire department, home talent baseball teams and local athletics; all the things that make up a community.

After digesting all of this, I hope that you who take the time to read this will arrive at the same conclusion I did.

"HOME is not just a place, it is a very special feeling."

one of the most important things on the mind of the people of
Belleville was the radio show POT O GOLD. It was quoted in the
Belleville Recorder as, "the show that kept people home waiting for
their phone to ring." It was a radio tab that consisted of spinning
a wheel and the number of hours that person had to remain at home.

1941

Fire damaged the school building that was burned in 1940 was
According to the census, Belleville's population in 1940 was
11,700. This was a gain of five percent over the previous
census. School enrollment that September was the largest ever, there
were one hundred in the high school as compared to the eighty-five
the previous year. It had been reported that the Belleville fire
cost was low, about eighty-three cents per capita.

"What the future holds for the citizenry of the United States
no one can predict. Come what may, it is the duty of each and
everyone to keep up his own morale, to have faith in his government,
and to keep up his courage. Thus everyone can contribute to the
ultimate victory that can come from a united people. This is not
the time for despair, but for dynamic effort, courage, vision,
and strength to face the problem of winning a war."

Herbert Adams, Editor
Belleville Recorder
December 1941

called out to everyone and practically everyone
remained indoors to stay safe. No church or Sunday school
services were held and no school was held on Monday.
Newspaper columnists and others had already been picking out
a name for the last decade and were predicting the "40's" would be
known as the "Roaring 40's."
The war in Europe seemed far away. The United States was hoping
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1940

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The year 1940 was marked in the beginning by a blizzard. The worst storm of the past decade had hit the village and immobilized everything and everyone. It struck on a weekend. It was reported as an eleven inch fall and was quickly driven into huge drifts three to four feet high by a forty mile an hour gale. Only those called out by necessity braved the storm and practically everyone remained indoors the entire weekend. No church or Sunday school services were held and no school was held on Monday.

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One of the most important things on the mind of the people of Belleville was the radio show POT O GOLD. It was quoted in the Belleville Recorder as, "the show that kept people home waiting for their phone to ring." It was a radio fad that consisted of spinning

a wheel in the radio studio, thereby locating a name in the phone book. The number of that person is called and if he or she answered they got a cool \$1,000.

Fire damaged the Bernard Viney home that January. The Belleville Fire department went to the scene and extinguished the blaze with the assistance of neighbors who supplied water.

The annual ski tournament at the Primrose Ski Club was held on Sunday, February 4. Forty ski riders performed for 1700 spectators.

Mary Gerard and Everette Gillette were married that February.

Julian Lamboley left for the Phillipines to make an appraisal of the telephone system there.

In March of 1940, the Paoli Community Club presented two one act plays in Genin's Hall. Also in March, Eddie Gillette became associated in business with the Belleville Auto Company.

A 3 lb. can of Crisco shortening sold for 49¢, Butternut coffee was 29¢ a pound and a box of Oxydol soap cost the consumer 41¢.

The people were concerned that year that the state of Wisconsin would pass a sales tax and were urged to vote against it.

Citizenship training was offered to the young people of the community. All young people who had reached the age of twenty-one during the last year were urged to attend instruction in the class. The instruction in the class was aimed to emphasize of the responsibilities of a new voter.

Following is a list of young people who had attained their twenty-first birthday between May 21, 1939 and May 19, 1940.

BELLEVILLE: Elmer Bethel - Henry Blumer - Wanda Cate - Maxine Curliss -
John Curliss - John Eckstein - Mrs. Joyce Francois -

Alvie Halverson - Mrs. Alice Hollis - Anna Klassy -
 William Mahar - Amanda Marty - Frank Minch - William
 Morehead - William Saxer - Delores Smith - Veryl Smith -
 Charles Wallom.

MONTROSE: Edwin Ringgenberg - Elmer Palmer - Erma Legler -
 Jeanette Schaller - Phyllis Egan - Harold Pernot -
 Mrs. Mary Neuenschwander - Mary Zwickey.

Leo Piller was chosen master of ceremonies for the Belleville Jamboree which was held April 4, 5, 6. Sponsored by the community club, all profits would be used for moving picture shows in the summer. Leo was also invited to appear on WLS radio show. He would present a yodeling and singing act.

In May of that year, Adolph Hitler's Blitzkreig reached into Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg in a supreme effort to win the war in Europe.

Winston Churchill was named Prime Minister; Churchill had been named earlier to supervise British Armed Forces in the war against Germany.

In Washington, President Roosevelt expressed his sympathy with the news of Holland's queen in rallying against the nazis. He still believed the United States could stay out of the War.

Johnny Saxer made it big that year as a pitcher for the University of Wisconsin baseball team. He pitched Wisconsin to a 5-3 victory over Michigan allowing only six hits. The victory gave Wisconsin a tie for the Big Ten lead with Illinois.

Belleville's baseball team began their season on May 5. They had joined the Home Talent League in 1940. The team was managed by

Perry Luchsinger and Norm Fischl took care of the business end. The previous year they had won twelve straight league battles.

Those out for various positions;

Pitcher - Ken Elsner, John Saxer

Catcher - William Saxer, Perry Luchsinger

Shortstop - Fred Stuessy

First Base - Claude Becker

2nd Base - Bobby Fahey, Ed McCormick

3rd Base - Lou Genin

Outfielders - Earl Willoughby, John Eckstein, Ray Fahey, Ken Schneider

Twenty-three students graduated from the high school that spring.

Twelve were girls and eleven boys. Their motto was "Finished Yet Beginning."

Class Roll: Richard Adams, Mary Barnes, Helen Butts, Lucille Butts, Francis Fitzgerald, Carol Genin, Raymond Genin, Victoria Gehin, Elizabeth Gillete, Donald Hanold, Bernice Hartwig, James Henry, Charles Humphrey, Doris Judd, Robert Morehead, Kensel Olson, Dorothy Palmer, Gloria Sardeson, Norman Schaller, Russell Schaller, Mary Schmetter, Charlene Staley, and Cloyance Zentner.

I name them because this is a beginning of an era. Many of their names would later grace the memorial in the park as individuals from this community serving their country.

A message to the graduates that year from the editor of the Recorder, "Believe in yourself; believe in humanity; believe in the success of your undertakings. Fear nothing and no one. Love your work, work, hope, trust. Keep in touch with today. Teach yourself to be practical and up to-date. Be sensible. You cannot fail."

Johnny Saxer was in charge of the summer playground sponsored by the Community Club. There was volleyball, kittenball, baseball, croquet, horse shoes, golf and different forms of track such as high jumping and pole vaulting. There was a sand box for the little ones. All activities were held at the grade school playground.

A softball league was organized that summer. Games were to be sponsored by the Fire Department. Herbert Adams was appointed manager of the league, together with a committee composed of Melvin Becker, Sam B. Klassy, and Casper Zentner.

The summer boasted a big July 4th celebration. There were water fights between Belleville and Brooklyn, tug-o-war with Verona and New Glarus. The feature of the day was WLS entertainers from Chicago, who put on two shows. There were baseball games, rides, fireworks and a dance was held at Genin's Hall during the evening with music furnished by the WLS band.

Alvin Hammerly and Floyd Kleppe had been selected with ninety five other musicians from all over the state to play in the first FFA Band.

Claude Becker won the right to purchase a 1940 Chevrolet for a \$1.00 at the Verona Fireman's Picnic.

That August Otto Weber and son said that they would install a new food locker plant if support warranted the investment.

Eight boys entered the soap box derby race that September. The race was part of the Fair Days. The course was Harmons Hill. Prize money was twice as high as previous year, five dollars first prize, three dollars second prize, and two dollars third prize.

The boys entering that year were Howard Solberg, Jerry Elmer, Harold

Wilkie, Calvin Hageman, Howard Hoesly, Kenneth Babler, Jack and Jim Adams, Bill Eckstein, Rodney Berg, and Wendell Hofmaster. Harold Wilkie won the race by a wide margin. Wilkie's time down the course on Harmon's hill was seventeen and a half seconds. He was awarded the \$5.00 prize money. Second place was taken by Howard Hoesly's entry driven by Kenneth Babler. Third prize went to the car built by Dick Adams and driven by Jimmy Adams.

Verle Smith went to Milwaukee that September to take his physical examination for a flying cadet. Out of twenty boys five passed. He returned home to await the outcome.

By October 16, 1940, all men who had reached the age of twenty-one but not attained thirty-six would have to register for the draft. Dane County's first ten draftees were chosen in December and no one from Belleville was included.

In December of 1940 Lincoln Marty and Chuck Wallom left for the U.S. Army.

Sears and Roebuck advertised all men's wool coats \$5.49, genuine pig grained gloves 98 cents a pair, and all wool coat sweaters for \$1.98 as featured Christmas items that year.

In Washington the United States formally released twenty "Flying Fortress" bombers to Great Britain; President Roosevelt was making an inspection of the Caribbean defenses, and Joseph Kennedy, ambassador to Britain resigned.

1941

In January of 1941 two prominent women of Belleville, both Pioneers of Exeter community, passed away. They were Mrs. Hannah Staley and Mrs. Percy Jordan.

The 1940 officers of the Belleville Community Club were re-elected in 1941. President, A. J. Roberts, Vice President, H. S. Hoesly, Sec. Treas., C. D. Zentner. The previous year had been very successful under the direction of these officers. Beginning the year with ninety dollars and twenty-four cents, they ended with a balance of three hundred forty-two dollars and four cents. During the year they purchased a loud speaker system costing one hundred sixty-four dollars, paid out four hundred dollars for movies, donated fifty to playground activities, and stood the expense of the community Christmas party.

The Belleville Yass team beat New Glarus 80-60. Alfred Wenger was high score for the locals with a nine won, one loss record.

In late January of that year, deputy sheriff E. M. Disch rounded up a trio of chicken thieves who stole, over a period of time, one thousand chickens. The theft had been going on for two-and-a-half years. The thieves were a mother and her two sons. She would drive her sons to the place to be raided and return later after they had secured their loot. The chickens were then sold in New Glarus and other nearby towns.

The honor students for the first semester at school were

announced:

Freshman - Marilyn Brunner, Calvin Hageman, Teddy Rowly

Sophomore - Lyle Kleppe, Claude Judd, Delbert Schneider

Juniors - Clifford Voegli

Seniors - Mary Dolohanty

The local school board received a very complimentary letter from state superintendent of instruction regarding the condition and conduct of the school.

Announcement had been made that a modern new fire truck had been purchased by the Belleville, Exeter, and Montrose Rural Fire Association. The new truck would be owned by the two townships and the village. The new truck would be equipped with a 500 gallon pumper and a 200 gallon booster tank. It would be housed at the Belleville fire station.

In addition to the new truck, the old truck, now owned by the village, would be rebuilt. A new 200 gallon booster tank would be added. Just how the new truck would be manned had not been decided, but in all probability a company would be formed of the two townships and Belleville.

Pauline Schrepfer, while attending Platteville college, underwent an emergency appendectomy.

Claude Becker left for the army that February.

Ray Fritz purchased the Fahey milk route serving former Fahey customers in addition to his own.

The Belleville high school basketball team, after losing the opening game, came through with two victories to give them the consolation championship at the district tournament at New Glarus.

Cow prices were the highest in eleven years; the average price for Wisconsin milk cows was seventy-eight dollars a head. This was the highest since the summer of 1930.

Belleville was to have six man football in the fall. The school board agreed to outfit fifteen boys with suits and equipment for the games. Thirty-two boys handed in their measurements to the coach who said, "It will be hard to decide which fifteen boys should have suits ordered for them."

The Dayton Booster Hall located at the west limits of Dayton was sold that March to Peter Rupp of Dayton. The building was formerly owned by twenty men of the Exeter community. Mr. Rupp planned to use the building for dances, plays, and other community gatherings.

J. C. Francois service station offered a complete grease and wash job on your automobile for one dollar as a special for one day only. He asked that you call for an appointment.

In April of 1941, P. A. Genin, unopposed, was re-elected as president of the village. H. S. Hoesly, James Swann, and J. H. Mullen were elected to the village board.

The Matt Duerst farm home five miles northwest of Belleville was completely destroyed by fire. The Belleville Fire Department was called. The water supply gave out so the department had to stand by and watch the building burn.

By May 1, Belleville had nine young men in the armed services: Verle Smith, Ken Schneider, Ed Ringgenberg, Claude Becker, Lincoln Marty, Charles Wallom, Ernest Hoesly, and Emil Wittwer.

Defense bonds went on sale at the local post office for

eighteen dollars and seventy five cents. Anyone who wanted to buy a bond on the installment plan could purchase a savings stamp for ten, twenty-five, or fifty cents.

Free movies again would be held in the park. The first movie would feature Joe E. Brown.

A skunk got caught in one of the tight windows at the high school gym. Gordon Sardeson went home, got his gun, and shot it but not before the skunk had left its trademark.

The junior class that spring spent a day visiting points of interest on a tour to Chicago. The trip was sponsored by the Wisconsin State Journal. Miss Brinkman of the high school, Mrs. H. S. Hoesly, and Mrs. Fred Brunner accompanied the young folks on the trip.

Eddie McCormick, one of Belleville's most popular and respected young men was killed instantly in an automobile accident.

Dane County was one of two counties in the United States selected by the Federal Office of Emergency to gather scrap aluminum for defense purposes. P. A. Genin, village president, was elected as chairman of the community to head the drive here. Efforts were made to gather every available **pièce** in the village and surrounding area. Everyone was asked to gather their unneeded and useless aluminum. School children, boy scouts, and girl scouts were asked to gather it up. About eight hundred pounds were collected. The pile of scrap was as big as a two ton pile of coal and contained everything from old tea kettles to radio parts. Work of making house-to-house canvas was done by local F. F. A.

Districts of the village and surrounding area were under the charge of Harley Rasmussen, Linus Doyle, Lester Willoughby, A. J. Roberts and Fred Brunner. The final collection for Dane county was twenty-five tons.

A representative from the Conservation Department planted five thousand northern pike in the mill pond that spring.

In June of 1941 Ralph Macknick and his wife opened a new beauty shop in Belleville.

All library books and magazines were to be returned to the reading room for the purpose of annual inventory.

The J. O. Y. officers that year were:

President - Mrs. Harley Rasmussen

Treasurer - Mrs. Lloyd Gillette

Secretary - Mrs. Lester Fritz

The Belleville High School Band gave concerts in the park through the summer.

E. M. Disch advertised a 1941 DeSoto automobile for eight hundred ninety-eight dollars with a twelve-and-half inch wheel base, 105 horse power, in a choice of twelve colors.

An Alumni Association was organized and the following officers were elected:

President - Dick Adams

Secretary - Gloria Sardeson

Treasurer - Jane Scott

The class of 1940-1941 met to organize the association and planned to make it an annual and permanent affair.

Norm Fischl leased his tavern and gave a farewell party.

He extended an invitation to all of his friends to enjoy a free fish fry.

At the annual school board meeting it was voted to bus the rural children to school the next session. The vote was twenty for and four against. It was also voted each child should purchase their own text books. The total budget for next school year was \$21,460.

Matzinger's bakery installed a big electric refrigerator. The new box was seventy-three cubic feet in capacity. They planned to put in a full line of butter, cheese, cream and other dairy products.

Genin Hardware sponsored a radio show "Melody Lane" every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 12:15 on radio station WIBA, Madison.

Frank Lloyd Wright was honored by King George of England. Wright had been selected by the king to help rebuild London from war wrecked debris.

The east-side kids of Belleville had a carnival. It was a real carnival and side show. It was considered a success both financially and entertainment wise. The total receipts were twenty-six dollars and fifty-two cents. After paying their expenses for bingo prizes, incidentals, treats for performers, barkers and ticket takers, thirteen dollars was left to send to the Kiddie Kamp fund. Promoters for the show were Jimmy Adams, age twelve, Jerry Elmer, age twelve, Bud Halverson, age eleven, and Billy Adams, age ten. Featured in the show were a tattooed man, wild man from Borneo, Siamese twins, a midget and a famous singer. There was a "For Men

Only" show, wild animals, bingo, refreshments, ball throwing, and penny toss stand. Those assisting in the show were Betty Ann Rolfe, Betty Jean Doyle, Jimmy Doyle, Paul Francois, Jack Hofmaster, Ronny Hofmaster, Rob Babler, Herman Diederich, Howard Frederickson, Roger Schmetter, Francis Fritz, and Jeanine and Joanne Fritz.

Viney's at Basco advertised chicken and steak dinners thirty-five and sixty-five cents a plate.

Schaller-Hoesly Lumber Company vacuum cleaned your furnace for four dollars. They would also service your stoker or oil burner for seven dollars and fifty cents.

Wisconsin milk prices averaged the highest since December 1929 and milk production was twelve percent above a year ago. Milk prices received were one dollar eighty-five cents a hundred pounds, fifty five cents more than a year previous.

A large straw stack on the William Hageman farm west of Paoli was destroyed by fire in August. It was presumed that the fire started when struck by lightning. The Belleville community fire truck went to the scene but was unable to put it out because of lack of water, the stack being located in a field too far away from any cistern or creek.

School opened September 2. The outstanding improvement in school was the inauguration of bus transportation. Three modern and safe buses were purchased. Rates were one dollar per week per pupil, one dollar seventy-five cents for two pupils, two dollars and twenty-five cents for three pupils from the same family. One hundred ninety-six enrolled in school. Ninety-eight in the high school.

Twenty-six boys reported for football. The freshman class were proud to announce they had one man on the team; Paul Ryan.

A special dedicatory service was held in December of 1941 at the Belleville Methodist Church. Seven stained glass windows were installed. The choir furnished special music and Lloyd Harmon played a violin solo.

Matzinger's bakery featured assorted butter cookies for ten cents a dozen.

The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and we became involved in a war. Officers of the law were stationed to guard the railroad tunnel five miles south of Belleville at both ends. All bridges and tunnels were being guarded in accordance with national defense. Four men were engaged in guarding the tunnel, one on each end during the day and one on each end during the night. The men worked twelve hours a day for seven days a week for \$180.00 a month.

1942

The year 1942 saw the people of Belleville and the nation getting involved with the war effort in all sorts of ways.

The Dane County-Chapter of the American Red Cross was expected to raise fifty thousand dollars at once. Louise Richards was head of the fund committee for Belleville. Belleville's quota was \$360.00.

In Chicago, a business place had this sign in its window. "We would rather do business with one hundred Japs than one American." The place of business was an undertaking parlor.

Leo Gehin of Belleville was honored at the Dane County Holstein Breeders association banquet. Leo was selected as the boy doing the most outstanding job in the county carrying bull calf projects.

The high school hill had been made into a coasting place for youngsters and many of them enjoyed hours of sliding.

In order to assist with defense work and at the recommendation of the State Department of Education, Belleville schools started, in January of 1942, a six day school week. The move set ahead the spring closing of school to May 9. The six day school week would enable the farmers and other people working in defense to acquire help of high school boys and girls a month earlier in the spring when help was needed. It was a defense movement that the youth could take part in.

President Roosevelt signed a bill setting all the clocks in the entire nation ahead one hour. The statute would remain in effect

for the duration of the war. The purpose of this bill was to achieve greater efficiency in the country's industrial war effort.

Belleville Auto announced "No new cars" at least for the duration.

For the first time in history, the United States Marines would accept married men as recruits. To be accepted, married men had to bring affidavits at the time of enlistment signed by wives or children asserting that their families were not dependant on them.

Belleville needed civilian defense workers. All men and women over seventeen years of age were asked to put themselves at the disposal of their community to act in time of an emergency. There were one hundred different types of jobs which they could select to contribute to the national defense.

Roberts Drug Store had a box where you could deposit your old toothpaste, shaving cream and other empty tubes. They were ninety-eight percent tin and were an urgent need for the war program.

After five weekends it was found that the extra day of school work was too heavy a schedule for the grade school children and so for this age group it was discontinued.

At the end of February G. A. Lehnherr, owner of the Royal Blue Store, added his son-in-law, John Olson and his daughter Esther Lehnherr Olson, as a partner.

Rodney Berg was chosen basketball captain by his teammates.

All over Dane County in every voting precinct, people registered to do their part for defense. Village President P. A. Genin urged all men and women to register. Belleville responded in a fine way

to the appeal for registration for civilian defense. One hundred and six people signed cards to do their part in a national emergency.

The fire department was called out for a fire in Ralph's Beauty shop. The fire was started when a severe bolt of lightning struck somewhere in the building and followed the wires into the beauty shop.

That year the Belleville Community Club was incorporated.

A special of the week at Genin's Hardware was a nail hammer. It regularly cost one dollar but sold on sale for sixty-nine cents.

In April village marshal Fred Sauer and deputy sheriff E. M. Disch attended F. B. I. school in Madison.

Gertrude Ziehli was injured when she was caught in a grain drill on her father's farm.

There was a national freeze on all bicycles. The so-called victory model was on the market stripped of all metal non essentials. Bicycles were to be manufactured for adults only and were encouraged to be used for defense workers.

The members of the local rod and gun club erected a shed and built a pen for pheasants, which the local club was raising.

The movie screens most popular comedian team was coming to the New Glarus theatre in their best picture to date. Bud Abbot and Lou Costello in KEEP EM FLYING.

The high school junior prom had a patriotic theme that year. It consisted of American flags on a large victory shield made of paper flowers. The prom royalty that year was king Lyle Kleppe and queen Alona Hofmaster.

In Washington D. C. Donald Nelson, war production chief, revealed that most consumer durable goods would be stopped by

May 31.

On the Pacific war front Japan overwhelmed the defenders of **Bataan**

April 16-25 was known as NATIONAL HARDWARE WEEK in the United States. Wolf Kubly and Hirsigs of Madison advertised in the Belleville Recorder: Floor lamps only six dollars and ninety-five cents, a wooden ironing board, one dollar forty-nine cents, soft garden hose made of new rubber, four dollars and ninety-five cents, and a horse shoe game set, official design made of tough steel. One pair was finished in green, and one pair finished in orange, for the price of a dollar.

By the end of April of 1942, it was discussed among the citizens of the community that some sort of honor roll should be erected for our men of the area in the service of their country.

Under the selective service act registration was required for men between the ages of forty-five and sixty-five to register for manpower duties largely on the home front. They were not subject to military service but were sent occupational questionnaires and could be subject to labor conscription according to their skills. Two hundred from the Belleville area were registered.

Starting on the last Monday of April and lasting for one week, no sugar would be sold in stores nationwide. After that on May 4, sugar could only be obtained with ration book stamps. The stamps could not be saved up and were good only for the announced period of time.

First aid classes were started by Doctor Wm. Donlin who was the instructor. Thirty people attended.

Roland Brown bought the drugstore from A. J. Roberts.

To save cloth for the duration of the war, the war production board banned frills in women's clothing styles.

In order to help the people of Belleville save gas, tires, and time, the Dane County Rationing Board had chosen Belleville as one of the locations in the county where a sugar rationing board would be located. The county board had instructed Paul A. Genin, village president, to appoint a board of three persons who would handle the rationing of sugar for canning purposes, and would be involved in other work later on. The deputy board for Belleville was Reverend Oscar Stanke, J. H. Gerard, and Fred Genin. People were allowed six pounds of sugar per person for canning, and one pound for jelly and jams.

Seven from Belleville graduated from the University that year. John Saxer, Frank Minch, Arthur Roberts, Lester Fredrickson, Ione Johnson, Max Armstrong, and James Roberts.

The Belleville Recorder made it possible for every home to display an American flag on every holiday. A flag three feet by five feet could be purchased for one dollar and nineteen cents. The flag was made of cotton bunting with individually sewn stripes. The stars were stamped on. "Every home and business should have a flag and display it. Be proud that our flag can still wave. Tell the world that you are glad you are American." These words from the editor of the paper, Mr. Herbert Adams.

By the middle of June it was definitely decided that Belleville would have an honor roll for its men in service. This was provided through the cooperation of the Women Relief Corps and the village board. The honor roll was to be a four sided structure set on

a suitable base with a United States shield forming the top. Below this all men from Belleville and the community who were in the service were entered. The honor roll would be placed in the village park in the same place that the old fountain had been. They hoped to have it ready for the fourth of July dedication. Appropriate services would be held when the honor was dedicated. The honor roll structure was built by Horace Berg and Carlton Burke. R. G. Bross donated all the work of painting on it including the names. Fifty-seven names appeared on the original.

Campaign for pledges to buy war bonds and stamps was a decided success in Belleville, Basco, and Paoli. Business firms of the village cooperated one hundred percent. Pet Milk Company had one hundred percent enrollment on the payroll deduction plan. In the residential district, two hundred and two people were contacted and of this one hundred seventy-six signed pledges. At Basco and Paoli where A. G. Genin was in charge, forty seven pledges were secured.

The rubber campaign was in full swing. President Roosevelt proclaimed that old discarded materials were to be collected for recycling. The campaign would start Monday, June 15 and end Tuesday, June 30. These efforts were put forth in hopes that gas rationing could be delayed. Everyone was paid a penny a pound for all rubber collected. Service stations were the collection points. None of the oil companies would receive one penny of profit. The scrap rubber would be turned over to the United States government and would be paid for on the basis of twenty-five dollars a ton. The difference between the amount paid by the oil companies and the amount

paid for by the government was pledged to the United States Army relief, Navy relief and to the Red Cross. In Wisconsin, 13,556 tons of scrap rubber was collected which averaged out to eight point six pounds per person. A total of eighteen tons of scrap rubber was collected in Belleville. The business places that acted as collection places were J. C. Francois, John Eckstien, Oliver Maas, William Schmid, and Belleville Auto.

The Nazis wiped out a whole Czech town in reprisal over the assassination of "Hangman Heidrich" number two man of the Gestapo. The Nazi Gestapo leveled the town of Lidcice, executed every male, then sent all the women to concentration camps, and carried the children off to educational institutions. It was regarded as a new reign of terror for Czechoslovakia.

Dick Adams and Jim Clark enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Both boys were to report to flying schools.

In June of 1942 Wisconsin had 186,000 farms. They averaged one hundred and twenty-two acres in size with fifty-five acres of crop land.

The girl scouts organized a troop under the direction of Mrs. Roy Schneider. The girls were organized into patrols named after some plant or flower. Captains and corporals of patrols were named.

Flower garden patrol: Marilyn Cockroft, Captain

Ruth Diederich, Corporal

Canterberry Bells: Marion Frederickson, Captain

Marion Judd, and Arlene Rolfe, Corporals

Pansy Patrol: Patricia Burke, Captain

Geraldine Cockroft and

Margaret Clarke, Corporals

Fourteen year old Jack Hofmaster got a real thrill when he hooked and landed an eel thirty six inches long, and weighing five pounds. The eel put up quite a fight, and it was almost a mans job to get it on shore, but Jack managed it. The eel was caught close to the bridge at the entrance to Fireman's park.

As August came on the calendar, dim outs were observed in small communities. The first practice dim out in Belleville was declared a big success. Belleville was practically one hundred percent as far as blackout was concerned. A tour of the village by official observance failed to reveal any lights showing. Only street lights remained on. E. M. Disch was the chief air raid warden. He had four assistants, Oliver Maas, Arthur Argue, Henry Fischer, and Vernon Ross.

At the annual school board meeting, the voters of the Belleville School district voted to erect a farm shop and bus garage at a cost not to exceed five thousand dollars. Fifty three votes were cast. Thirty nine for and thirteen against the issue. There was one blank vote. A building committee was chosen by the voters present to work with the school board on the project. Those on the committee were Warren Rolfe, Joe Voegli, and Lauren Kleppe. The board was authorized to borrow five thousand dollars for the farm shop and bus garage and three hundred fifty dollars for tools and equipment for the farm shop.

One week specials at the Becker Furniture Store: One maple three piece suite - fifty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents, one walnut finished three piece suite - seventy-five dollars, and one solid walnut three piece set - one hundred forty-five dollars.

Brown's Drugstore advertised soldiers duffel bags fitted with fine products. These duffel bags contained tooth powder, antiseptic, shaving cream, lotion, foot powder. Complete for only eighty-nine cents. Something every soldier will need and appreciate.

Belleville had its first snowfall of the season on September 25 in 1942.

By October 1, sixty-five men from Belleville and the vicinity were in the armed services. Twenty-two, or one third of them were serving on ships or foreign soil.

The new war time nickel was put to use, and the O. P. A. at this point in time set the driving speed at thirty-five miles per hour.

Lucille Ryan had scarlet fever and was quarantined at home.

Near the end of October the Belleville Girl Scouts collected old keys to be turned as scrap to be used in some worthy project.

The ladies of the Open Bible Class collected old furs and furpieces to be used to line the coats of Merchant Marines.

Gas was rationed. The basic rationing consisted of thirty-two gallons per car every two months for Wisconsin motorists.

Ruth and Sylvia Andereg, piano accordion students of Rudy Burkhalter, were featured on radio station W. I. B. A.

Burnell Wallom was a winner in the Manitowish Waters 1942 patriotic fishing contest for the summer season. He caught a black bass weighing four pounds and six ounces. He received third place honors. His prize was fifteen dollars in savings stamps for his catch.

Belleville played fifteen games that basketball season.

Private transportation was sought since there was no gas allotment for athletic events. The athletic department of the school and members of the team made an appeal to the fathers of team members as well as any other sports minded people to volunteer to drive for just one trip. Twenty-two hopefuls showed up for the first organized practice. Of this group there were five lettermen. They were Delbert Schneider, Paul Ryan, Art Babler, Robert Schmetter, and Mark Fritz. Two of the lettermen were out temporarily because of scarlet fever. They were Paul Ryan and Robert Schmetter. They did not see action until later in the season.

November brought news that the Illinois Central Railroad would construct a new depot located on the west side of the tracks. It would be completed in January of 1943.

To help further the war effort the Boy Scouts visited all homes in the village and collected old clocks. Thirty-five alarm clocks were collected and sold to Mr. Wischoff, the jeweler. They collected \$7.55 for their days work.

Japan launched their fourth attempt to take the Solomon Islands. The president signed legislation lowering the draft to eighteen. Coffee rationing went into effect in November 1942. One pound every five weeks was allowed for every person who was fifteen years or older. This worked out to one cup per day per person. In a household where children fifteen or older do not drink coffee, the grownups were allowed their portion.

Doris Judd and Lester Fredrickson were married.

To honor Pearl Harbor Day, a complete blackout was ordered. There were only minor violations in Belleville. There was a light left on in

the high school, reflections from two open door stoves at the Illinois Central Depot lighted up the structure, a farm house west of the village was completely lighted up during the blackout. All-in-all, it was termed successful and everyone was hopeful that very soon the lights would go on again all over the world.

1943

The Americans started the new year right, in the South Pacific, with aircraft damage to Japanese shipping at Kiska. 1943 was predicted by the experts as a hard year ahead for the American public with the knowledge that rationing would bring some changes, but the assurance that there would be adequate food for all. In January of 1943, employers exempted five percent victory tax on employees salaries in excess of six-hundred and twenty four dollars a year.

On the homefront in the beginning of that year, a notice in the Belleville Recorder stated that they would censor some addresses of men in the armed services that they had printed in their paper.

Reasoning for this came from the Office of Censorship. "If you know what ship a sailor is on or what company or regiment a soldier is with overseas then you know a military secret. The secret ought not to be published."

John Eckstein was appointed official O. P. A. tire inspector. Under the gas rationing program all tires on cars, trucks, and tractors were to be inspected periodically and a report made. January was the month that tires were to be inspected.

Ray's Lunch, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Rowen, had gone out of business.

A notice from the local dairy appeared in the Recorder that unless cream bottles were returned promptly delivery of cream would be stopped. It was impossible to get new bottles.

By January 21, ninety-five men of the vicinity were in the military.

Two had risen to a rank higher than private.

The Boy Scouts held a court of honor and fifteen boys received pins, Billy and Jim Adams, Robert Babler, Roy Baumgartner, Herman Diedrich, Victor Fritz, Francis Fritz, Bill Clark, Don Burke, Howard Fredrickson, Jack Hofmaster, Jerry Elmer, Roger Schmetter, Bertel Weber, and John Zentner.

"Bambi" was a big movie that year playing at the Capitol theatre in Madison.

The annual Fireman's Dance was held in February at Genin's Hall. Bernard Freitag and his orchestra provided the music. Admission was fifty cents per person.

Two homes were quarantined with the measles: the Melvin Becker residence, where his grandson was down with the measles; and Warren Rolfe, where Arlene was just recovering from them.

Scarlet fever had quarantined the Bert Weber and Frances Flanagan homes.

A grocery ad for the A. & G. Store advertised the perfect meat substitute, BEANS. California limas for thirteen cents a pound; fancy red kidney, ten cents a pound; and great northern, ten cents a pound.

The Emporium in Madison advertised all wool coats and suits. The prices ranged from fourteen dollars and ninety-five cents to sixteen dollars and ninety-five cents.

Roosevelt and Churchill met in Casablanca.

Governor Goodland of Wisconsin asked the Legislature to cut two thousand dollars from the budget.

In rural Belleville, Charley and Paul Viney Jr. were quarantined with the measles.

Belleville was to have its own rationing board for the convenience

of the people of the community. The new office was housed in the Matzinger Building in the room formerly occupied by Herb Elmer's barbershop. The board consisted of Reverend Oscar Stanke chairman, Harley Rasmussen, Everette Gillette, H. S. Hoesly, and J. H. Gerard. Miss Ida Voegli would act as secretary.

The Office of Price Administration (O. P. A.) reduced the next coffee ration from one pound every five weeks to one pound every six weeks.

A couple of Belleville youngsters pulled good ones on their parents. Young Billy Butts went home from Sunday school and informed his mother that he had a new name. When asked what it was, he said, "Present." He then explained that was what he was supposed to answer when the teacher took roll-call. Diane Weber, while saying her prayers one night, added a new twist to her ritual. "Now I lay me down to sleep. Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition."

Dr. R. F. Smith, veterinarian, opened his office in Belleville.

The Red Cross drive went over the top. The joint quota for the village of Belleville and the town of Montrose township was nine hundred twenty-five dollars. The total collected was one thousand eighty-five dollars. During the month of March the ladies of the local Red Cross made fifty boys shirts, six baby quilts, one stretcher quilt, fourteen pairs of wristlets, three turtleneck army sweaters, one sleeveless army sweater, and one army helmet.

"Do you want a ride in a jeep? A real United States Army Jeep like the boys are using in Africa and other battle fronts? Well, if you do, all you need is a little ticket showing that you purchased

a war bond or savings stamp." This was offered to Belleville citizens in April of 1943 as the second war loan drive got underway. The quota for Belleville and the surrounding area was \$143,000. Belleville and the surrounding area went over their quota and sold \$207,000. In the final report, \$125,000 was purchased by the Citizens State and Belleville State banks. The girl scouts sold \$4,270.25 in bonds and \$238.10 in savings stamps. High school students bought thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents in bonds and twenty-four cents in stamps. Close to four hundred rides were given in the Jeep.

Ronald Eisner fell thirty feet from the railroad bridge and was badly injured.

On the second Saturday in May, "Tin Can Day" was held. The members of the Belleville Boy Scouts called on every home in the village to collect tin cans for the war salvage effort. They also collected any waste fat the homemaker had to donate.

Dr. W. F. Wanke died. He came to Belleville in 1907 after his graduation from veterinary school and served the people in this area for many years.

Harley Rasmussen opened his own insurance agency. He had been associated with the Luchsinger Insurance Agency for fourteen and a half years. The agency had been under the direction of Mrs. Nettie Luchsinger and her daughter Mrs. Charles McCormick.

Ira Hammon sold his farm southeast of town to Wesley Snyder. The graduation class of 1943 left an honor roll listing all the names of Belleville area men who attended Belleville High School but were then in the service of their country. They listed seventy-eight names.

Stuessy Feed erected a new grain elevator. This enabled them to buy and store grain for feeding purposes and supply their customers at all times.

Some Belleville Boy Scouts helped the war effort by helping local farmers hoeing potatoes, weeding onions, planting cabbage and detassling corn. Some scouts took care of the village lawns.

Mark Fritz was injured when he got his leg caught in a threshing machine while threshing at Mrs. Anna Wittwers.

Oscar Mayer and Co. of Madison devoted a large ad asking men eighteen years and older to work. "Earn good pay, time and a half for overtime. Now is the time to engage in vital war work."

A series of small thefts had been going on in the community. From Fred Duescher's home, tomatoes and cucumbers were stolen in great numbers from the garden. The Fritz Weber garden was practically stripped of cucumbers. Matt Duerst, who had his car parked near the Park Hotel, lost a half of a tank of gass and some lubricating oil.

Salvage of waste goods was intensified for the war effort in September of that year. Paper was needed since most food sent overseas was sent in boxes. Needed most was brown paper, such as envelopes, corrugated boxes and fiber containers. If the paper was baled and you had two hundred pounds or more, the junk man would collect it. It was worth ten dollars a ton. Cooking fats left over from frying foods were needed. These were used in making explosives. This was collected at the meat markets. Silk and nylon hoisery were needed for making powder bags and parachutes. Tin cans and scrap iron were also collected.

The Belleville football team, on the basis of its record for the

season, was entitled to claim the championship in the state in six man football. It was Belleville's third year in six man football. The team was coached by C. H. Hageman. One hundred seventy-five persons attended the football banquet in honor of the team. Linus Doyle acted as toastmaster and complimented the boys on their fine record of seven victories. The boys that lettered that year were: Maurice Short, Bob Beich, James Melsby, Kenneth Remy, Paul Ryan, Dick Hanold, Mark Fritz, Jack Dolohanty, Dwight Elmer, Richard Francois, Ted Spellman, Kenneth Babler, Arthur Flanagan, and Norman Gaffney.

In December of 1943, the Belleville Library Board took some action to grant free library service to outlying school districts. Prior to this action a fee of one dollar a year was charged to people outside the village.

A number of boys of the village assisted by Reverend Oscar Stanke and Roy Schneider started building a skating rink on the lot in back of the Eckstein garage. The rink was a good sized affair and in order to build it right, it was necessary to spray it each night for a number of nights until all the low places were filled in and a good smooth surface was obtained.

"Dear Santa Claus,

I am in first grade, I have been trying to be good. Please bring a dolly with a suitcase and clothes and hangers. Gloria wants dishes and a doll. We both would like some candy and nuts.

Love, Kathleen Willoughby"

"Dear Santa,

I am a first grader at the Morehead School. Please bring me a paint set, toy xylophone, and a toy battle ship. Don't forget the nuts and candy.

As ever, Richard Viney"

The people of the village enjoyed Christmas music provided over an amplifier system by Reverend and Mrs. Oscar Stanke.

By the end of 1943 President Roosevelt set the goal of 7,500,000 men to be drafted in the armed forces.

1944, the bank's capital was well over the million dollar mark and the deposits were exactly \$1,063,287.18. Driver education classroom instruction was offered to eleven students in the high school. It was offered as a unit with biology and the instructor was C. H. Hagaman.

Marion Wallon was Jack Adams.

In March, Mickey Rooney passed his physical for the induction in the armed services.

In the spring election people were asked to vote on a state referendum ballot which read, "Do you favor the laying of an annual tax on all general taxable property not exceeding two mill on each dollar of the assessed valuation for high school aid?"

A baby girl was born to Pvt. and Mrs. Leland Kuhl. Lt. Edwin Sauer was riding a bicycle down a road in England and the driver of a truck parked at the side of the road kept honking at him. He decided to return to the truck to see what the tooting was all about, and there he found living Gillette.

A total of 116 ballots were cast at the spring election in the village. P. A. Genin was again elected president of the village board.

President Roosevelt made a plea for every possible victory garden and set a national goal of twenty-two million. Governor Goodland was

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1944

The Citizen State Bank reached the million dollar mark for the first time at the close of business in 1943. At the beginning of 1944, the bank's capitol was well over the million dollar mark and the deposits were exactly \$1,063,267.16.

Driver education classroom instruction was offered to eleven students in the high school. It was offered as a unit with biology, and the instructor was C. H. Hageman.

Marion Wallom wed Jack Adams.

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President Roosevelt made a plea for every possible victory garden and set a national goal of twenty-two million. Governor Goodland was

quoted as saying, "Victory gardens are more important this year than ever if we are to continue on the road to victory."

In April PFC Ray Sherman, 21, had been reported missing in action in Italy. The report marked the fifth casualty for Belleville. Killed were Verle Smith, Jack Roberts, Bernard Babler, and Sgt. Donald Keegan was also missing in action.

It was decided in May of 1944 that practically all stores and offices in Belleville would be closed on Thursday afternoon. This was arrived at by the circulation of a petition among business and professional men in the community.

That spring a recreation center was opened for the first time. There were games in the gymnasium at the high school from 7:30-9:00. A canteen service was set up in the ag room where youngsters could buy pop and candy bars. At nine o'clock young people from seventh and eighth grades and high school students enjoyed dancing by music from a jukebox.

Village people expressed a desire that they would like garbage pick up.

There were 200 present at the mother-daughter banquet at the Swiss Reformed Church.

The following letter appeared in a May issue of the Belleville Recorder in reference to closing of business on Thursday afternoon.

"Mr. Printer,

I see in last week's paper Belleville will be closed up tighter than a drum on Thursday afternoon. I suppose it is all right. The business men want a day off in the middle of the week, but most farmers can't do it. Belleville is a farmer's town, and they shouldn't take

on city ways unless they want to go the route that one other town near here went. Half their stores are closed."

That May it was reported that Ray Sherman was a prisoner of war in Germany.

A great deal of enthusiasm was generated at the June Community Club meeting. "Plans should be made at once for an airport or landing strip at Belleville." This from a Mr. Vic Bloyer, a friend of Reverend Oscar Stanke, at the June meeting. The speaker did not urge the immediate establishment of an elaborate airport right away. He suggested that land, for at least a landing strip, should be gotten underway so that if state aid were available later on, it could be secured.

The important long awaited invasion in western Europe started in early June when the United Nations troops established a beach head on the Normandy coast in France.

The fifth war loan began. Belleville's quota was \$34,000.00. The drive began June 12 and would end July 8. Belleville went over the top and raised \$38,112.50. Approximately \$4,000 over the quota.

Richard Bong, war ace, had downed twenty-seven Japanese aircraft.

In June, Lt. Richard Adams became engaged.

The girl scouts offered to babysit so mothers could help with Red Cross work.

Otto. Weber sold his stock and business to his sons Robert and Frederick.

The presbytery of Madison offered for sale the Belleville Presbyterian church building.

Matziner bakery offers homemade ice cream for seventy cents a half gallon.

Neil Luenschloss, principal of Belleville schools, was commissioned a lieutenant junior grade in the United States Navy that summer. Alvin Krohn was named to take his place as principal of the schools.

Brodhead played the opener in football. Forty-two boys reported for practice. Belleville was competing in the suburban six man football league. Bob Beich and Paul Ryan were leftover from previous years sextet. The line up for the game for Belleville:

Left end - Ken Flanagan, Center - Rich Francois, Right end - Floyd Viney, Quarterback - Bob Beich, Left Halfback - Ted Spellman, Right halfback - Paul Ryan. Belleville had won the game with the score of thirty-five to twenty-two. Paul Ryan was the star of the game.

A miscellaneous bridal shower was held in honor of Miss Gloria Sardeson.

Lucias A. Ross, well known auctioneer and resident of the village, died.

Five local men were injured north of Middleton when their car and a semi-trailer truck collided as they drove to work at Badger Ordinance.

The lack of housing for servicemen's wives and families was also felt in this area. That fall the women's relief corps of this village did a good deed. A wife of a soldier at Truax Field could not find any light housekeeping rooms to house her two small children and herself while her husband was stationed at Truax Field in Madison. There were no light housekeeping rooms in Madison and it was an almost impossible situation. A few of the ladies of the local corps got together and secured

an upper apartment in the Carter home. The young woman rented the apartment and the ladies of the relief corps, together with their husbands, gathered enough furniture from their homes to make a comfortable home for these young people for a few months. It was not an act of charity. The young soldier and his wife with two small children were able to maintain their home but naturally for a few months residence could not buy furniture. The local ladies were more than glad to help the young couple.

At the close of 1944, the village set the tax rate for the coming year at twenty-four dollars per thousand valuation.

1945

January of 1945 was a cold month for the people of Belleville, but it was also ushered in by some good things community wise.

Billy Gorman entertained the children of Miss Babler's class in honor of his ninth birthday with a bobsled ride out in the country.

A nine-and-a half pound boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Durest. There was nine girls in the family and the baby, named John Andrew, was the first boy.

The first robin of the year was seen by Mrs. Lloyd Gillette on January 24.

John Saxer's meat market and home next to the market was sold to Norman Buss.

The village of Belleville and the town of Montrose set a record in the sixth war loan. Out of the twenty villages in Dane County, Belleville had the highest percentage of bond sales according to the quota. Belleville's quota was \$27,400 and they raised \$43,600, or 159 percent of their quota. The town of Montrose was highest in the county. They had a quota of \$22,800 and raised \$36,174. One hundred fifty-eight percent of their quota.

Beverly Cockroft and Stanley Fritz were married.

Oscar Dietsch, well known farmer, was seriously injured when he was attacked by an enraged bull.

The community lost a good friend and business man. Herbert

Adams, editor of the paper, died.

Dr. R. F. Smith was elected the new president of the Community Club.

That spring, President Roosevelt urged everyone to again plant a victory garden and told the public, already hungry for beef and pork, that it would have to get along with twelve percent less meat in the next three months.

John Mullen retired from the village board after thirty years of faithful service and Everette Gillette was elected in his place. The voters also voted an appropriation for an airport. Sixty-seven voted yes; eleven voted no.

The pupils of the seventh and eighth grades; under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. Macknick, arranged and prepared a musical program that was broadcast on radio station WIBA.

Ethel Smith and Wilfred Sandridge were married.

"Need a dress? Our business is still feed, but if you ladies need a dressprint, we can help. We have quality egg mash and chick builder in dress print sacks. Ladies, you don't often find a bargain in war times, but here it is," read an advertisement for Schaller Hoesly Lumber Company in April 1945.

Governor Goodland signed into law a bill allowing eighteen year olds to buy cigarettes.

On April 12, 1945; President Roosevelt, at the age of sixty-three, died at Warm Springs, Georgia. He had served twelve years, one month, and eight days in office. Harry S. Truman took up the burden of the world's most powerful office.

Richard Hanold, a local boy, was an honor guard for President

Roosevelt's funeral march from the president's home to the train station.

The prom was held May 11. William Clark and Ruth Andregg reigned as King and Queen. The decorative theme was Rhapsody in Blue.

Rufus Legler and Robert Blumer were injured in a traffic accident. Rufus suffered a broken jaw and Robert fractured an arm and a leg.

A five pound cut per person in canning sugar allotment was announced by the OPA.

Teachers and students over eighteen were urged to consider good paying summer jobs at Badger Ordnance Works to help meet heightened demands for rocket powder.

Special outdoor services were planned in the village park for Memorial Day. This was the first time services were held outdoors.

Margarette Gillette was home with the mumps.

In May of 1945 the Community Club decided to circulate a petition whereby the people of Belleville could express their desire to have a swimming pool or not.

Ernie Pyle, the greatest frontline reporter of the war, was killed in action in the Pacific.

Wendell Hofmaster, Harold Babler, and Ray Sherman returned home after being prisoners of war in Germany.

Local women of the community completed the making of 400 army kit bags. This was twice as many as were called upon to make last year.

Sgt. Donald Keegan arrived home in July of 1945 after spending two years in a Nazi prison camp. He was the first Belleville boy to become a prisoner and the last to be liberated.

At the annual school board meeting that year, a recommended budget passed upon, whereby money could be used to purchase a home for the principal of the schools. This had been a real problem for the past few years and the only solution was for the board to secure and buy a house for this purpose.

Paul Lebrecht bought out George Staley in the grocery business. Mr. Staley had been in the grocery business in Belleville for twenty years.

Joe Sarbacker and Harley Short, 4H boys who had stock exhibits at the Stoughton Fair, were told they could not stay on the grounds over night. Taking a blanket, the boys found a cemetery where they didn't think they would be bothered and lying the blanket amongst the stones, they enjoyed a good night's sleep.

In August, Belleville had what was known as a produce company. The owners, Mr. Earl Williams and Son of Chicago, opened their business here as a branch of their Chicago firm. They would buy at highest prices eggs and poultry.

President Harry Truman announced Tuesday, August 14, at six p.m. that fighting in World War II had ended. Belleville received the news enthusiastically, but in a rather quiet manner. The Pet Milk factory and village sirens blew. All the church bells rang. After these had quieted down, children got on their bicycles with cans tied to them and cars began driving through the street honking their horns. Eddie Gillette got out a contraption that surpassed the siren for noise. Later on, Lester Willoughby connected a loud speaker on the radio, and everyone could hear what was going on in Madison. Church services were held in the Methodist

Richard Harold, a local boy, was an honor guard for President

and Catholic churches during the evening. Taverns were immediately closed upon receiving the news and other business places followed shortly. It was with a great deal of feeling of thankfulness and prayer that Belleville people received the news. Belleville had given the lives of six boys in the war and one boy was still missing in action.

Two Belleville boys worked at the atomic bomb plant. John Eckstein had been employed at Wilmington, Delaware as a chemical engineer. He could never reveal what his job was, except that it was of a highly secret nature and very vital to the war. He said it had been a very nervous and strenuous job. Paul Fahey had also been connected with the plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He had sent clippings home from the paper telling of the extreme secrecy.

• Belleville welcomed a new business as Karl Kleinschmidt took over management of the drug store from Ronald Brown.

August 24: Ad in the BELLEVILLE RECORDER read: "For sale-eight room house with two lots-\$2500. Inquire at the Recorder."

In September, three Belleville boys entered the University of Wisconsin: Ken Flanagan in commercial art and Mark Fritz and Richard Francois entered the School of Engineering.

Congress voted to end war time daylight savings time on September 30.

For the first time in four years Willoughby Radio Shop had for sale electric heating pads, electric lanterns, electric alarm clocks, and automatic flatirons. You had to register for a new appliance.

The village set their share of the budget at \$16,400 for 1946.

Some men returned home from the armed services, but the BELLEVILLE

RECORDER vowed to send the paper to all servicemen until everyone was home.

In November, the last war loan went into effect. The slogan was "They finished their job; let's finish ours."

Gertrude Ziehli left for nurse's training in Freeport, Illinois and Marilyn Brunner was to enter the Marquette School of Nursing.

Claudette Loughed entertained eighteen friends at a Halloween party.

Arthur Flanagan and Philip Fahey were elected co-captains of the football team that season.

Mrs. Minne Jordon observed her eighty-ninth birthday in November 1945. Mrs. Jordan was born in Dayton in the days when Indians camped on the banks of the Sugar River. For a nickel she was permitted to see the papooses, and she remembered how the squaws cooked turtle eggs for food.

General Electric made a movie of the Citizens State Bank personnel and some farmers of the area. The purpose of the movie was to show the possibilities and advantages of electricity on farms. They wanted to bring out the fact that farmers using electricity in so many different ways were the money making farmers. Those appearing in the picture were Walter Schindler, Fred Schrepfer and Robert Fahey, Sr.

Clifford Scott observed his twenty-fifth anniversary with the Citizens State Bank.

More than four hundred students and alumni of the University of Wisconsin lost their lives in the defense of our freedom in World War II.

Belleville celebrated the first "Old Time" Christmas in three years

sponsored by the Community Club. There was caroling, lighting the Christmas tree in the park, and a visit from Santa Claus.

At the close of 1945, Cloyance Zentner had purchased an interest in the restaurant from Herman Duerst.

The movie "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes" was a special interest to the people of our area in 1946. The movie, starring Edward G. Robinson, Margaret O'Brien and Agnes Moorehead, was a warm-hearted story of the life on a dairy farm and was filmed in Little Norway at Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin.

There was talk of Belleville having its own American Legion Post, 25, and no activities in that way yet.

High waters and ice damage caused pieces of the dam. Engineers estimated it would cost ten thousand dollars to fix it.

Victory clothing drives were held to collect usable and service-able clothing for European refugees.

Carl Genin bought an interest in the P. A. Genin Implement Company.

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Vincent Egan joined the staff of the Belleville State Bank.

The high school basketball squad elected Donald Farney captain for the season. Bill Clark led scoring with one hundred fifty points.

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Herman Dieberich's car was stolen from the road in front of his house. It was a gray 1935 four door Plymouth sedan. It was located at the Belleville area.

1946

The movie "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes" was a special interest to the people of our area in 1946. The movie, starring Edward G. Robinson, Margaret O'Brien and Agnes Moorehead, was a warm-hearted story of the life on a dairy farm and was filmed in Little Norway at Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin.

There was talk of Belleville having its own American Legion Post. High waters and ice damage chewed pieces off the dam. Engineers estimated it would cost ten thousand dollars to fix it.

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The American Legion Post became a reality that spring. The name Duppler-Smith was chosen. It was to honor the first servicemen killed from World Wars I and II in the area. The post was eager for the women of the area to support the legion in all activities.

Herman Diederich's car was stolen from the road in front of his house. It was a gray 1935 four door Plymouth sedan. It was located at

Spring Valley, Illinois, a week later. It had been run into a creek and was only slightly damaged. There was a broken spring in the rear of the car.

One hundred fifty couples attended the junior prom in the spring. Jerry Elmer and Leah Ayen were prom king and queen.

There was also a record attendance at the Mother and Daughter Banquet at the Swiss Reform Church. It was the sixteenth affair of its kind. Two hundred thirty-five mothers and daughters took part in the celebration.

The first poppy day was held in Belleville on May 25, 1946.

In June Pauline Schrepfer wed William Fahey.

Russell Howard was elected as the new chief of the American Legion Post in Belleville. The membership was fifty strong.

Belleville welcomed the first war bride in the community. Mrs. Ted Forrester arrived here from her home in England.

The first meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary was held in the youth hall. The new officers elected were:

Mrs. Herbert Adams - president

Mrs. Vernon Ross - vice president

Mrs. Donald Hanold - secretary

Mrs. Howard Hoesly - treasurer

Mrs. Clifford Scott - historian

Mrs. John Eckstein - sgt. at arms

Mrs. Al Schmetter - chaplain

Japanese war criminals were on trial in Tokyo.

The Belleville truckline installed a new ice house located one half block east of the Catholic Church. Ice cakes were available at

anytime. Ice cubes were available when ordered.

There was a double wedding of sisters. Luane Christen married Herbert A. Blaser. Her sister Valaria was united with Willard Meland.

Marion Judd and Donald Meyer were also married that summer.

Because of meat shortages, Buss's market and Weber's locker plant were closed Sundays.

At the annual school board meeting Fred Brunner was elected as director of the school board to succeed Robert Fahey. Linus Doyle was elected as clerk. A proposed budget of \$38,405 was accepted. There was an increase of \$1,000 over the previous year.

In July it was noted that fifty experienced carpenters were needed to build veterans housing at Truax Field in Madison. The wage was one dollar and fifty cents an hour. There was room and board available at the site.

August of 1946 found Jack Hofmaster and Herman Diederich Jr. chosen to play in the all state high school band at Camp Randall in Madison. There were one hundred sixty-three members. Jack played the drums, and Herman played the tuba.

Joseph McCarthy toured the state campaigning for the United States Senate.

The hourly wage rate reached a record high. The average hourly earning for workers in manufacturing industry reached a record high of one dollar and seven cents an hour. The average weekly earnings were forty-two dollars and ninety-two cents.

The director of astronautics at the Sorbonne University in Paris hoped to send the first atomic energy rocketship to Mars by 1960. No humans would be aboard the inter-planet rocket ships on its first fifteen day trip to Mars.

Plans were made for the Belleville high school fair which was held on the school grounds on September 17. Several new features were added. At noon all rural students, their parents and Belleville business and professional men were given dinner as guests of the local high school sponsored by the home economics department.

John LaPorte purchased the harness shop from James Fitzgerald.

Belleville had eighteen residents over eighty years who were still active.

The old band uniforms that had served for twelve years were wearing out. The purple and gold capes were to be replaced with new uniforms. A fund was started for new ones. The amount hoped to be raised was \$2,000. The price of one uniform was forty-five dollars. Mr. Glen Wood returned from the service to take over as band director.

Belleville went for the Republican candidates at the polls in November. Three hundred and three people voted in the village.

Jack Adams became the new assistant editor of the BELLEVILLE RECORDER.

Betty Herfel and Francis Fahey exchanged vows, as did Rosemary Watkins and Osbourne Hare.

Trygve-Lie was elected as the first secretary general of the United Nations.

In December Betty Zimmerman of Madison married Clarence Hageman of Belleville.

The band fund for new uniforms totaled \$1,520.89 at the close of the year.

1947

By the year 1947 there were only eleven boys in service.

The RECORDER continued to send them the weekly local paper.

The Tilton show would again be in Belleville, and a U.S.O. drive was underway.

Floyd Palmer served on the jury trial of Alex Haines, who had been convicted of murdering a Mrs. Bertha Parker. Alex was known in Belleville as the man who picked up dry cleaning.

The Duppler-Smith Post of the American Legion made plans for their annual ball. Peggy King and her all girl orchestra provided the music. The legion post plans to bring some outstanding dance band each year for this affair.

Elizabeth Eagan and Herman Diederich Jr., both seniors in high school, were chosen by their classmates to compete with students from other high schools throughout the United States for college scholarships.

There would be more food at lower prices, but the prices would be higher than before the war.

Maurice Short Jr. was confined to his home for the past weeks with a bad case of quincy.

At the end of January, P. A. Genin resigned from the village board after serving thirty-six years, most of them as president.

At the end of January Belleville was once again hit by a severe snow storm. Heavy snow and hard winds isolated Belleville for hours.

The Illinois Central train became stalled near Monroe. The stork also put in an appearance. It brought a baby girl to Mr. & Mrs. Ray Sherman, who arrived at the hospital just before the storm reached its height. A baby boy arrived for Mr. and Mrs. Norman Fischl after they walked a mile in the deep snow to get where a car could pick them up to take them to the hospital. Only one accident occurred in Belleville as a direct result of the storm. Norman Olson and Ralph Goodman were trying to get home early and due to the blizzard conditions ran into a car that was stalled across the road. Norman received a badly cut chin and other bruises.

It was estimated by February, 1947, that World War II had cost every individual in the United States \$2,430.00 represented by his share of the public debt.

In March of 1947 Mrs. Adele Lamboley died. She had fallen previously and broke her hip. In 1906 Mrs. Lamboley and her husband purchased the telephone system in Belleville. She was eighty years, one month and five days old at the time of her death.

About ten acts were entered in the amateur show sponsored by the Tilton Comedians. From these, three prizes were awarded. Mary Flannagan placed first. She sang the song PERFECT DAY. Little Juanita Sandridge and Frederick Zweifel received second place. They sang UNCLE REMUS. Betty Zweifel and Rose Sherman presented a tumbling act for third place.

The Belleville Auto Co. received its first 1947 Chevrolet. They put it up for sale to a veteran only. Any veteran who wished to buy the car was to submit their name by eight P. M. Wednesday, April 9.

The names were placed in a hat and the name was drawn out at the Tilton Show of the night. The car was sold at its advertised delivered price and no trade in was necessary. Leo Schaller was the lucky veteran to have the privilege of buying the car. Two other names were drawn in case Leo decided not to take it. They were Carlton Genin and Edgar Judd. The car was a 1947 sedan equipped with all modern improvements and accessories. Forty-four veterans submitted their names.

Excitement and indignation were factors on the minds of Belleville residents when on Sunday, April 13, a body of a baby, a new born girl, was found floating in the river just above the dam. A man from Oregon was fishing, saw the baby's body and reported it to the constable. He called the Dane County sheriff and coroner. The sheriff and coroner immediately took the body to Madison where an autopsy was held. According to the reports the baby died of a skull fracture and had possibly been dead since December. It was very possible that the baby had frozen and lodged in the mud until thawed and brought to the surface. A sheet from a calendar pad dated December 17 was stuck against the leg of the infant.

Henry Ford the world's first billionaire died at the age of eighty-three.

Belleville had another exciting day in mid April of 1947. A report from Madison came that a dangerous inmate from Mendota hospital had escaped and was headed for Belleville. Naturally everyone was on the alert, but it was not until evening, a man answering the description

stopped at the John LaPorte home and inquired if they knew where Ray Hefty lived. He said he and Mr. Hefty were friends. By that time it was known who the man was and that he was from New Glarus and had been committed to the Mendota Mental Hospital about a month previous. He had a "sudden spell of insanity" during a scuffle over a gun, and he was committed to Mendota. Mrs. LaPorte reported his appearance at their door immediately and Dane County authorities, along with local authorities, began looking for the man. They were not successful in finding him.

In May most of the property owners that resided near the river and several interested citizens met with the village board to discuss the problem of maintenance of the dam. The Wisconsin Power and Light company did not want to keep the dam as it was of no benefit to them. They would give it to the village if the village wanted to assume ownership.

The Genin Hardware Company was purchased by Donald O'Connor of Verona and Jim Clark of Madison.

Five memorials were dedicated and presented to the Reformed Church by relatives of boys who lost their lives in the War.

An editorial appeared in the BELLEVILLE RECORDER of May 16 as a plea to the people of Belleville for their "cooperation and generosity in a very serious critical situation." Living quarters for three of the married high school teachers were needed or the school district would lose them.

New park flood lights were dedicated in July.

Reverend Oscar Stanke retired from his Belleville post, and Reverend Robert Carsen succeeded him.

The local Pet Milk Plant halted manufacturing of evaporated milk. Production would start on skimmed milk powder. The change of work necessitated releasing all of the women **employees** and a few men.

It was noted **that** Wisconsin residents were smoking twice as many cigarettes as they did before the war and drinking somewhat more liquor.

Alma Waefler and Leo Gehin became engaged.

A baby contest was held the summer of 1947. The judges were professional photographers from Des Moines, Iowa. Four youngsters from Belleville received prizes. First prize went to Ronnie Wild son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wild. Rita Sherman, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Ray Sherman was second prize winner. Judith Fahey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Fahey, placed third. Ronald Zunker, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Zunker was the fourth place winner. The babies were judged on "personality, pleasing looks, and plain cuteness."

A young man from Holland, Lex Doreen, was a guest in the Casper Zentner home. He was a good friend of Cloyance Zentner. The two men became good friends when Cloyance was stationed near the Doreen home during World War II.

Jo-Ann Schmelzer became the bride of Cloyance Zentner on August 16.

The school fair added something new in the fall of 1947. There would be a queen of the fair. Jane Garviolle was chosen. Mary Flanagan and Darlene Zuber placed second and third. Jane was presented with a lovely wrist watch. Mary received a table model radio and Darlene a Parker pen and pencil set.

Walter Baumgartner and Bill Hoenisch were the winning team in a water fight on Main Street. Fritz Weber and Rob Cockroft were the losers.

In September the local fire department was thirty-five years old.

There was a very strong movement underway to promote a swimming pool for Belleville that would serve as a living memorial for war dead.

Water was drained from the Sugar River in order to investigate the extent of repairs or damages for the dam. This was done by the village in order to help them make the decision whether to repair or destroy the dam.

Arlene Roesly wed John Stadelman.

The rod and gun club held a fox hunt in November.

Mrs. Richard Clark, a lifelong member of the community passed away.

"Dear Santa,

I am writing for myself and my brother. We have tried to be good this year. I would like a famous Betsy-Wetsy drinking wetting doll, a set of dishes, baton or bicycle, books to read and puzzles. For my brother please bring a teddy bear, xylophone, some cars and trucks, some new clothes, picture books. Please bring both of us nuts and candy.

Much love, Sharon Hendrickson."

1948

The fashion scene for 1948 came into focus for the community as it did nationwide. The New Look was in. This consisted of ballerina skirts, taffeta petticoats, about ten inches from the floor and ballerina slippers.

After twenty-nine years of faithful service, Mrs. H. S. Hoesly retired as librarian, and Mrs. Ralph Macknick took her place.

The Robert Oliver duplex house on Main Street was for sale for three thousand dollars.

Wisconsin had a fuel shortage, but through the co operation of Cities Service, Standard Oil and H.S. Hoesly Co., there was enough fuel to take care of the needs of the community.

Mrs. G. D. Allen observed her eighty-sixth birthday.

Melvin Becker advertised that his store had Baldwin and Spinet pianos on hand for sale.

The Woman's Relief Corps voted to send garden seeds to the needy families in Germany.

The annual fire department reported that in 1947 the department received only four calls from residents within the village, and none of these calls resulted in property loss.

February sales at Lehnherr's store boasted men's blue denim bib

overalls at three dollars and nineteen cents a pair, and red and black plaid wool shirts were four dollars and ninety-five cents each.

Oranges were two dozen for forty-nine cents and apples were three dollars and twenty-nine cents a bushel. You could purchase a box of old-fashioned chocolates for seventy-five cents.

Gary Fritz sailed for Finland to help build new homes in the area destroyed by the Germans in World War II.

John LaPorte sold his shoe and harness shop to Mr. John Richter of Madison.

Annie the elephant died at the Vilas Park Zoo in Madison.

Elaine Wild and Howard Hoesly announced their engagement, Tena Lee and Laverne Babler were married, Mr. and Mrs. Theo Argue celebrated their forty-fifth wedding anniversary.

In March plans were completed for the third annual American Legion ball.

In early April twenty-five members, representing different groups and organizations of the village met to decide whether or not Belleville should be represented in the Wisconsin Centennial parade in Madison.

After discussion it was voted to participate. Harley Rasmussen was chosen as chairman. The grist mill was the theme since the old grist mill was the first building in Belleville.

A crowd of 160 parents and local sport fans attended the testimonial dinner in honor of coach Hageman and local athletes. Athletic awards were presented by Coach Hageman with eleven winners in football coming in for a little extra joy, when they were recipients of gold miniature

03
back footballs. These were presented by the athletic department in token of their championship in the State Line League. Football letter and gold football winners were: Co-Captains: Francis Fritz, and James Adams. Other winners were John Zentner, Richard Zimmerman, Robert Babler, Donovan Voegli, Bill Legler, Palmer Gehin, Francis Andreas, Bill Adams and Richard Buss. Numeral winners: Charles Viney, Tony Beutler, Rodney Schwerin, Eddie Gaffney, Tony Andreas, Roger Krueger, Laverne Hefty and Ernie Mabis.

Belleville Auto Co. build a new body shop at the rear of the garage. This enabled them to do painting and body repair of autos.

53
Tens . Belleville had the pleasure of entertaining fifteen foreign students for a weekend in May. The students arrived in a chartered bus and were taken to different homes where they were to be entertained . Informal discussions were held in nine homes where groups of fourteen to sixteen residents and been invited. The students were taken on a tour of Pet Milk plant, and the Paoli Creamery. Saturday night a general discussion was held at Genin's Hall and several of the foreign students spoke. The high school band played and Mary Flanagan gave a twirling exhibition. The students were from China, British Giuana, Paraguay, India, France, Central America, Poland, Norway, Holland, and Java.

May 29 was chosen as statehood day. Wisconsin was 100 years old in 1948. In 1848 President Polk signed a bill making Wisconsin the thirtieth state in the Union. The Belleville float was entered in the parade. It was one of ten chosen from ninety entries.

Robert Stuessy was the candidate for Badger Boys State from the high school.

Otto Weber, one of Belleville's oldest and most esteemed businessmen, died.

Through the combined efforts and funds of Belleville, Exeter, and Montrose Red Cross, a Resuscitator was purchased. This life saving machine was made available to anyone needing it in an emergency such as being overcome by smoke, near drowning, or electrical shock.

In the summer of 1948 the Duppler-Smith American Legion post decided to purchase the Presbyterian church for a meeting place. Shares were sold to members to raise funds.

Lucile Ryan and Norman Olson were married and Leah Ayen and Jerry Elmer were also married.

Kenneth Babler bought the Belleville Truckline.

Herman Diederich Jr. was the first young man from Belleville to enter the armed forces under the new plan of enlistment and drafting.

When school started that fall it showed the largest enrollment in school history. There were 131 in the grade school and 117 in the high school. There were only nineteen boys out for football instead of the forty-two to forty-six prospects that were normally out.

Howard Hoesly came home to stay from Wood Hospital

A statewide survey was made early in 1948 of tractors on Wisconsin farms. Forty-two percent of the tractors purchased for farming were bought in 1946 or later and forty two percent were 1939 models or older.

The survey also showed that one in seven had no tractor. Three out of five farmers had one tractor, one in five had two tractors, and only one in twenty had three or more tractors.

At homecoming that year, a traveling trophy was offered by the junior class to the best decorated windows by a business place. Lebrechts store received the traveling trophy and three other business places were given an honorable mention.

The village set the budget for 1949 at \$24,000.

Stuessy Feed purchased the Mt. Vernon Mill.

The Belleville Wildcat football team ended in second place in the State Line League that season.

The honor roll from the high school was announced for the second six weeks of school. Out of the twenty-six students on the honor roll there were only two boys. Stanley Buol in the freshman class and John Babler in the sophomore class.

Otto Schiffman received word from Germany that his brother Karl, who was in the German army and a Russian prisoner of war, had died.

Fifty business places advertised holiday greetings in the Belleville Recorder.

Barbara Disch and Stephen Fischer won first prize in the drug store contest that ended Christmas Eve. Barbara won a doll and Stephen an electric train

1949

In January of 1949 the BELLEVILLE RECORDER was sixty-three years old.

Jane Garvoille was chosen as the DAR good citizen recipient for the class of 1949. The selection was based on dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism.

Art Scott became a partner in the Borst and Willoughby Feed Co.

It was the year that Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Dietzsch celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Bob Beich and Ruth Andregg were married that January.

Belleville Auto Co. announced that the 1949 Chevrolet had over twenty changes in styling from the 1948 model.

Even though the war effort was over the Red Cross played a big part in the lives of our community. A new regional blood center had opened in Madison and Belleville, as a part of Dane County, had to help finance the project.

By 1949 Wisconsin had one tenth of the dairy cattle in the United States, and of the nation's twenty-five highest milk producing counties, fourteen were in Wisconsin.

The postal department of the United States employed more people than the largest corporation.

Ricker's dry cleaning establishment advertised in the BELLEVILLE RECORDER to watch their weekly ad. If your name appeared in the following weeks ad, you were entitled to have a garment cleaned free of charge.

That spring Neil Luenschloss announced his resignation as supervising principal of the local public schools. Seven years previous he taught science and mathematics and then left to serve in the United States Navy from 1944-1946. Mr. C. H. Hageman was named to take his place.

The week of April 15 was a busy one for the fire department. They answered four calls, but there was no serious damage.

A concerned parent wrote a letter to the editor stating she would like to see a kindergarten in our school system.

The state conservation department reported that more arrests were made for illegal fishing in March than hunting and trapping combined.

John Stein, formerly of Madison, purchased the Plymouth-DeSoto garage from Homer Middleton. Mr. Stein had been located in Madison for twenty-four years before coming to Belleville.

Margaret Staley and Roger Krueger were prom royalty in the spring. The theme was "Slow Boat to China," and the music was provided by the Eddie Lawrence orchestra.

The American Legion sponsored a fun-frolic. To start the gala affair a street dance was held.

Reverend: Ray Scott was appointed the pastor of the Grace Methodist Church. He came to this community from Chicago.

Beverley Burrington and Jim Adams were married.

In September a group of sportsmen from the vicinity organized a club for the purpose of shooting clay birds. It was also organized to promote good sportsmanship in the community. The members leased

the land and building one half mile east of Belleville known as the Weber slaughter house.

Edna's dress shop opened in October. It was located in the old post office building.

Kathryn Gerhard and Paul Lamboley were married.

Winners of the scout Jack-O-Lantern contest were, Neil Brunner, first prize, Paul and Roger Cate second prize and the third prize was won by Alan MacDonald.

At its annual meeting the rod and gun club discussed having a fox hunt in November.

Coach Hageman ended his coaching days at Belleville that November. He coached for eight years at Belleville High School. His eight year record for all football games, conference and non conference showed thirty-nine wins, fourteen losses. A percentage of .735.

Postmaster Charles McCormick reminded everyone that unsealed Christmas cards would require two cents postage instead of one and one half cent stamps.

The annual Christmas contest was held at the Rexal drugstore again. The grand prize winner was Ray Francois. He won a bicycle.

Nineteen forty-nine ended a decade that the world can never forget. After starting to recover from a great depression we were plunged into a world war, leaving behind the knowledge that the world would never be the same again.

What made Belleville so unique from any other community? It probably wasn't. It was because of the efforts of so many small communities that made us the stronger of the nations at war. Everyone believed in what they were doing. We all had heroes, someone to look up to and be proud of. We had a common cause. When everyone combined their efforts

nationwide we became the stronger. The secret was unity.

Could we as a community rise to the occasion again? I'd like to believe we could. How about you?

At its regular meetings the new and fun club discussed how to

Coach Hagman's idea of coaching boys at St. Louis in the winter

Christmas cards would be the best for the center. Last year one

After starting to recover from a grasshopper infestation

the same again. I would not try to make it of any old church

What would be the best way to get the community involved?

the grand prize winner was Ray Francis. He had a beautiful

After starting to recover from a grasshopper infestation

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OUR HEROES

At the close of World War II the small community of Belleville listed one hundred fifty-eight people of the community and surrounding area who had served their country in the war. This included women too.

Ten young men lost their lives, five were prisoners of war and one served as a fighter pilot in the R.A.F.. One had a destroyer named after him and one was in the funeral procession of the death of a president. All were heroes, if only for the fact that they served their country and community in time of need.

Almost all the men and women of this community in the service of their country wrote to Mr. Adams. They thanked him for the paper, they praised the Red Cross for the things they received, and thanked the churches and ladies societies of their community for all they contributed.

All the letters were interesting and timely. I did not intentionally leave out names or letters. It is my hope that you find that this is a cross section of all the letters and news items and you will share with me the feeling of a time gone.

1942- Verle Smith was the first boy of this community to give his life in World War II. He was a fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force of England and was killed in a bombing flight over Hamberg, Germany. He was twenty-four years of age. He enlisted early in the war before the United States became involved and rapidly advanced to a pilot officer in the Royal Air Force. He was captain of one of the world's largest bombers.

In May of 1942 he told of participating in the largest raids in history. Of those over Cologne and Essen Germany he said, "The towns were one brilliant mass of flames. The sky was full of flares, rockets, bursts of anti-aircraft shells, search lights and planes taking evasive action waiting for their turn to do their bit. Imagine the greatest Fourth of July celebration you have ever seen. Multiply that by thousands and perhaps you can imagine what it was like. The fires could be seen for one hundred fifty miles."

He told of flying one of the largest bombers in the world. He said, "This plane has 1600 horse power engines. The wheels are seven feet high and the pilots seat is thirty feet above the ground." In his last letter home Verle said in part, "Well, I guess I'm on top now flying the largest four engined bomber in service. It certainly is an immense thing. Sometimes I sit in the cockpit directing the ground crew thirty feet below. I wonder if it is really I."

On July 29, 1942 he failed to return after a bombing flight. He was buried in Bremen, Germany.

March of 1943 - Sgt. Lincoln Marty accompanied the "Flying Kellys" as a crew chief on a trip in four bombers from Kirtland Field New Mexico to Madison.

April 23, 1943 - "Well, I sure had a nice trip back home last month. Those pilots sure are crazy. They'd just as soon fly upside down as right side up and the idea of diving down and catching chickens is out with me, but there wasn't much I could say on the deal. We struck a head wind on the way back, and it took us seven and half hours to get back. The ceiling was very low and we hardly flew over 1,000 feet. I don't think we flew right over Belleville, but we came close. I saw New Glarus at our right, so we weren't really far from there.

I want to thank the people of Belleville for making it possible for me to get the paper."

"Your friend,

Lincoln Marty"

BELLEVILLE BOY MISSING IN NORTH AFRICA AREA SINCE THE 28TH OF MARCH:

Sgt. Donald Keegan, son of Mr and Mrs. Charles Keegan of Basco is missing in action in North Africa. Keegan was twenty-five years old and one of the first boys in this community to enter the service having enlisted in the army in October of 1940. In September of 1943 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Keegan received their first letter from Sgt. Donald Keegan, who was a prisoner of war in Germany. They had previously received post cards, but following is the first letter they received.

"Dear Mon,

Here it is another Sunday so I thought I would write a line. I've just come from mass and had my breakfast, some toast with coffee. We have a new priest now. He can speak a little English. Our church is really pretty. We made it with Red Cross boxes.

The news we hear is very good and surely hope the war is over soon. I haven't heard from anyone yet, but I'm hoping to hear from you soon.

As you might guess I have nothing to write of here. I just hope everyone is well.

Be sure and write a line and have a good Christmas dinner ready because I expect to be hungry.

Love Donald"

Donald Keegan returned to the United States in June of 1945. He was discharged September 21, 1945, after serving fifty-nine months and twelve days in the service of his country.

Richard V. "Dick" Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Adams graduated from advanced flying school and received the coveted wings of a pilot in the Air Force. He passed his aviation cadet examination in 1942 but was not called into training until January of 1943. He was an instructor at George Field Lawrenceville, Illinois. Following is an excerpt from one of his letters telling of night flying.

September 17, 1943 - "I finished my night flying last night. We had all kinds of landing. Combination flood light and landing light, only landing lights, only flood lights, and total blackout landings. I did o'k.

Did I tell you that two instructors were killed here Sunday morning? They were "buzzing" a house and got caught in a tree. I knew both of them quite well. Rode with one of them once. Buzzing can be dangerous but, it is so much fun you don't realize the dangers.. Don't worry about it as we're not allowed to buzz except on cross

countries and then only to identify towns."

November 1943 - The silver wings, emblematic of a pilot in the United States Air Force, which would have been presented to Bernard G. Baebler on his completion of his training, but which he never received because he was killed in training, were presented to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Baebler by the Army Air Force. Bernard would have graduated December 1, 1943, had it not been for his fatal crash while in the service of his country.

"My Dear Mr. BAebler,

General H. H. Arnold, commanding General of the Army Air Force has directed that the enclosed wings be presented to you in honor of your son, Aviation Cadet Bernard G. Baebler, who gave his life in training to become a pilot in the Army Air Force. This insignia would have been his badge of achievement on the completion of his training.

You can rightly share the pride **which** would have been his on receiving these wings. The Army Air Force presents them in honor of his memory."

G.C. Brant, Major General U.S. Army

To: Mr. Arthur Roberts

Belleville, Wisconsin

" My Dear Mr. Roberts:

The name ROBERTS has been assigned to a Destroyer Escort vessel in honor of your son, the late Ensign Arthur John Roberts, Jr., U.S. Naval Reserve.

The U.S.S. Roberts is scheduled to be launched at the plant of

the Western Pipe and Steel Company, Los Angeles, California, on
(deleted because of censorship)

Will you please suggest the name of a sponsor to christen this vessel when she is launched and at your earliest convenience advise the Navy Department of the name and address of the person you propose for this purpose. As a matter of Navy tradition only female sponsors are designated to christen vessels, and it is customary that sponsors for destroyer escort vessels be chosen from the female members of the family of the deceased relative whose name is honored.

Because of war restrictions, it is requested that information concerning the launching date be kept confidential.

Sincerely,

Frank Knox"

Ensign Jack Roberts was killed in action in a naval battle in the Solomon area and is now buried in a beach cemetery on Tulagi Island along with one hundred twenty-five other navy men who lost their lives in the same battle. Ensign Roberts graduated from the University of Wisconsin in chemical engineering. It was known that he was in the thick of some heavy fighting in the area of the Solomon Islands.

December 6, 1943 - Somewhere in the Pacific: "By now you know that I was with the American Forces that landed on Makin Island. This is my first encounter with the Japanese, and for my part I hope it is the last..

There are times when I thought I would never see Belleville again. The first time was when we were going into the beach for a landing. In passing through the harbor to the beach we had to pass two old boats

that looked like they had been there for years. The Japs had a machine gun nest set up in these boats, and as we passed them they opened fire on us. I can say that one ages about ten years when this happens. We reached the beach all right even though we had to wade in water up to our waist for about one hundred fifty yards before we hit the land. My job, when I hit the beach, was to set up a radio along with two other fellows. We were back from the front line so the only chance we had of getting hit was by snipers. Those snipers are everywhere.

You see a lot of Japs but most of them are dead. Our mail has caught up with us, and the first day I received thirty-five letters. I was reading in the RECORDER where the hunting season has opened back there.

Gordon Sardeson."

SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC:

January 15, 1944

"Dear Herb,

I have a little time to spare today so I will try to write you a few lines that may be interesting to you and the rest of the folks at home.

Just Recently we made a beach landing on a jeep held base in the southwest Pacific. We made a very successful landing which was well and good for us. We ran into a few Japs, but that didn't last very long. They were soon underground except for a few of the more fortunate ones that took off for the hills.

Our biggest worry now is the air raids. They came over quite often at first, but since a few of their planes have been shot down they don't seem so brave.

Leo Gehin"

There are a lot of natives around here, and they are friendly to us. They don't care for the Japs though. That is to be expected. They drove them out of their homes. They don't wear many clothes. The women wear grass skirts, but we seldom see many of the women. The men wear a piece of cloth around their waist.

Leland Kuhl"

England February 28, 1944

"Dear Folks,

Just finished reading the RECORDER and feel I owe it a few lines. Now I enjoy it more than ever being so far from home.

Arrived here safe and sound without any danger. We were first to Scotland then to England. Our trip was too long for most of us as some of us were sick nearly the whole trip, and that's no fun.

I visited London two days last week. Enjoyed the stay very much. I saw Big Ben, House of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, and many interesting spots. A sight that took our eyes was the damage that the enemy had done the night before.

Cloyance Zentner"

Somewhere in England January 19, 1944

"Dear Friends,

This letter is being written by Irv Gillette and I. Soon after my arrival in England I looked Irv up, and found him in his barracks, all dressed up waiting for inspection. He was speechless for a few moments after he saw me. I guess that is excuseable since Irv hasn't seen anyone from Belleville for nearly eighteen months.

Immediately after inspection Irv secured a three day pass from his C.O. and we have been spending it aboard my ship which is docked somewhere in England. We have had a lot of fun reminiscing and toasting the good people of Belleville. Our only regret is that it won't last but a few days at the most.

Irv Gillette and Johnny Saxer"

February 1, 1944- Anywhere

"First I want to thank the Ladies Aid for the swell Christmas packages they sent, and I want to thank everyone for all the Christmas cards. It didn't seem like Christmas where we were, but we made the best of it, hoping we can be back home next year.

It was not until a few weeks ago I heard that Art Klassy was missing in action off the Gilbert Islands. I saw the ship he was on go down but, I never thought a boy I knew was on it at the time. When you have gone through and seen the things I have in the last few months you know war isn't any picnic.

Gordon Sardeson"

Somewhere in England May 26, 1944

"I have visited a lot of small towns in England. The thing was the town of Exeter. This is a small town in England and perhaps one of the oldest. It has a very old cathedral. The second oldest in this country. It is a very beautiful thing and very large. If the place could speak it could no doubt tell many interesting stories.

They have many small rivers and streams in the countryside with a lot of good sized trout in them. Some of the boys tell me I can't fish in them because the fish belong to the king. I guess they don't know me very well.

Leo Gehin"

May 1944 - Belleville Boy gets air medal - flew on eleven missions.

Lt. Edwin Ringgenberg local boy, who is a pilot and the commanding officer of a flying fortress based in England has been awarded the Air Medal.

May 1944- Ray Sherman German Prisoner -

Ray Sherman, who was reported as missing in action as of February is now a prisoner of war in Germany. The war department reported to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sherman, that their son PFC Ray J. Sherman was alive and a prisoner of war. They had also received a postcard dated March 13 that he was a prisoner. The card was sent through the Red Cross.

July 1944

Marvel Viney was a veteran of Africa, Sicily and Italy. Some of his unforgettable experiences were the bombings to which he was subjected to at Palermo and shellfire he underwent while riding in a jeep as a messenger in the Italian campaign. Although he was a member of an anti-aircraft unit he hit the Sicily beaches as a member of a wave of infantry. In Italy he sometimes served as a messenger before other means of communications were established. Of the Palermo bombing Cpl. Viney said, "Two days after Palermo was taken we set up our anti aircraft guns in a lemon orchard right in the town. The German planes were coming over us shortly after midnight and continued until daylight. I don't think I'll ever forget that. The enemy dropped so many flares it was as light as day all night. You could have read a newspaper."

August 1944-

Pvt. Paul Derendinger is killed in Italy. The fifth Belleville boy killed. Paul was twenty-three years old. Another gold star was added to Belleville's honor roll.

August 1944-

On August 4, 1944 Frank C. Minch of Belleville received his U.S. Army Air Force silver wings and commission as a second lieutenant.

Rodney Berg saw action in the navy. He had been on anti-sub duty in the Carribean Sea for two and half months. He had been across the Atlantic twice. Their fleet sank two submarines in the south Atlantic and on one trip accross they ran into a "Wolfpack" of eight submarines. Five of these were sunk and three got away.

September 1944-

William Morehead, glider pilot, was killed in the invasion of Holland. He received a slight head injury while landing, but managed to land his glider intact. After administering first aid to victims of a nearby crash, Lt. Morehead, another officer, and five enlisted men started to leave the vicinity crawling through brush and ditches. However, German patrols were all over the area and Lt. Morehead was killed by sniper.

The others were taken prisoner. (Until they were liberated in 1945 and the truth was told the entire group was listed as missing in action.)

Pvt. Francis Butts was among infantrymen who established bridge-heads accross the Moselle River in heavy action and played a heroic part. He was with a bazooka team that broke up a tank attack. They knocked out one tank and scored a direct hit on others. He was awarded the silver star for gallantry in action. Citation read as follows.

"When enemy forces launched a determined tank infantry counter offensive under a heavy barrage of their artillery and mortar fire, Pvt. Butts, an anti-rocket gunner, without hesitation or thought of personal safety, went well forward in an attempt to stop the counter-attack. Oblivious to the intense enemy fire, Pvt. Butts, completely exposed in the open terrain, aggressively moved his anti-tank launcher in position and skillfully and expertly operating the weapon succeeded in destroying several of the enemy tanks and causing the others to return."

September 1944-

"Well last night was my first night in Belgium. A Friend and I went sight seeing. We were invited into two homes. Really very nice clean homes. We had some good wine. After that we attended a dance. Just one madhouse. They certainly dance different than we do, only a waltz. I had a good partner for that. It's all fast music and jitter-bugging. All they do is go round in circles and jump up and down.

Our travels through France were interesting at times. We were in St. Lo., or should say what was St. Lo. Now the people are coming back to what was their homes. I can safely say there isn't one building standing.

I saw one woman hold the key she once locked her door with. She looked at the pile of rubbish that was once her home and threw the key away.

Cloyance. Zentner"

September 13, 1944 - Interesting letter received from Ray Sherman

"Dear Mom and All,

Just a few line to let you know that I am in good health and hope you are also. It sure is hard to fill up one these pages when you are restricted.

I am on a farm in a small town in Germany. The people treat us good. I eat the same as they do five times a day. We get our Red Cross parcels every week so we get enough.

All the work here is done by hand. We're nearly through with threshing. The farmers furnish us with feather beds and do our washing.

Hope to see you soon,

Ray"

December 24, 1944 - France

"Dear Folks,

This Christmas eve is quite different than last year. A year ago we were taken off the boat and went back to the POE. I'll never forget how good the spare ribs tasted. Then cooking on English boats is notorious. Anyway, I was in the States last Christmas. I tried to call from a USO but I couldn't get near a telephone.

I just came back tonight from going caroling among the wards.

A few of the fellows seemed very diffident about joining in, but by and large, most of them were pathetically eager to join in the singing. One fellow with a bad lung was trying to sing but he had to give up. He just lay back and smiled until I thought he would burst. He was really glad to speak to anyone. I think I will try and get over to see him tomorrow.

You should have seen the Santa Clauses who went around the wards. Capts. Conroy and English are both very heavy set and plenty sharp on the Irish wit and humor.

There are services tomorrow morning, and I'll attend if I am free. There is communion in the afternoon too.

The news sounds good tonight. They say the Allies have stopped the Jerry counter-attacks and there will be some good news soon. I certainly hope so. If they get these Jerries this time I think the war will be considerably shortened.

Don't worry about me.

Love -Howard" (Huck Hoesly)

December 1944 - Mrs. Laverne Cate received a short letter from her brother Ray who was a prisoner of war. The letter was dated August 7, 1944. "Dear Sis and family,

Just a line to let you know I am o'k and hope you are the same. I've been working on a farm lately. It's nothing like the farms at home.

Hope to see you all soon. May God be with you.

Ray"

December 1944- Great Lakes, Illinois

"Dear Herb,

Just a few lines to tell you that I'm receiving the paper and I sure appreciate it.

Well Navy life isn't so bad but civilian is much better. Today was another tough day for us. We had Capt. Inspection. We scrubbed

the deck until the darn thing shone. We use the new dance called the "Great Lakes Shuffle."

I sure am glad to know the Belleville basketball team is winning a few games.

The only thing I don't like about the Navy is washing clothes. I sure hate it.

Just another Belleville Boy

Smokey" (Kenneth Babler)

December 1944 - Floyd Kleppe, Belleville boy, was wounded in the Pacific on Leyte Island in the Phillipines. Floyd had seen heavy fighting in Northern New Guinea, Palau Islands Leyte. In August he was awarded the combat infantry medal.

December 27, 1944 - Oahu, Hawaii

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Adams,

Now that Chirstmas is over for another year we can all settle back to the regular routine. For us here it was just another day other than the feast.

After spending my third Christmas here at this station it should seem like home. For some reason or other I just can't see it that way. It did seem like home when Gordon Sardeson and the Jamiesons were stationed here but since then I have been rather by myself.

This month I had a surprise. I just don't recall the day but, I received a letter from home saying that Raymond Genin A.M.M. 3C was in the hospital on the island of Oahu. Without too much effort on my part the next day I had off I found him. During the two hours or so that we spent together everyting imaginable was discussed. The next trip to visit

him I found that he was discharged from the hospital and his whereabouts could not be given to me.

Cpl. Floyd Palmer"

January 1945 -

Sgt. Wendell Hoffmaster is missing in Germany. He had been missing since December 21 according to word sent. He was overseas less than three months. Also missing in action since December 21 was Cpl. Harold Babler. Harold had been overseas only two months. He was missing in action in Germany.

With this report it brought eleven the number of casualties in the Belleville community of which three were missing in action.

January 1945-

Harold Babler wrote home to his parents and told them that Wendell Hoffmaster and he were prisoners of war together in Germany. He asked that his mother should send packages from home with raisins, cans of meat, cheese, and plenty of candy.

February 1945-

Claude Staley, Seaman First Class and a gunner aboard the aircraft carrier Monterey was awarded the Bronze Star medal and a citation for shooting down a Japanese two engine torpedo bomber which was attacking the ship.

February 28, 1945 -

Sgt. Lester Meland was reported killed in action in Germany.

March 1945- Norman Schaller was reported missing in action in Germany since March 3.

Sgt. Donald Pierson was reported missing in action. He was a tail gunner on a flying fortress over Germany. He had been overseas since January 1944.

April 1945-

It must have been "old home week" in New York City one day last week.

Four of our local people: Lt. John Saxer, Lt. and Mrs. Lester Fredrickson and Seaman Laurette Schmetter, met and had dinner.

April 1945- Germany

"We had seen several prisoners that the Germans had taken from France and Belgium and Holland. The Americans leased them from their camps. They had no soft spot in their hearts for the Germans. They had hard work to do with potatoes and two slices of bread being their main meal of the day. Yesterday I saw a German prisoner of war. Sixteen years old and in the army for fourteen days. Someone said he told them that his father said to raise his hand if he saw an American. He certainly did not have much of an army career.

Cloyance Zentner"

May 1945 -

Sgt. Wendell Hoffmaster and Cpl. Harold Babler return home after being prisoners of war together in Germany.

May 1945 -

Cpl. Sylvester Slotten, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Slotten of Belleville was awarded a Bronze Oakleaf cluster to wear with his Bronze Star and a citation for meritorious service. It was awarded for heroic achievement in action in Germany.

May 1945- RAY SHERMAN ESCAPES FROM GERMAN PRISON CAMP,

"Dear Folks,

I'm about the happiest guy in the world I guess. A buddy and I escaped from the Germans and headed for Switzerland. We were recaptured on March 29 about twenty kilometers from the border. On April 15 we escaped again and headed for our work camp to get more food. Our camp was evacuated on the 22 of April when we escaped again and hid in the

woods until we American tanks last night. After fourteen months and eleven days, I can hardly believe we're back with our troop again."

Ray Sherman was a prisoner at Stalag 7-B Germany.

July 6- Men from Belleville met in Europe -

Lt. Russell Howard and T5 Howard Hoesly met face to face in Paris, France. Another coincidence was that Sgt. Lincoln Marty and his brother-in-law T. Sgt. John Heiman found themselves in adjoining tents where they were located on an island in the Pacific.

August 1945 - Rheims France

"Dear Grandmother Fritz,

I suppose by now you know that I am to be shipped direct to the Pacific. Of course none of us were very happy when we heard that we were not going to be allowed to come home first, but when we do it will be for good.

The news this morning has all been about the new atomic bomb. **It must** have tremendous exploding power, and I fear for Japan if she doesn't surrender. I hope too that the U.S. uses this new power intelligently because I know something of atomic energy and it could be quite easy to destroy the world if used wrongly.

Gary Fritz

GROWING UP IN NAZI GERMANY

The following account is taken from a tape recording of Mrs. Franz Hofbauer. She is a rural resident of Belleville. Mrs. Hofbauer was a child growing up in Nazi Germany and relates events in her life during this period of time. I have not altered or edited the content in any way. It is all a direct quote of the recording.

The events of the 1940's had their roots in the Thirties. The depression in 1932 was world wide. My father would go to get his unemployment stamped and I would walk along. The men would talk of their discontent with the government. This led to the tearing down of the Nazi flags and posters. There was one demonstration in particular my mother didn't want my father to go to; the men overturned cars and broke beer bottles.

One summer day I went with my father to our garden plot. Some men came by and made me stand behind a bush and told me not to look. I was roughly brought home by the Gestapo. My father went on trial and was sentenced to eighteen years in prison for high treason. We visited him in prison. The second time we went I couldn't see him; his hair had been roughly cut and he was bleeding. My father was released in 1936 but wasn't allowed to work in the defense industry. The German war machine was very busy.

We lived in an apartment on the third floor. My dad helped Jews through the underground. One night in particular I remember. We had a visitor that night. My dad and he came in after dark. He would sleep under the large table cloth covering our round table. By daylight he was gone again.

When I was ten my ulcer was bothering me. The doctor thought a quiet visit to my aunt and uncle would help. I had saved money to buy chocolate. We went to the store, but they were out of chocolate. We went to the store another time but they were still out of chocolate. The next day was very sad also because my uncle had to go away to war.

During the riots there was a curfew in Germany. My brother had been sick with polio and my mother needed medicine for him. She had to wait a long time at the pharmacy and we were hurrying home as fast as we could. A policeman caught up to us. To hurry us along, he'd tap the back of my legs with his night stick all the while scolding my mother.

I had to herd cows when I was ten. The farmers lived in the village and owned scattered fields near by. There were no fences so children were hired to watch the cattle. People used their cows for plowing and hauling wood. Only the wealthy had oxen. In our village everyone heated and cooked by woodfire.

There were three radios in a village of 700-800 people. We had one of the radios. Everyone was to listen to Hitler's speeches so the houses were very full. We children did our best to skip out. My dad would wake up and listen to radio London at two o'clock in the morning. We knew better than the others what was really going on. All the shutters had to be closed. A person had to be so careful. We found footprints by the window and were worried someone was spying on us. One youth I knew who was about five years older than I spoke out against the Nazis. He was sent to Dachau and never heard from again. In February, 1943 my father's parole was up. He was drafted in two weeks. A couple of months later he was in Russia. He was also in Crimea. He was wounded in the hand but was soon back at the front fighting in Russia. He became a Russian prisoner of war in the Ural Mts.

My mother was suppose to join the organization for women. They knit socks and rolled bandages. She went a few times. The women had to buy a Nazi flag. The flag was never put up in our house. I was out-growing all my clothes. Dress goods were very hard to come by and very expensive when you could purchase them. The flag had such pretty red material in it. I needed a red apron to go with my new dress that I was making. Soon I had a very pretty red apron to go with my dress.

Shoes were a very big item for growing children. Someone knew where the Africa Corps had clothes stored on piles. One night we went and helped ourselves. One shoe was bigger than the other, but they were great.

We were given rations by the calorie. There was little meat anywhere. Living in an agricultural area helped. Occasionally a cow broke her leg or had an accident and had to be butchered. Everyone could then buy some meat with ration cards. If a cow had an accident, we could buy doubled the meat if we had the money.

We had a garden. One spring a neighbor's chicken would not leave our garden alone. It loved seeds. We complained and complained. I was out early one morning and no one else was around but the chicken and me. I'd had enough of that chicken. I grabbed the chicken and took it to the house. We closed all the windows so no one would smell it being dressed out and cooked.

My mother was ten when World War One started. She had told of going five days without food. Just after the war we had the hardest time

to get food. Germans who had lived in other countries were brought back to Germany. My father was a P.O.W. so we had no money coming in. I had to stand in farmer's kitchens a long time to buy a few eggs. I even picked up grain in fields after harvest. The grain was cut with a scythe, put in shocks and threshed by hand.

Palm Sunday of 1945 the Americans came to our village. We had heard artillery for weeks. Some barns were hit. In our village the barns were attached to the houses. When we would see many airplanes go over, we knew the end was near. We counted over 900 planes in one raid. It made our village tremble. After one raid, I watched a lone U.S. plane fly low over the village, its motor sputtering. How I prayed it would make it. Once airplanes destroyed two thirds of a town about fifty miles away. The sky was aglow from the fires.

That Palm Sunday, 1945, the village elders told us to go to a cellar by the old Roman Road and wait. When we got there my little brother started to cry. My mother sent me back for his bottle. As I neared the house I could see the elders had erected a barricade and stood talking with the Americans. We had known the Americans were coming because the SS left on Saturday. At noon we were told to go back to our homes.

Rumors were flying everywhere. That morning one of the village elders had been found lying the street. He had just had too much to drink.

Now there was to be a house-to-house search. The village elders told the young girls to dress like boys. I had on my grandfather's pants, my dad's shirt and jacket and my long blonde hair under a cap.

Three soldiers came into the house. I was trying to look inconspicuous; then the soldiers saw me. One put a tommy gun to my chest and started to yell at me and he was getting red in the face. One of the others tipped my cap and my long blonde hair fell down. They thought I was an AWOL soldier.

On one occasion Russian prisoners were kept overnight in a barn. In the morning the soldiers guarding the Russians refused to feed them. My grandmother took them some raw potatoes and eggs which were quickly eaten. The guards laughed at my grandmother.

In 1945 I visited Stuttgart. Glass had melted on the street the fires were so hot. There was such an awful smell. People were living in cardboard boxes or anything they could find.

Even in Germany there were jokes about Goering, the fat dog, and all his projects to make the Nazis look good to people. One time the paper did an article on them visiting an old folks home. Instead of "Sig Hitler", we'd say "Sig Litter".

Up to the age of eighteen I worked helping the farmers harvest and getting paid in a small amount of food. At the age of eighteen I had to get a job away or I would not be issued a ration card. That is how I met Franz, my husband. One Christmas eve after visiting Franz's mother we were window shopping. There was so little money. I looked down and there were two German marks at my feet in the snow. We splurged on a Christmas tree. It is a Christmas I will always remember.

