

**THE HISTORY OF CENTERVILLE**  
**CHAPTER 10**  
**WORLD WAR II**

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**\* INTRODUCTION \***

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This morning, December 7, 1941, the Japanese unleashed a sneak attack upon our battle fleet at Pearl Harbor and strategic areas on the island of Hawaii. This was the start of World War II for the U.S.

Thus World War II had officially begun for the United States on December 7, 1942. But in other parts of the world regional wars had been raging for a decade. The Japanese invaded Northeastern China in 1931 setting up the puppet state of Manchukuo in Manchuria. The Spanish revolution of 1936 gave Germany a training ground for its new weapons and blitzkrieg strategy and also elevated Spanish Fascist leader Francisco Franco to power. The NAZI takeover of Austria by an 'Anschluss' (vote of Austrian citizens to be absorbed by Germany) in 1938 was followed by the NAZI's occupying the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia after claiming the majority of the population in the area were German and wanted to be aligned with Germany. After the weak-willed Allies gave the Sudetenland to NAZI's without firing a shot this was followed by Germany's outright invasion and taking over all of Czechoslovakia. Germany then followed this with the invasion of Poland in September 1939 (with the complicity of Soviet Russia). With the invasion of Poland Britain and France declared

war on Germany. In May of 1940, the NAZI's invaded France through the Low Countries and the Ardennes Forest and quickly overran and defeated the French Army. Finally, the NAZI's invaded Russia in June 1941. The other main theater of the NAZI inspired war was in North Africa where Italy and Germany were trying to take over the Suez Canal and thus starve Great Britain into submission.

Officially the United States was "neutral" at this time, we did not want to be involved in another European conflict as we were in WWI. We did however, side with Britain and Russia against Germany and Italy, giving as much aid as we could to help "our Allies" from being taken over by the NAZI's.

President Roosevelt favored our involvement in Europe prior to December 7, 1941, but the country was mostly isolationist. One of our largest heroes, Charles Lindberg, was avid admirer of what Adolph Hitler had accomplished since his taking power, and it was astonishing. Hitler did have his admirers in the U.S. Unfortunately Hitler used his talents for evil rather than benefiting the common man. In the U.S. he had the backing of Charles Lindberg who clamored for the U.S. to stay out of the war up until almost the day of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Lindberg did not approve of the evil of the NAZI's, only what they had accomplished in bettering the life of the common German since the early days of hyper-inflation of the Weimar Republic.

You have probably seen the U.S. embroiled in one or more wars during your lifetime. I personally was born three weeks after the bombing of Pearl harbor and have lived to see the Korean War, the Viet Nam War, and a slew of Mid-East Wars. Most of the wars we have been through were covered extensively by television; as opposed to having to view what was going on across the waves through news reels at our local movie theater during WWII.

WWII was completely different on the home town citizens than any other war since. This is what this chapter is about. It will illustrate what the common citizen of Washington Township endured during this war, and it was unlike any war we were involved in since. Citizens in the U.S. lived the war daily on the home front. Since that Great War people that have endured wars on the home front spent most of the day unaware that we were even in a war, except for those that had acquaintances or relatives fighting. In other words, the folks on the home front had very little involvement directly in the war. This was true about the Korean War, the Viet Nam War and the various Gulf Wars.

This was not the case in the Second World War. You cannot view WWII through today's eyes:

- First, in 1941 there was no Internet and no satellites to beam broadcasts across the world, and there was no television. Only about 60% of homes in the United States had a radio set in 1936. News of the war was followed in newspapers and magazines and film footage was only viewed via newsreel footage shown at your local theater.
- Second, the U.S. had emerged as a world power in WWI, but that power was tempered by the effects of the Great Depression. Goods and money were scarce and could in no way be compared to going to war with little or no effect on the American people as we see in today's wars.
- Third, as bad as the Great Depression was, things were going to get worse for the American consumer during the Second World War with rationing. This is what this article is about; the suffering of the average American during the

Great War and in particular the effect of the Great War had on the residents of Southern Alameda County and the people of Centerville.

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**\* PRELUDE TO WAR \***

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*Selective Service Act / Courses in Defense Industry Offered / American Red Cross / OPA – Office of Price Administration / USO / Niles Draft Board / National Aluminum Drive / National Guard Unit Formed / Civil Defense Corps Organized / Air Raid Observation Stations / 100 Civil Defense Deputies / ROTC Unit Formed at WUHS / Washington Township Rifle Company*

That war was flaring throughout the globe was not lost upon the U.S. prior to Pearl Harbor. We were also aware that the Japanese were planning to attack us (we had broken their military code), but we did not know when or where. There were indications that the U.S. was preparing for war although still claiming our neutrality. The U.S. made ready for war while maintaining a subtlety that would not arouse the isolationist faction. Here is a chronological timetable of some of events that made ready for war and how they affected Washington Township:

**Selective Service Act:**

The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 was enacted on September 16, 1940, and was the *first peacetime conscription* in United States history. This Selective Service Act required that men who had reached their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, but had not yet reached their 36th birthday, must register with local draft boards. Later, after the U.S. had entered the World II conflict, all men from their 18th birthday until the day before their 45th birthday were made subject to military service, and all men from their 18th birthday until the day before their 65th birthday were required to register.

Young men lined up to sign up for the Selective Service System draft, as required by federal law, on October 16, 1940. It was estimated that one man out of forty who registered would be called up in the first draft in the fall. Draft Board No. 75 in Niles covered Washington and Murray Townships was overseen by Judge Manley and Carl M. Friden of Pleasanton, and Judge Allen G. Norris of Centerville. The chief duty of the local boards was to study the detailed questionnaires filled out by conscripts to determine such questions as dependents, employment, fitness for military, and health. In the four Centerville voting precincts 307 men between the ages of 21 and 35 signed up for the selective service draft.

**Courses in Defense Industry Offered:**

Washington Union High School printed and delivered to all post offices in the Township questionnaires meant for unemployed youths between the ages of 17 and 25 to interest them in training courses to aid the National defense program. The cost of the program would come from Federal emergency defense funds, and the program was adopted by the State Board of Education. The training program would include various phases of the national defense, such as the manufacture and operation of airplanes, tanks, munitions, etc.

**American Red Cross:**

The American Red Cross was asked by the Federal Government to organize committees for disaster relief and for national defense. The leader of the effort in

Washington Township was Frank T. Dusterberry of Centerville. The effort was to be called, "The Survey and Planning Committee for Disaster Relief." This committee, under the auspices of the American Red Cross met the home of Frank T. Dusterberry on February 26<sup>th</sup> and completed organization by the appointment of several committees covering the spectrum of services needed in an emergency.

### **OPA – Office of Price Administration:**

President Roosevelt establishes the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply to "stabilize prices and rents and prevent unwarranted increases in them; to prevent profiteering, hoarding and speculation; to assure that defense appropriations were not dissipated by excessive prices; to protect those with fixed incomes from undue impairment of their living standards; to assist in securing adequate production; and to prevent a post-emergency collapse of values."

### **USO:**

Robert Blacow of Centerville was named community chairman for the U.S.O. The U.S.O. was founded in February 1941 for the purpose of raising money to carry on recreation programs for our service boys, and in giving contributions for this project it was hoped there would come about a unification of all citizens of the U.S. regardless of race, creed, color, or political affiliation.

### **Niles Draft Board:**

The Selective Service Board No. 75 at Niles released the names of Centerville young men who recently registered after their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. They were: Thomas Wane Halbert, Shiro Tom Ikeda, Segundo Gumagay Bucol, George Yoshifumi Sakanye, Shigeo Oku, Stanley Rogers, Eugene Ellsworth Ramsell, Albert Benjamin Maciel, Carmelo Nicholas Ferrigno, Everett Elwin Gaunt, and Seraphine Anthony Lemos. The pace of inductions was picking up.

### **National Aluminum Drive:**

A national aluminum drive was started with emphasis being placed on the non-profit character of the drive to shore up material for our national defense. Said Alameda County District Attorney, Ralph E Hoyt: "All of the work is being done by volunteers and every cent of proceeds will be devoted to defense projects. Locally the aluminum drive will be spearheaded by Judge Allen G Norris, Frank Madruga, Tom Maloney, Pete Nunes, and Jack Rees. Also joining in will be the Centerville Boy Scouts who will canvass the Centerville District.

### **National Guard Unit Formed:**

A dozen enthusiastic officers of various Township organizations met at the high school to hear two National Guard officers from Sacramento explain the methods and purposes of organizing a California State Guard company in Washington Township. The 12 men present were instructed to solicit the interest of other eligible men in forming such a company.

### **Civil Defense Corps Organized:**

Alameda County Sheriff Jack Gleason deputized 100 volunteers as Alameda County marched forward in the drive to be ready for any defense emergency. The Sheriff's Department had been conducting classes during the last three months preparing the men. The men from Southern Alameda County have been trained to assist police and

sheriff deputies in handling traffic, administering to the sick and injured, guarding vital bridge and rail units and otherwise serving the county in the time of an emergency.

### **Air Raid Observation Stations:**

Washington Township was one of the first areas of Alameda County to establish Air Raid Observation Stations. There were four look out stations for the Township, they were located in Niles, Alvarado, Newark and Warm Springs. Jack Vieux was in charge of the four look out stations in the Township. He had an administrator for each town: Ted Harvey, Alvarado; George B. Rose, Niles; John W. Dutra, Newark; and Clyde L. Jones, Warm Springs. Each post set up to watch for unauthorized (enemy?) planes invading our air space.

### **100 Civil Defense Deputies:**

Southern Alameda County would be assured of plenty of protection should an emergency arise after September 29<sup>th</sup> when 100 special deputies were sworn in at exercises that took place in Alvarado. Sheriff Jack Gleason was present to make the men official members of the Alameda County Sheriff Department as attachés of the Civilian Defense Corps. Named as permanent chairman of the organization for Washington Township was Don Bates from Centerville.

### **ROTC Unit Formed at WUHS:**

Principal A.J. Rathbone of Washington Union High School heartily endorsed the establishment of a Reserve Officer Training Corps for the young men now attending Washington Union High School. A request for information on how to proceed was forwarded to the Adjutant General's office at Sacramento for information and action.

### **Washington Township Rifle Company:**

Four new recruits signed up the Washington Township Provisional Rifle Company following two hours of drill in the high school gym. Corporal James Collins and Private First Class Jesse Johnston, both of Newark, were in charge of the drill. The two new men brought the enrollment up to 41 with 34 more still to be enlisted.

It is important to remember here that the infrastructure built by these various presidential and legislative acts were done before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and before out becoming actively involved in the fighting war. Although FDR was heeding the general sentiment not to become involved in the war, FDR realized that if Hitler should take the England, our challenge would be twice as difficult to dislodge the Germans from their conquered territory.

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\* **DECEMBER 7, 1941** \*  
\* **IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH** \*  
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*Attack on Pearl Harbor / Ground Observer Corps / Boy Scout Preparedness / National Guard / 120 Men of the Civil Defense Corps / Survey and Planning Committee for Disaster Relief Activated / Nursing Emergency Service / Red Cross Sewing Room / Japanese American Citizens League / WUHS Student Council*

## **Attack on Pearl Harbor:**

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked our Pacific Fleet based at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. On December 8, 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked for, and received from the U.S. Congress, a Declaration of War against the Imperial Empire of Japan.

Fortunately there had already been an infrastructure of home defense established in Washington Township as outlined above. Although grievously stunned, the citizens of the Township quickly regained their composure and were ready to do their part to win the war.

There are several things to consider here.

- U.S. soil had been invaded and the death of American servicemen had been inflicted on us in both the Hawaiian Islands and the island of Attu in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, which the Japanese now occupied.
- Communication was in its infancy in those days and news traveled slowly, especially to the civilian population. We could not be sure that there was not a Japanese force ready to invade the U.S. or ready to destroy our defense installations around the Bay Area with their large aircraft carrier fleet.
- We were just out of the throes of the Great Depression and goods were scarce.
- We had just emerged as a world power just after WWI, but we were not dominant world force that we would become in the post 1950's.
- Most of the people whose names appear in this work were volunteers, we could not have made the progress in the war without the aid of those that volunteered their time. Please keep that in mind. These people volunteered their time for government war agencies, the American Red Cross, scrap drives to feed the American war machine, and selling war bonds to finance to the American war machine.

## **Ground Observer Corps:**

On December 8, 1941 Clyde L. Jones of Niles, leader of the Township Ground Observer Corps issued a call for volunteers to man the observation posts at Niles, Alvarado, Newark, and Warm Springs. These posts were to be manned 24/7 to scan the skies for enemy planes. This showed the realism of our civilian population being vigilant of a Japanese attack on our mainland.

## **Boy Scout Preparedness:**

Two days later on December 10, 1941, the Boy Scouts were tested for their preparedness to help in the event to quickly spread news throughout the township. The call went out to Boy Scouts to assemble and report. The exercise showed that 88% of the Boy Scouts in Washington Township responded within 45 minutes. The Boy Scouts were to be used in several instances throughout the War. They were a force in canvassing the Township when the need arose to inform everyone of important news, remember there was no TV then and not everyone had a radio.

## **National Guard:**

At this same time J.L. Pearson of Niles, formerly with the U.S. Army in the Philippines and now a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the U.S. National Guard, assumed full charge of drilling the 54 young men of the volunteer National Guard unit recently formed in the

high school gym. Five more Japanese-American citizens from Washington Township had signed the roster and began to drill, bringing to 10 the number of local Japanese-Americans now signed up with the Company. Some of the latter were in deferred classifications of the draft and were taking advantage of the opportunity to drill in advance of being called into the service.

### **120 Men of the Civil Defense Corps:**

On December 19<sup>th</sup> felt arm bands bearing the official blue "C.D." seal (Civil Defense) and the words "Sheriff's Deputy" in black letters were issued to 120 men of the Civilian Defense Corps. The men were instructed to take a census and keep a written list of the numbers of persons living in every house in their towns so that in case of an emergency the number of occupants in the house would be known. Don Bates of Centerville was the Township chairman with J.C. Wasley of Alvarado as secretary of the group.

### **Survey and Planning Committee for Disaster Relief Activated:**

Also in mid-December 1941 "The Survey and Planning Committee for Disaster Relief," a branch of the Alameda County Red Cross, which had been organized at the home of Frank T. Dusterberry on February 26<sup>th</sup> was activated. The entire committee heads are listed below:

#### **Survey & Planning Committee:**

F.T. Dusterberry, Charles Gillespie, John E. Dutra, M.P. Mathiesen, Roland Bendel.

#### **Doctors, Nurses, Medicine:**

Charles Gillespie, Edna Ebright, Dr. Holeman, Dr. McWhirter, Dr. Westphal, Dr. Grau, Dr. Grimmer, Dallas Paul, Allan Walton, Thomas Berge.

#### **Law & Order - American Legion:**

John E. Dutra, George Smith, Randolph Griffin, Arthur W. Cotton, Frank Veit, Joseph S. Brown, Dale Crithers, Jack Vieux.

#### **Transportation:**

George Bonde, Joe Adams, John Santos, Romeo Brunelli, Joseph Pashote, Clarence Crane.

#### **Finance:**

Frank T. Dusterberry, Loren C. Marriott, Robert Blacow, Carl Christiansen, Earl Hellwig, Howard B. White.

#### **Registration:**

M.P. Mathiesen, assistants to be selected as needed.

#### **Communication - Boy Scouts:**

William Lindsay, Thomas Silva, O.W. Ebright, all Scout Masters.

#### **Food:**

M.D. Silva, Joe Shepard, Lloyd Bailey, Joe Bauhofer, Ben Murphy, Joseph Silveira.

#### **Fire:**

Roland Bendel, Frank Madruga, Joe Corey, Mat Whitfield, A. Alves, Joe Pashote.

#### **Public Utilities:**

Ed Richmond, E.F. Glassbrook, A.J. Petsche, Harry Weber, Roy Robinson.

#### **Clothing:**

Charles Wahaub, Mrs. F.V. Jones; committees from:

Country Club of Washington Township

American Legion Auxiliary

Child Welfare Club

Blue Bird Club

**Liaison Group:**

The chairmen of the various committees form the Liaison Group.

**Nursing Emergency Service:**

Also activated on December 19, 1941 was the Nursing Emergency Service of Washington Township. This was the first women’s group in Washington Township to mobilize for the emergency since the declaration of war. The Nursing Emergency Service organized was under the direction of the Alameda County Health Department, which included approximately 30 graduate nurses residing here. Groups of under-graduate nurses and lay women would assist the nurse who had been placed in charge in each of the eight towns of the Township. Their headquarters would be located at the Centerville district office of the county health department with Mrs. Edna Ebright, local public nurse as chairman.

Graduate nurses in charge of the towns are:

Alvarado & Alviso:	Mrs. Vernon Willard
Centerville:	Mrs. W.L. McWhirter
Decoto:	Mrs. Alwin Searles
Irvington:	Mrs. Allan Walton
Mission San Jose:	Mrs. George Coefield
Newark:	Mrs. Edward Westphal
Niles:	Mrs. E.C. Grau
Warm Springs:	Not yet named

Red Cross Sewing Room

The chairmen for the Red Cross Sewing Rooms, which would furnish bandages and dressings for the nursing Emergency Service were: Mrs. A.M. Alves, Niles, Mrs. Fritz Waltenerger of Centerville, Mrs. Rebecca Logan of Alvarado, Mrs. Lesda Brown of Newark, Mrs. Emma Amaral of Decoto, and Mrs. Carl Christensen of Irvington. Mrs. F.V. Jones was general chairman of the sewing rooms.

**Japanese American Citizens League:**

Meanwhile on December 22, 1941, the Japanese American Citizens League urged all Washington Township Japanese to turn in their firearms to sheriff’s deputies. The notice was delivered in a mimeographed sheet because Japanese newspapers had been suspended.

**WUHS Student Council:**

On the same day an all-out defense program had been adopted by the Student Council of the Washington Union High School with approximately 300 boys enrolled in a volunteer fire-fighting and first aid crew, and an equal number of girls organized into home hygiene and home economic squads.

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**\*                    SLECTIVE SERVICE (DRAFT)                    \***

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Many things changed after December 7, 1942, but one of the first that had a major impact on the men of Centerville was the call for a third draft registration of the men



in California for America's military services, which was to be completed in February 1942. The State Director of Selective Service pointed out that it affects every male resident in California between the ages of 20 to 45, with a few exceptions made by Congress. All male persons not previously registered, who attained their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before December 31, 1941, and who have not attained their 45<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before February 16, 1942 had to register at one of the registration places between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on the registration days. The registration place for Washington Township males was the Niles Draft Board No. 75.

**U.S. Selective Service Draft Classifications:**

Draft registrants were classified in four general groups from I to IV, with subdivisions under the first and last. Class I is the first to be called, in general, Class II the second and so on. The keys to the classification are these:

- I-A Available and fit for general military service
- I-B Available and fit for limited military service
- I-C Members of the land and naval forces
- I-D Students fit for general military service
- I-E Students fit for limited military service, available later
- II-A Men necessary in civilian activity
- III-A Men with dependents
- IV-A Men who have completed service
- IV-B Officials deferred by law
- IV-C Non-declarant aliens
- IV-D Minister of religion or divinity student
- IV-E Conscientious objector
- IV-F Unfit for military service

This was the criterion for the drafting of young men into the armed forces of the United States. Draft Boards (which had been in effect since September 16, 1940) geared up for the induction of boys into the service. The Induction Notices were mailed out with the date and the place where the inductee was to report for their physical inspection. Those who passed their physicals then went home and awaited the notice of where and when to report for military service.

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**\* OPA- RATIONING \***  
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On December 27, 1941, the federal Office of Price Administration (OPA) initiated its first rationing program in support of the American effort in World War II: It mandated that from that day on, no driver would be permitted to own more than five automobile tires. Automobile tires would also become strictly rationed. The American war machine needed many raw materials to conduct the war and rubber was a high priority. It was also one of the natural resources that the U.S. lacked, so preserving what we had was most important.

President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) had revived the Advisory Commission to World War II Council on National Defense on May 29, 1940, to include Price Stabilization and Consumer Protection Divisions. Both divisions merged to become the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply (OPACS) within the Office for Emergency Management by Executive Order 8734 of April 11, 1941. Civil supply functions were transferred to the Office of Production Management.

The OPA then became an independent agency under the [Emergency Price Control Act](#) on January 30, 1942. The OPA had the power to place ceilings (price controls) on all prices except agricultural [commodities](#), and to ration scarce supplies of other items, including tires, automobiles, shoes, nylon, sugar, gasoline, fuel oil, coffee, meats and processed foods. At the peak, almost 90% of retail food prices were frozen. It could also authorize subsidies for production of some of those commodities.

The OPA was responsible for two types of rationing programs. The first limited the purchase of certain commodities (tires, cars, metal typewriters, bicycles, stoves, and rubber shoes) to people who had demonstrated an especial need for them. The second limited the quantity of things, like butter, coffee, sugar, cooking fat, gasoline and non-rubber shoes, which every citizen was allowed to buy. As a result the black market flourished, studies estimated that 25% of all purchases during the war were illegal.

On January 4, 1942 the appointment of three Washington Township residents on the Tire Rationing Board was confirmed in letters received from the Alameda County District Attorney's Office Ralph Hoyt, coordinator of the Alameda County Civilian Defense Council. Those chosen to act in this capacity were Mrs. Helen C. Ford of Niles, John R. Blacow of Centerville, George C. Roeding Jr. of Niles, and with Mrs. Edward F. Chadbourne of Irvington serving as secretary. In November 1942 the following persons were added to the Rationing Board in Washington Township: Arthur W. Cotton, W.D. Patterson, Dale Carruthers, Mrs. George Cushman, L.E. Bailey, John Kimber, Jack Prouty, Joe Brown, and L.W. Musick.

Persons desiring new tires had to make a written application for new tires and then take their autos/trucks to a duly appointed inspector. A partial list of inspectors already appointed by the board were: Central Chevrolet, Centerville; Charles Merrill of Irvington; Crane Garage, Niles; George Brothers, Alvarado; Ray McNulty, Decoto; and Joseph Pashote of Newark. Many more would be appointed in the future.

In the spring of 1942, the Food Rationing Program was set into motion. Rationing would deeply affect the American way of life for most. The federal government needed to control supply and demand of many commodities. Rationing was introduced as a way to avoid public anger with shortages and not to allow only the wealthy to purchase commodities.

Government-sponsored ads, radio shows, posters and pamphlet campaigns urged the American people to comply. With a sense of urgency, the campaigns appealed to America to contribute by whatever means they had, without complaint. The propaganda was a highly effective tool in reaching the masses.

Rationing regulated the amount of commodities that consumers could obtain. In one of the ironies of this war was that sugar was also on the ration list, in the very township where beet sugar was first commercially produced successfully.

Registration for ration books usually took place in local schools. Each family was asked to send only one member for registration and be prepared to describe all other family members. Coupons were distributed based on family size, and the coupon book allowed the holder to buy a specified amount of the commodity covered by the stamp book. Possession of a coupon book did not guarantee that the commodity would be available. Americans learned to utilize what they had during rationing time.

While some food items were scarce, others did not require rationing, and Americans adjusted accordingly. "Red Stamp" rationing covered all meats, butter, fat, and oils, and with some exceptions, cheese. Each person was allowed a certain amount of points weekly with expiration dates to consider. "Blue Stamp" rationing covered canned, bottled, frozen fruits and vegetables, plus juices and dry beans, and such processed foods as soups, baby food and ketchup. Ration stamps became a kind of currency with each family being issued a "War Ration Book." Each stamp authorized a purchase of rationed goods in the quantity and the time designated, and the book guaranteed each family its fair share of goods made scarce because of the war. Rationing also was determined by a point system. Some grew weary of trying to figure out what coupon went with which item, or how many points they needed to purchase them, while some coupons did not require points at all.

In addition to food, rationing encompassed clothing, shoes, coffee, gasoline, tires, and fuel oil. With each coupon book came specifications and deadlines. Rationing locations were posted in public view. Rationing of gas and tires strongly depended on the distance to one's job. If one was fortunate enough to own an automobile and drive at the then specified speed of 35 mph, one might have a small amount of gas remaining at the end of the month to visit nearby relatives.

Rationing resulted in one serious side effect: the black market, where people could buy rationed items on the sly, but at higher prices. The practice provoked mixed reactions from those who banded together to conserve as instructed, as opposed to those who fed the black market's subversion and profiteering. For the most part, black marketers dealt in clothing and liquor in Britain, and meat, sugar and gasoline in the United States.

While life during the war meant daily sacrifice, few complained because they knew it was the men and women in uniform who were making the greater sacrifice. A poster released by the Office of War Information stated simply, "Do with less so they'll have enough." And yet another pleaded, "Be patriotic, sign your country's pledge to save the food." On the whole, the American people were united in their efforts.

Recycling was born with the government's encouragement. Saving aluminum cans meant more ammunition for the soldiers. Economizing initiatives seemed endless as Americans were urged to conserve and recycle metal, paper and rubber. War Bonds and stamps were sold to provide war funds, and the American people also united through volunteerism. Communities joined together to hold scrap-iron drives, and schoolchildren pasted saving stamps into bond books.

Others planted "Victory Gardens" to conserve food. For a small investment in soil, seed and time, families could enjoy fresh vegetables for months. By 1945, an estimated 20 million victory gardens produced approximately 40 percent of America's vegetables.

Training sessions were held to teach women how to shop wisely, conserve food and plan nutritious meals, as well as teach them how to can food items. The homemaker planned family meals within the set limits. The government's persuasion of people to give up large amounts of red meats and fats resulted in healthier eating.

The government also printed a monthly meal-planning guide with recipes and a daily menu. Good Housekeeping magazine printed a special section for rationed foods in

its 1943 cookbook. Numerous national publications also featured articles explaining what rationing meant to America.

Then there were the food manufacturers who took advantage of the wartime shortages to flaunt their patriotism to their profit. The familiar blue box of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese Dinner gained great popularity as a substitute for meat and dairy products. Two boxes required only one rationing coupon, which resulted in 80 million boxes sold in 1943. Food substitutions became evident with real butter being replaced with Oleomargarine. Cottage cheese took on a new significance as a substitute for meat, with sales exploding from 110 million pounds in 1930 to 500 million pounds in 1944.

In September 1942 the news broke of the impending possibility of gasoline rationing. The effect of this news had the effect of making some people hoard gasoline in tin cans, glass bottles, and other storage media in anticipation of the strict limiting of gasoline in the near future. Local fire authorities said that not only is this unpatriotic but it is dangerous and establishes a great potential fire hazard. Plus it is in direct violation of the law.

The intention of gas rationing was not a result of a shortage of fuel, for the U.S. had plenty. It was because of the shortage of rubber. The U.S. had tried to get people to cut down on their driving and save on rubber tires, but the people did not voluntarily cut down enough to satisfy the government. Hence the government rationed gasoline and imposed a 35 MPH speed limit to save rubber in the U.S.

On December 1, 1942 gas rationing was put in place throughout the U.S. Owners of private passenger cars and motorcycles were instructed to receive their "A" and "D" gas ration books at their local grammar school on November 12, 13, and 14, 1942.

Individuals who wanted to apply for "B" and "C" books, entitling them to additional supplies of gasoline, had to petition the board by filling out supplemental forms available at their local school. They were instructed to fill out the forms, and mail them to the ration board in Niles. The applicants would then also have to show a list of their tire serial numbers, their car registration (white slip) and then certify that all tires above five had been turned into the Government.

While industry and commerce were affected, individuals felt the effects more intensely. People were often required to give up many material goods, but there also was an increase in employment. Individual efforts evolved into clubs and organizations coming to terms with the immediate circumstances. Joining together to support and maintain supply levels for the troops abroad meant making daily adjustments. Their efforts also included scrap drives, taking factory jobs, goods donations and other similar projects to assist those on the front.

How difficult did rationing become? In February 1944 the rationing system changed and brought in several weeks of woe to the American consumer. Americans were heading into the worst storm of food rationing complications thus far. During the three weeks starting February 27th, Americans had to wrestle with two sets of values in figuring how many points you have for meat and canned goods. There would also be brown stamps, red stamps, green stamps, blue stamps, red tokens and blue tokens.

But when those three weeks are over, the O.P.A. believed food rationing would be a lot simpler for housewives and storekeepers than it had been so far.

What was new was fiber tokens. The tokens were dime-sized and were worth one point each. You would get them in change for ration stamps. There would be two kinds of tokens, red for meat and fats, and blue for canned and other processed foods. During the overlapping three weeks some of the old brown and green stamps would still be good for 8, 5, 2, and 1 points as marked on their faces. Now red and blue stamps in ration book No. 4 would be worth 10 points each, regardless of what figures are printed on them.

So you keep them straight by the colors. Starting February 27<sup>th</sup>, you will get 30 points for meat and fats every two weeks (instead of 32 at the present rate of 16 a week). You will have 50 points a month for canned and other processed foods every month (instead of the present 48).

To adjust for these changes, meat values were lowered somewhat and canned goods point values increased somewhat. Stamps would come out of your ration books horizontally instead of vertically. All those numbered with 8 would be used up first, all through the alphabet.

On February 27<sup>th</sup> three red stamps will be valid: A-8, B-8, and C-8. Two weeks later W-8, E-8, and F-8 would come good and so on. Also on February 27<sup>th</sup> five blue stamps would be valid. A-8 through E-8. Others would be validated five at a time.

The stamps will remain good for longer periods than at present. Up to now, stamps have been valid for approximately one month and 20 days. When the token plan starts, stamps will be good for about two months and 20 days. Thus the stamps which become valid on February 27<sup>th</sup> can be cashed any time up to May 20<sup>th</sup>.

The tokens would have no expiration dates. Sometime later, if a need appeared, the O.P.A. may have some 5-point tokens made, in a larger size, also to be used for change. Can you imagine a normal family trying to cope with this maze of rules and regulations? Remember, there was no TV to warn citizens of impending changes and also to instruct them of how to use the new system.

Everyone in the township was looking for ways to increase the variety and the amount of food they could serve their families or stretch the amount of resources given them under rationing. Victory Gardens were one way to increase your food supply but some individuals found some clever ways to cope.

Joseph Travers, 62, of Hayward didn't worry about gasoline or rubber rationing, not as long as he cycled to his work daily at the sugar mill at Alvarado. Travers can run three years on \$6 worth of tires. He bought his first bicycle in 1906 and his second in 1916. He has never owned an auto nor does he want or need one.

And now comes the meat-rationing story that tops them all. Deputy Sheriff Richard E. Condon was on patrol near Alvarado when he spotted a car weaving in an erratic manner on the highway.

"Hmmm," muttered Condon, "a drunk driver, and at this time of the day." He waved the car to the side of the road and then approached the driver with the intention of issuing a citation.

"Pretty bad job of driving," Condon said in opening the conversation.

"Oh, I didn't notice; you see I'm hunting for meat," the man replied.

Hunting meat, a likely story, Condon thought to himself, and then he glanced in the back seat of the car and there sat two streamlined greyhound dogs, and beside them four dead jackrabbits.

The driver explained, "I just drive down the highway until I see a rabbit, then I release the dogs and they catch it and bring it back to me. Beats standing in line at the butcher shop and the meat is good."

In 1943 range patrols were established by stockmen in the Southern end of Alameda County to prevent cattle thefts expected from the result of the meat shortage. In July 1943 five men were taken into custody for shooting at livestock from a county road in Mocho District, Niles Canyon. Cattle in isolated locations were being slaughtered and butchered on the site.

As logical and even handed as the rationing system tried to be, it was still run by bureaucrats who went strictly by the rules, and this could make you scratch your head sometimes. In September 1943 the Masonic Home in Decoto learned a lesson in how the rationing system works with bureaucrats:

Some time back, the Masonic Home at Decoto started a piggery. The idea was patriotic. The pork would help feed the 350 residents and 50 employees. Recently five hogs were butchered and reported to the OPA and 7,382 ration points were duly turned in so that everything would be correct.

But, in the meantime, the pigs needed rations too. So Charles M. Wollenberg asked the Department of Agriculture people at Hayward for some fodder. Six weeks later he got a request for the home's slaughtering record for two or three previous years. There wasn't any, since in previous, there had been no patriotic need for a piggery.

This information was forwarded. Three weeks later came a reply. The fodder was denied. The home was ordered to sell the pigs, which mean putting them out at 13.5 to 16¢ a pound and buying them at around 35¢.

Wollenberg asked to know how long Uncle Sam expected anybody to carry on production before running into bankruptcy. But he found out before long that the Hayward Department of Agriculture people had no choice. It did no good to get bitter with them. So 21 fine eating-hogs apparently must be sold. Probably would cost too many points to kill and smoke'em.

After three years of rationing, World War II came to a welcome end. Rationing, however, did not end until 1946. Life resumed as normal and the consumption of meat, butter, and sugar inevitably rose.

Besides rationing for the war effort, there was also a concerted effort to stop black marketing (the selling of rationed goods illegally) and price gouging via the OPA (Office of Price Administration). Also several drives were made for strategic materials for the war effort.

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\* **ENEMY ALIENS** \*  
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On June 29, 1940 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Alien Registration Act, which would require that ALL aliens be registered and fingerprinted in the U.S. This applied to all foreign born residents of the U.S., including those who had taken out first papers for citizenship.

In a statement issued simultaneously with the signing, the president expressed the hope that no "loyal aliens" would be subjected to harassment in the course of this program; but added: "With those aliens who are disloyal and bent on harm to this country, the Government, through its law enforcement agencies, can and will deal vigorously.

On December 9, 1942 the FBI arrested 400 Germans and Italians designated as "dangerous aliens." There were 350 Germans and 50 Italians taken into custody (location where the individuals were arrested was not divulged). The G-Man struck quickly and quietly during the night, acting under a presidential decree similar to that under which 1,000 Japanese Nationals were seized on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The proclamation authorized the Attorney General to apprehend those Axis National they deemed as threats to National Security.

On December 18, 1941 the Japanese-American Club of Washington Township wrote a letter to the *Washington Township Register* thanking them for their fair-handed treatment of local Japanese by not inciting the citizenry to take out frustrations on innocent local Japanese:

"We want to thank you for the publicity given in the *Township Register* to the resolution as set forth by the Japanese-American citizens.

Coupled with tolerant attitude of the people in Washington Township and the influence of the editorial release is the fact that not one act of violence has been directed toward any of our citizen members or their parents.

We appreciate the favors you and your press colleagues have done for our organization. Very truly yours,  
James Hirabayashi, President.  
December 18, 1941"

In January 1942 a census of enemy aliens and where they lived and worked was begun. By the middle of February it was determined that there were about 235 enemy aliens that had registered at the Niles Justice Court (as was required after the start of the war). It was pointed out that many enemy alien residents of Washington Township had registered at other points and, in some cases, in other counties. Of the number registered at Niles about 190 were Japanese, 40 were Italian and 5 were German.

At this same time there was a drive in Northern California to capture enemy aliens thought to be "potentially dangerous." The raids netted 182 Japanese, Italians and

Germans. The majority of those arrested were Japanese. Two of those picked up in Alvarado were Shoto Fugita, 53 and Keai Katoba, 38.

Hints of a possible mass evacuation of Japanese aliens from California and other Pacific coast defense areas to abandoned CCC Camps was received in the East Bay on February 21, 1942 as a special Congressional committee meeting in San Francisco opened hearings into the enemy alien population. California State Attorney General Earl G. Warren, appearing before the committee headed by Rep. John Tolan of Oakland, warned, "We too will have a Pearl Harbor unless something is done immediately. California is the most likely objective of the first blow of fifth columnists."

Warren said he believed that the greatest potential threat laid with American born Japanese, and not Japanese aliens. He said that all enforcement officers with whom he has consulted were similarly convinced.

There are twice as many Japanese who are United States citizens (children of Japanese aliens), he said. And the majority of Japanese aliens, he added, are elderly, about 55 years of age. He asserted that while the aliens have become "far removed" from their native land, many of their children had gone to Japan for their education and have become "indoctrinated with the ideas and policies of Japanese Imperialism."

The investigation started out as a logical plan to safeguard American citizens from a possible fifth column attack quickly degraded into a witch-hunt. Jack Gleason, Chief of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, revealed on February 28th, portions of the contents of a Tokyo published dictionary of the Kendyusha Japanese Language School at Alvarado.

Gleason was the authority for the statement that the text had been used there and had been found in the possession of M. Tsutsui, secretary of a Japanese association who was taken into custody on February 21<sup>st</sup>. After stating in the foreword "Should an emergency arise, offer yourselves courageously to the State; and thus guard and maintain the prosperity of our Imperial Throne co-equal with heaven and earth. The way here set forth is indeed the teaching bequeathed by our Imperial Ancestors, to be observed alike by their descendants and the subjects, infallible for all ages and true in all places."

"The text was apparently written primarily for Japanese subjects but had been utilized in local language schools," Gleason said.

By March 5th the state of California had mapped the locations of Japanese households. The maps showed that Alameda County's 1,785 alien and 3,382 American-born Japanese were settled on property along main railroad lines, adjacent to the Livermore airport, entirely around the Newark power station, along the Hetch-Hetchy aqueduct at Mission San Jose, near approaches to both the Dumbarton and San Mateo-Mt. Eden bridges, and adjacent to the Alvarado sugar refinery. (Apparently no thought was given to the fact that the Japanese may have lived near where they were employed).

Two days later F.B.I. Agents and deputies from the Hayward Sheriff's Substation, armed with presidential warrants, conducted raids in Southern Alameda County and arrested two Japanese aliens.



Arrested were Jingo Takeuchi, 54, Box 215, Alvarado, father of eight children, who said he formerly taught in a local Japanese language school, but now is a carpenter by trade. The only contraband found in his home, it was reported, was an eight-inch dagger. Also taken into custody was Tsuno Minoru, 57 year-old farmer of Alvarado, father of six children, of Box 154 Alvarado. The two men were booked enroute to immigration authorities.

Speculation grew on March 9<sup>th</sup> whether the Southern Alameda County hamlet of Alvarado was a pre-war nerve center of the dreaded Black Dragon Society, as Japanese groups in San Francisco quarreled among themselves in an attempt to achieve unity on an evacuation plan. From one quarter came the report that while Alvarado was the "ostensible" National Headquarters of the half-century old group whose "front" organization was the mysterious Military Virtue Society or Botoku-kai, San Francisco furnished the actual directive force. This theory was supported by Sheriff Gleason who declared that it was "merely a coincidence" that some of the Black Dragon leaders lived in Alvarado, and that it was a remote control organization with financial and administrative headquarters in San Francisco.

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**\* EXECUTIVE ORDER #9066 \***  
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*Public Law 503 / Japanese Students Graduate Early / Japanese Evacuation Day / Japanese Returnees from Internment*

There were some calls for calm from organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union of New York City who asked its California branches to seek moderation in evacuating Japanese to internment camps. It stressed its position that the Japanese should receive individual hearings before relocation. But this also was for naught, for eventually the Japanese were rounded up and sent off to camps around the West.

Executive Order #9066 was a United States presidential executive order signed and issued during World War II by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. This order authorized the Secretary of War to prescribe certain areas as military zones, clearing the way for the incarceration of Japanese Americans, German Americans, and Italian Americans in U.S. concentration camps.

**Public Law 503:**

On March 21, 1942, Roosevelt signed Public Law 503 (approved after only an hour of discussion in the Senate and thirty minutes in the House) in order to provide for the enforcement of his executive order. As a result, approximately 122,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry were evicted from the West Coast of the United States and held in American concentration camps and other confinement sites across the country. Japanese Americans in Hawaii were not incarcerated in the same way, despite the attack on Pearl Harbor. Although the Japanese American population in Hawaii was nearly 40% of the population of Hawaii itself, only a few thousand people were detained there, supporting the eventual finding that their mass removal on the West Coast was motivated by reasons other than "military necessity."

## Japanese Students Graduate Early:

Washington Union High School held a special graduation ceremony for 15 Japanese students who were due to be relocated to internment camps. The exercise would take place May 6, 1942 in the afternoon. Many students were saddened to see good friends carried off to internment camps. Many people in Centerville felt sorry for the injustice being perpetrated on the Japanese.

George Kato, local Japanese historian, recalled in the 1977 *Argus* newspaper that:  
"Life was peaceful for the Japanese families in the thirties. The attack on Pearl Harbor changed all that, it was followed by Roosevelt's Executive Order No. 9066 requiring Japanese in this country to report for evacuation. More than 700 Japanese residents were evacuated from Eden and Washigton Townships to the Tanforan Assembly Center. The order came down on May 3, 1942 that the Japanese would have to be evacuated by May 9<sup>th</sup>. This did not leave them much time to prepare."

## Japanese Evacuation day:



Centerville: A friend says goodbye on evacuation day, Japanese waiting for the buses.



Centerville: The moving vans and buses arrive to take them to Tanforan Assembly Center



A Boy Scout Troop in an internment camp (left) and Heart Mountain internment camp (right)



Life in a Japanese internment camp

### **Japanese Returnees from Internment:**

Very few of the Japanese Americans who formerly lived in Washington Township will return, was the opinion of Kazuo Shikano, 28, of Mowry Road, the first of the evacuees to return to the township. Shikano, a graduate of Washington Union High School owns 20 acres along the Mowry Road where he "hopes" to resume truck farming. So far everyone has been friendly since he arrived on January 2, 1945, and he says he does not expect anything but fair treatment.

He was accompanied by his wife, Setsuye, his 2-year old daughter who was born in Tanforan after the evacuation, and two sisters Tomie and Mary. His parents expect to join him later. He has a brother PFC Katsumi Shikano, now in the Army at Fort Sam Houston, Texas after volunteering for the service.

Shikano says he was one of the first seven families given exemption papers from Topaz, Utah. His permanent papers were given to him when he asked for a temporary pass to return to look after his property.

Others formerly from this section that are expected to return from Topaz soon are James Fudenna and Ysuto Kato of Warm Springs. Kato has a brother Henry with the Army overseas and another brother, Joseph, who was killed in action several months ago.

Only those evacuees who own property in the Township will probably return, Shikano believed. Those who only leased land would but have any place to go and most of them are doubtful of community feelings he said.

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**\* LABOR SHORTAGES \***  
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*Number of en Inducted into the Service / Women Used in the Fields / Opening of School Delayed / Wide Spread Use of Students/ Mexican Workers / School Buses Used to Transport Workers /Labor Shortage Continues after 1942*

**Number of Men Inducted Into the Service:**

In January 1941 the U.S. began inducting young men into the armed forces. In 1942 the pace picked up dramatically and in 1945 the number of men and women in the service of the United States reached over 12 million, which did not included the merchant marine or civilian forces that logistically aided our servicemen.

<b>U.S. Armed Forces</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>Navy</b>	<b>Marines</b>	<b>Coast Guard</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1939</b>	<b>189,839</b>	<b>125,202</b>	<b>19,432</b>		<b>334,473</b>
<b>1940</b>	<b>269,023</b>	<b>160,997</b>	<b>28,345</b>		<b>458,365</b>
<b>1941</b>	<b>1,462,315</b>	<b>284,427</b>	<b>54,359</b>		<b>1,801,101</b>
<b>1942</b>	<b>3,075,608</b>	<b>640,570</b>	<b>142,613</b>	<b>56,716</b>	<b>3,915,507</b>
<b>1943</b>	<b>6,994,472</b>	<b>1,741,750</b>	<b>308,523</b>	<b>151,167</b>	<b>9,195,912</b>
<b>1944</b>	<b>7,994,750</b>	<b>2,981,365</b>	<b>475,604</b>	<b>171,749</b>	<b>11,623,468</b>
<b>1945</b>	<b>8,267,958</b>	<b>3,380,817</b>	<b>474,680</b>	<b>85,783</b>	<b>12,209,238</b>

This manpower drain caused a serious crisis on the home front from a labor standpoint, especially in our agricultural area. It is important to realize that U.S. agriculture was not highly mechanized in 1941 other than tractors were replacing horses in the field. Our big crops in the township were all harvested by hand labor. Fruit and vegetables required manual labor. The sugar beet harvester, which dug, topped, and loaded the beet into trucks in one operation was not seen until almost the end of WWII.

As early as January 1942 the alarm was already sounding on the shortage of labor that would be faced in the agriculture fields of California. The manager of the Federal Employment Office in Hayward reviewed the farm labor situation for members of the Eden-Washington Farm Center and reported that high school labor would probably play a major role in the 1942 harvest. He reported that there probably would be labor enough until the peak of the tomato and sugar beet season and then farmers will probably have to call upon student labor and the help of women and older men.

In April 1942 the Centerville Coordinating Council met to discuss the use of student labor (under 17 years of age) to be used in this years' harvesting of crops. Members expressed emphatic opposition of youth in the present emergency and insisted that



groups of students who were sent into the harvest fields must have proper supervision. The hope that students would be paid wages comparable to that of adults doing the same was also expressed. A close cooperation between employment offices and high schools was also noted.

By August 1942 the labor shortage became a reality and new ideas were floated to deal head on with the crisis. One idea was to open a women's labor camp at Washington Union High School. Another idea was to delay the opening of the local grade schools until the end of September so that the older children can work in the fields for part of the day.

### **Women Used in the Fields:**

By hook and by crook, and by due diligence, the farm labor problem was being solved in the Township. In Centerville women were harvesting beans. They were provided living quarters at the high school gymnasium, and hot and cold showers were provided, but the women had to bring their own linen and bed clothes. For a dollar a day meals are served in the school cafeteria. Oddly the article from which this information was taken did not explain where these women came from.

### **Opening of School Delayed:**

The Board of Trustees of the high school met and announced that September 21, 1942 would be the opening day for high school students. If student help is still needed for the fruit, a minimum day will be held and the students will be released for work. The usage of the school's buses for picking up students and carrying them to and from the fields after the opening day of school was being worked out with the district attorney's office.

Washington Union High opened on September 21, 1942, and then closed at noon on September 22, to keep students in the fields and the canneries for another two weeks. Norbert George, student body president, urged students to resume studies or find jobs in the harvest of tomatoes and sugar beets because, "our fighting men are depending upon us as we are depending upon them."

### **Wide Spread Use of Students:**

In the middle of September it was announced that the first labor camp in Alameda County for harvesting tomatoes would be established at Washington Union High School. One hundred boys from San Francisco schools would be brought to Centerville to help harvest the tomato crop. The boys would be fed at the high school cafeteria. Each morning they would be transported to the various fields where they would be employed. Each evening they would be brought back to the school. Beet growers requested the continued use of Washington Union High facilities for a contingent of workers expected to arrive at the end of September. They would be employed in the sugar beet fields. The 100 students arriving at the end of September would replace the boys now in the fields that arrived here in mid-September who would return to their studies in San Francisco. The high school would open October 5<sup>th</sup> on a minimum day basis to permit the work in the fields to continue in the afternoons.

High school pupils in San Francisco continued to be among the top performers in volunteer harvest work in Washington Township. The first of October a total of 310 boys and girls from San Francisco's high schools left by bus and truck for the "change of shift" in the student harvest program. The figure included 150 girls, bound for tomato and grape picking in the Pleasanton and Lodi Camps of the

American Women's Voluntary Services, and 160 boys for the Centerville and Brentwood community managed camps.

Meanwhile in the Decoto Grammar School the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades of the school would remain closed for three weeks in order to permit children to work in the fields. Also some of the classes at Washington Union High School remained closed to aid in the harvesting issue. In reality all schools were on some sort of part-time schedule while the older students work in the fields.

Near the end of October the Centerville High School, the Alvarado and Decoto Grammar Schools, and the high and grammar schools of the Livermore Valley turned out their students to pick tomatoes. Washington Union High school and Hayward Union High School suspended classes for the rest of October so students could help harvest the tomato crop in Southern Alameda County. The farmers pay the students and teachers for their work and the high school furnished as much transportation as possible in its buses to the school.

### **Mexican Workers:**

At the end of September 1942 the first contingent of 75 Mexican national laborers were in the township on the evening of Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. They would augment 75 expert workers now in the fields. Another 100 workers would be provided by San Francisco high schools, and the area looked to Oakland and San Francisco service clubs for another 150 volunteers to make up the 400 required to get in the crop. The Mexicans would live in inspected bunk houses in Pleasanton, the Patterson ranch in Newark, and the Andrade ranch in Centerville.

### **School Buses Used to Transport Workers:**



Young women who answered the call for more workers at the Booth Cannery in Centerville had to have transportation. So, H.M. Kibby, Washington Union High School shop teacher, gave up vacation time to operate one of the four school buses leased by the cannery. At Warm Spring the Benbow family has leased, for the duration, three Japanese ranches and is caring for 50 acres of berries, tomatoes, and corn, using school girl labor. Mrs. Stella Benbow picks berries with her daughter, Ebba Rae (right) and Joan Morse. These same buses also took school children to and from school to the fields of Washington Township.

Finally with the harvesting season as complete as it was going to be the farmers of Township were already preparing for the next year's labor shortage. With the government now drafting 18 and 19 years old's, next year would be worse than it was in 1942. Plans were already under way for using larger numbers of school

students in harvest work next year. Placement of school children in the fields next year, however, would be contingent upon the farmers maintaining certain standards of working conditions and wages insist school officials.

Farmers in Washington Township were looking forward to a coordinated program of school student harvest labor next fall to replace the hit and miss volunteer movement of the current season. The first step toward such a setup was taken at a meeting of growers, businessmen, educators, and canners at Washington Union High School in November 1942. Tony Alameda of the Williams Brothers Packing Company emphasized the frustration of the current years' harvesting performance, "If we do not train school children to do this work, we might as well stop growing."

### **Labor Shortage Continues After 1942:**

After the difficult year of 1942 the labor picture brightened slightly in 1943 and 1944. As the Township entered the 1943 fall harvest season farmers were better organized to deal with the labor problem. The town of Alvarado had operated a harvest workers camp made up entirely of Negro workers who wished to do farm labor. There were about forty of them in 1942 and Alvarado expected the number to double in 1943. The camp earned a fine reputation for neatness and the thrifty work done by the colored hands there.

In 1943 the State of California found a terrific need of housing for the more than 50,000 workers who had come lately from parts outside of California to work harvesting our crops. This problem was solved by men in the employ of our Governor, Earl Warren. They decided to erect some 20 migratory camps. So on July 1, 1943 the construction firm of Nelsen and Ewing of Hayward was awarded a contract to supply for the State of California with some 20 migratory camps. These camps were purportedly comfortable, which people could enjoy living in. The contractors furnished only the buildings, but the plumbing, etc., to make it ready for occupancy had to be done by the local users. These prefabricated homes were manufactured in Hayward at Nelson's Saw Mill and transported by trucks to the sites. One building could be put together in a few hours, and a whole camp can be assembled in less than a week in this method. You see, the speed was necessary to compete against the ripening crops.

In Decoto the grammar school would begin classes on October 4, 1943. The opening of the school was delayed to allowed children to work in the fields. The Decoto was the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 11 schools in Washington Township to open for the fall semester. The Mission San Jose School would open a week later.

Finally there was the Mexican workers imported to help harvest our crops in California and in Washington Township.

Proving that necessity is the mother of invention an automated sugar beet harvester was demonstrated to Washington Township farmers in December 1943. Local beet growers watched while the machine dug, topped, piled, and loaded the beets all in one operation. Twenty of these machines and twenty men could replace 500 hand-harvesters, according to Andrew Logan, agriculturist for the Holly Sugar Corporation at Alvarado.

Washington Union High School announced that it would start on September 11, 1944 and probably run half schedule to let students aid in harvesting crops.

Other farmers found an ingenious way to deal with the labor shortage. Ted Harvey of Alvarado announced in July 1944 that he would plant only half the normal amount of his famous Burbank potatoes this year.

Finally in December 1945 it was said that from 50 to 80 per cent of the sugar beet crop around Alvarado was being successfully harvested by machinery according to bulletin released by Gordon Lyons, Secretary of the California Beet Growers Association.

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\* **CIVIL DEFENSE** \*  
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*Ground Observer Corp / Doctor's Medical Group Formed / Graduate Nurses Emergency Service / Civil Defense Volunteers / Ground Observer Corps Tower / Gas Masks / Centerville Air Raid Warden / Metal ID Tags for Civilians / Transportation to the Shipyards / Making Surgical Dressings / Do You Know a Secret? / Washington Union High School Students Get Prepared for War*

Beefing up our Civil Defense for the private sector began in September 1940 with the Selective Service Act (draft). In September 1941 the creation of the 'California State Guard Rifle Company' in Washington Township was begun and that was followed by the creation of four look out stations to scan the skies for enemy planes, the stations were located in Niles, Alvarado, Newark, and Warm Springs. Then at the end of October 1941 a "Civilian Defense Committee" was started in Southern Alameda County with more than 200 citizens sworn in as deputy's sheriffs. Don Bates of Centerville was sworn in as chairman of the group of new deputies.

Early on after December 7, 1941 people were unsure what was to ensue after the Japanese attack in Pearl Harbor and the Alaskan island of Attu in the Aleutian Island chain. To say that people in the Bay Area were on edge after learning news was an understatement. An article printed in the San Francisco Chronicle showed that even the newspapers of the day did not fully understand where we stood as to an invasion or bombardment by Japanese armed forces. Remember, at this time (December 8<sup>th</sup>), we only knew that our Pacific Fleet had been destroyed at Pearl Harbor and we assumed that we were left pretty much defenseless. Here is that Chronicle article from December 8, 1941:

"Blackouts began in earnest. At 2 a.m., on the morning of Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, came the first of three sirens warning of unidentified aircraft off the coast were detected by the Bay Area Interceptor Command in the Presidio of San Francisco.

Radio stations were ordered off the air. At 2:30 a.m., a Bay Area-wide blackout was ordered. Nineteen minutes later came a standby warning, indicating that enemy planes were approaching.

People later reported hearing the roar of planes and perceived that dogfights were taking place off the coast. But at 3:30 a.m. the all-clear signal was sounded, only to be followed by another siren at 4:50 a.m."

There were a few of things that were done to create a civil defense force prior to the actual bombing of December 7, 1941. After the Japanese attack the pace of preparing for an invasion, either by air or by land, picked up quickly. On December



9<sup>th</sup> Sheriff Jack Gleason hired twenty-five special deputies for duty during this attack on the Pearl Harbor crisis. The 90 regular officers were working 24-hour shifts, thus further augmenting the manpower. Gleason said today that 200 volunteers, enrolled as a special sheriff's office squad, were fully trained and ready for emergency. They had received fourteen weeks of training in the prevention of sabotage, handling of traffic, fire prevention, first aid and laws of arrest. Half of them are serving in Washington and Eden Townships under the direction of Douglass Webb, deputy sheriff, and Don Bates of Centerville in Washington Township.

### **Ground Observer Corp:**

Also on December 9<sup>th</sup> a call went out for volunteer lookouts for enemy aircraft to serve on sites located in Niles, Alvarado, Newark, and Warm Springs. Twenty-five persons had volunteered so far but more are needed. Any resident of the Township is eligible but middle-aged persons are preferred. Stations have been manned and operating at four sites since yesterday. To illustrate the manpower needed to man each of these four sites I have researched a roster log for the first week of July in 1943 at the Alvarado tower site. To man the tower 24/7 took 92 persons.

Volunteers were told to contact the following Chief Observers: George Rose at Niles, John Dutra in Newark, Clyde Jones at the stove factory at Irvington or his home in Centerville, and T. P. Harvey in Alvarado.

### **Doctor's Medical Group Formed:**

In any catastrophic situation medical assistance is needed. On December 19, 1941 the doctors of Washington Township met at the International Kitchen to decide on certain matters affecting their activities in case of a local disaster or epidemic. The doctors agreed to use the Memorial Building in Niles as their HQ in case of a disaster and use it also as an emergency hospital. Dr. George Holeman was named chief of the Doctor's group which included Doctors: E.M. Grimmer, E.A. Westphal, Lyle H. Buehler, E.C. Grau, and W.L. McWhirter. Mrs. W.L. McWhirter will be the chief of nurses for Washington Township.

### **Graduate Nurses Emergency Service:**

Also on December 19<sup>th</sup> the first women's group in Washington Township to mobilize for the emergency since the declaration of war was the Nursing Emergency Service organized under the direction of the Alameda County Health Department, which included approximately 30 graduate nurses residing here. Groups of under-graduate nurses and lay women would also assist the nurses who had been placed in charge in each of the eight towns of the Township. Headquarters for the nurses would be at the Centerville district office of the county health department with Mrs. Edna Ebright, local public nurse as chairman.

Graduate nurses in charge of the towns are:

Alvarado & Alviso:	Mrs. Vernon Willard
Centerville:	Mrs. W.L. McWhirter
Decoto:	Mrs. Alwin Searles
Irvington:	Mrs. Allan Walton
Mission San Jose:	Mrs. George Coefield
Newark:	Mrs. Edward Westphal
Niles:	Mrs. E.C. Grau
Warm Springs:	Not yet named

This also included the Red Cross Sewing Rooms which would furnish bandages and dressings for the nursing emergency service. Red Cross Sewing Rooms were located in the following towns under the direction of:

Niles:	Mrs. A.M. Alves
Centerville:	Mrs. Fritz Waltenberger
Alvarado:	Mrs. Rebecca Logan
Newark:	Mrs. Lesda Brown
Decoto:	Mrs. Emma Amaral
Irvington:	Mrs. Carl Christensen
General Chairman:	Mrs. F.V. Jones

### **Civil Defense Volunteers:**

One hundred and twenty Civil Defense volunteers in Southern Alameda County were activated on December 19<sup>th</sup> and given felt arm bands bearing the official blue "C.D." seal and the words "Sheriff's Deputy" in black letters. The men were instructed to take a census and keep a written record of the numbers of persons living in every house in their towns so that in case of an emergency the number of occupants in the house would be known. Don Bates of Centerville was the Township chairman with J.C. Wasley of Alvarado as secretary of the group.

On January 9, 1942 assistant Air Raid Wardens in Washington Township came under the direction of Deputy Sheriff Pete Strasinic of the Hayward Office, who was the coordinator. Each individual section in the township held meetings under their respective Chief Wardens with coordinator Strasinic attending to give all necessary help and instruction. The Chief Air Raid Warden for each town in the Township were:

Alvarado:	J.C. Wasley
Decoto:	L.W. Musick
Newark:	H.J. Bolvard
Centerville:	Don Bates
Irvington:	R.B. Benbow
Niles:	E.F. Glassbrook
Mission San Jose:	Cyrus Solon
Warm Springs:	Ted Silveira

On January 24, 1942 Douglass Webb, Division Chief of Civil Defense for Southern Alameda County of the Hayward's Sheriff's Substation sounded the need for Civilian Defense workers. He cited the need for an entire army that included black-out wardens, fire wardens, civilian deputy sheriffs, truck drivers, mechanics, demolition workers, secretaries, nurses, signal workers, in fact, workers in every line of endeavor. A meeting would be held at Washington Union High to sign up persons who can work in the civil defense corps.

At the end of January 1942 entire towns in Washington Township received instructions in civil defense at Washington Union High School. The classes were held under the auspices of Division Chief Douglass Webb of the Hayward Sheriff's Department. Courses to be provided have been listed as follows:

- Civilian Defense plan: Extinguishing small fires
- Incendiary bombs and their effect
- Explosive bombs and their effect
- Chemical warfare and its effect
- Equipment and duties of Civilian Defense Wardens
- First Aid

- Communications
- Identification of person and property
- Public Relations

Even the Boy Scouts in Washington Township were organized into units to help with the Civilian Defense effort. Each Troop was organized into corps of messengers and communication officers (14 years of age or older with bicycles), four from each troop to register with the local defense headquarters. Boys of 16 years of age and older would be put on special duty as auxiliary fire fighters, first aiders, stretcher bearers, and special assignments such as fire spotters and evacuation aids. Acting locally as leaders of this endeavor were Frank Madruga and Judge Allen G. Norris.

At the beginning of March Frank Dusterberry was appointed chairman of a new group from Washington Township to coordinate civilian defense activities. The new group was composed of persons in charge of various phases of civilian defense work in the Township. Here is the list of people and the civilian defense activities that they would be in charge of:

- Mrs. O.W. Ebright, Centerville; Centerville Health Center.
- John Galvin, Niles; County corporation yard at Niles, highway clearing and maintenance, demolition and rescue.
- Supervisor George Hellwig, Alvarado; Air raid precautions and shelters.
- William Lindsay, Niles; Messenger communications.
- L.W. Musick, Decoto; Public Information Bureaus.
- Fred Rogers, Centerville; Ass't fire coordinator under Fire Warden James McGlinchey.
- Leon A. Solon, Niles; Transportation.
- Deputy Sheriff Peter J. Strasinic, Hayward: Law and order wardens, bombs, telephone and radio communications.
- Walter Waynflote, Niles; Dissemination of public information.

At the end of April the Civilian Defense Council of Washington Township conducted a series of chemical weapons demonstrations throughout the Township. The demonstrations covered recognizing and surviving gas bombs, incendiary fires, and other matters of interest to civilians.

### **Ground Observer Corps Tower:**



With all work and materials donated, an observation tower for the use of air raid wardens was built at Niles in April 1942. A second tower was under construction at Newark at this time and a third tower would be built in Alvarado in January 1943. The towers were manned 24/7 by volunteers from the community who would scan the skies for enemy planes. Enough volunteers would be gathered in these communities to be able to man the towers with two person serving two or four hour shifts around the clock. In Alvarado a schedule was found that showed in the first week of July 1943 it took 92 persons to man the observation tower 24/7. After the Japanese were pushed back in the Pacific to their homeland these were no longer needed.

### **Gas Masks:**

Washington Township received 75 gas masks in June 1942. They were delivered to Frank Dusterberry who would distribute the gas masks to special deputies, fire departments, and rescue and demolition squads of the Sheriff's Department. While it was not anticipated that the civilian population as a whole would be so equipped it was expected that all defense personnel would receive masks as soon as they are available. This news showed that seven months after the attack on Pearl Harbor the west coast was still in fear of Japanese bombardments on our coast.

Two weeks after the receipt of the gas masks Centerville Chief Warden Ed Vierra announced that the Centerville Civil Defense committee would begin to investigate Air Raid shelters for the safety of the local citizens. They also scheduled plans for a simulated air attack and the test of defense units, and the checking of individual homes for minimum defense requirements.

### **Centerville Air Raid Warden:**

At the end of June 1942 Centerville's air raid warden setup was reorganized by Centerville Air Raid Chief Warden Ed Vierra. The air raid defense committee elected Jack Rees as vice-chairman and Carlton Brown as secretary. The advisory board consisted of Ed Vierra, Elmer Lewis, Jack Silva, Anker Christensen, Don Bates, Bill Bauhofer, Nick Lewis, and Lee Martin. There were 50 wardens and special deputies in this group. It was also decided to establish two official air raid shelters, but the locations had not yet been decided upon. There would be one shelter north of the railroad tracks and one shelter south of the railroad tracks.

### **Metal ID Tags for Civilians:**

Showing that going into July 1942, the people of Washington Township (and California) still feared attacks on our area. The registration of more than 10,000 Washington Township residents was called for. Each resident of the Township would receive metal identification tags. Centerville residents would receive their tags at the Centerville Elementary School on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. W.L. McWhirter was appointed chairman of the township for the distribution of tags said this would be the only opportunity for Centerville residents to receive the tags. All families in Centerville were urged to call at the Centerville School on the specified dates. A double file will be made of all township registrations, with duplicate cards to be filed in the district attorney's office and at Washington Union High School. Air raid wardens were asked to distribute the white cards to be filled out at home and returned to the school. Mrs. Fritz Waltenberger is in charge of the registration in Centerville.

### **Transportation to the Shipyards:**

The Bay Area had a booming national defense infrastructure that was laid bare by the loss of so many men to the Armed Forces. The shipyards that produced the Liberty Ships in Richmond California, under the leadership of Henry J. Kaiser, employed over 90,000 persons. Many of these came from Washington Township who drove to the Richmond to work in the shipyard. But gas rationing made this difficult so a concerted effort by the civic organizations of Washington Township to obtain special bus service for local defense workers employed in Richmond (and other areas of national defense in the East Bay Area) showed promise of success. Overtures to the Peerless Stage Co. were made to see if the bus company would cooperate if sufficient patronage was assured and if permission could be secured from proper

government authorities for additional buses. Even if Peerless Stages agreed to the plan they would still require extra buses and an extra allotments of gas to make this a reality in the sphere of strict rationing on metal and gas.

### **Making Surgical Dressings:**

On November 23, 1942, the surgical dressings workroom for opened at the Centerville Elementary School. Mrs. Fritz Waltenberger, chairman of this station, said that 30,000 dressings a month have been asked for by the Army through the Red Cross. A call went out for volunteers of this effort. Women who wished to make these dressings were instructed to wear a smock or wash dress and a head covering. A special room was set aside at the Centerville School for this project.

The production department of Surgical Dressings for Washington Township celebrated it first year on November 23, 1943 in its rooms at the Centerville Elementary School. Mrs. J.R. Sutton, chairman of the Washington Township Red Cross Surgical Dressings Unit and Mr. Tom Maloney, principal of the Centerville School spearhead this operation in this area under auspices of the Surgical Dressing unit of the Red Cross in Oakland.

On April 29, 1944 the American Red Cross of Washington Township released its list of gallon donors during the War years. Those who gave ten pints were:  
Newark: Mrs. Odele Moreno and Oscar Niemuth

As the U.S. servicemen began to push the Japanese back from their outlying posts in the Pacific the local tension on a Japanese invasion or bombardment began to abate. But this did not alleviate the killing and the suffering of our American troops. We still had to sacrifice on the home front through rationing and also suffer when a loved one was killed. Protecting our men and women in the service was also pointed out to Americans.

### **Do You know a Secret?**

If you knew what ship a sailor was on, or what company or regiment a soldier was with overseas, then you knew a military "secret," the Office of Censorship in Washington Warned. This secret was not to be published. This was why:

"A general needs to know the strength of his opponent; how many men, how many guns, ships, planes there are in each theater of war. The Nazis and the Japs want to know these things about our forces. Their agents assemble the information like this. From one paper an item reveals the 600<sup>th</sup> Infantry was in Australia; another, the 206<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion was in North Africa. Add hundreds of these bits of information together, and our enemies have a too accurate estimate of American military strength.

These are OUR soldiers, Americans all of whom we endanger by these "little slips." This is not a 'blackout' on the news about our soldiers. Considerable latitude in reporting personal experiences gives the enemy little military information, if the troop units and the ship names are kept secret. But in articles about soldiers and sailors and in the addresses for them, don't give away their fighting units."

People on the home front took this seriously as many had boys on the fighting lines needed protection from enemy snooping. Perhaps the best line of the War was "Loose Lips Sink Ships."

As the distance between our Pacific Coast shore and the islands held by Japanese in the Pacific began lengthen, the Civil Defense aspect of the War began to recede. But the necessity of supplying goods and fresh recruits to the front continued.

### **WUHS Students Get Prepared for War:**

On November 9, 1943, a qualifying test was administered at Washington High School for acceptance into the Army Specialized Training Program and the Navy College Program. Those accepted into the program would attend college under military discipline, in uniform, and would receive pay as well as tuition, food, housing, and books.

At the end of the year in 1943 Washington Union High School stood second in the State of California with regard to the size of its military training program with 223 boys enrolled in the Cadet Corps. Only three boys were excused for medical or other reasons, according to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Irving Hird, commandant and school coach. Non-commissioned officers were chosen on the basis of written tests and performance on the field. Commissioned officers to be chosen after the first of the year will include two captains, two first and two second lieutenants.

Those chosen as sergeants were:

Stanley Maffey, John Myrick, Henry Querner, Herman Mesquite, Arthur Thomas, Ray Pierce, Charles Marriott, and Ernest Tremblay.

Those who received the rank of corporal were:

Wayne Calhoun, Harold Houghton, Joe Hilton, Paul Fracoli, Jesse Jacinto, Stanley Alameda, Wayne Davis, Dick Relding, Ernest Pine, Joaquin Naharro, Laverne DeVincenzi, Harold Caldeira, Bruce Nickel, Richard Clark, Norman Andrade, Ronnie Oliver, Harold Alameda, William Enos, Peter Hernandez, Clifford Costa, Everett DeSalles, Carl Pierce, Jack Turner, Earl Silva, Albert Silva, Dan Corchero, Harvey Hernandez, Lester Whitaker, George Bettencourt, Richard Brunelli, John Luck and Lloyd Darneal.

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## **\* AMERICAN RED CROSS \***

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*Junior Red Cross at WUHS / Red Cross Fund Raising Drive / War Chest / WUHS Make Garments / Mobile Blood Units /*

Since the turn of this decade the Washington Township Red Cross was headed by Frank T. Dusterberry of Centerville. The Washington Township Red Cross was one of the East Bay Chapters of the Oakland Red Cross. The Washington Township Red Cross was busy in June 1940 honoring a request for clothing for European war sufferers made by the regional Red Cross in Oakland. Mrs. Allen G. Norris, chairman of the Centerville Red Cross made her sewing room ready completing 20 layettes, sweaters, and shawls. They planned to have them completed by August 15, 1940 ready to be shipped off to Oakland and then off the European Continent.

Things began to heat up for the local Red Cross when, in February 1941, the American Red Cross was asked by the Federal Government to organize for disaster



relief and national defense. The leader of this effort in Washington Township was Frank T. Dusterberry of Centerville. Mr. Dusterberry called for a local meeting to get the effort under way.

On February 26, 1941, the Survey and Planning Committee of the Disaster Relief of the American Red Cross met at the home of Frank T. Dusterberry and appointed members to the following committees:

Survey & Planning Committee, Doctors, Nurses, and Medicine Committee; Law & Order Committee; Transportation Committee; Finance Committee; Registration Committee; Communication Committee; Food Committee; Fire Committee; Public Utilities Committee; Clothing Committee. The chairmen of these committees would form the Liaison Group.

### **Junior Red Cross at WUHS:**

In November 1941 the newly formed Junior Red Cross at the Washington Union High School collected shoes and magazines. The drive for shoes netted 50 pair of footwear in excellent condition. They were then polished and given minor repairs and would be distributed to needy children of the township. Magazines would be sent to Army camps for our men in the service. The Junior Red Cross had 25 members at the high school. The President was Dorothy Freitas, the Vice President was Marjorie Brunelli, Beatrice Dutra was the Secretary, and Rosaline Daviner was the Treasurer.

In one of those things we give little thought to, the Junior Red Cross at the high school began collecting bristle brushes. These brushes do a vital job in painting for the Army and Navy. Formerly the bristles for paint brushes came from China, but they are no longer available and are being replaced by brushes collected by the Junior Red Cross.

### **Red Cross Fund Raising Drive:**

In keeping with President Roosevelt's request for \$50,000,000 for emergency use for the American Red Cross, the Red Cross of Washington Township Chapter went to work to raise its \$5,000 quota in mid-December 1941. Chairman of the Washington Township Red Cross, Frank T. Dusterberry, then named the following town chairmen for the current solicitation of funds:

Alvarado:	John R. Blacow
Centerville:	M.P. Mathiesen
Decoto:	Harry C. Searles
Irvington:	Carl Christensen
Mission San Jose:	Frank Simas
Newark:	Anthony E. Francis
Niles:	Robert A. Blacow
Warm Springs:	Joseph S. Brown.

### **War Chest:**

In January 1942 the American Red Cross started a War Relief Fund (later to be called the "War Chest"). There had been a unanimous response to the appeal for this fund from people who consider this an opportunity to contribute to the protection of American homes and American families. Frank T. Dusterberry was the chairman of the Washington Township branch and he reported that the town of Alvarado had already exceeded its goal and that Centerville was nearing their goal and would likely exceed it.

In May 1943 the Red Cross "War Chest Campaign" from Washington Township garnered \$11,770. The War Chest was a Red Cross Fund that helps families of soldiers that suffer distress because of the war.

**WUHS Students Make Garments:**

Also in January the homemaking class at Washington Union High School began assisting the Centerville unit of the Red Cross with their sewing machines and knitting needles. The students completed 65 garments and 40 sweaters. Mrs. Josephine Morris and Miss Evelyn Wilson were instructing the work.

**Mobile Blood Units:**

Two mobile Red Cross units were placed in Washington Township in April 1942. The two units could be used at any point in the Township. The units were under the control of Dr. Holeman of Centerville, chairman of doctors under the Red Cross. The Centerville unit's vehicle was furnished by Joe Bauhofer (Cloverdale Creamery) and Eugene Ramsell was the driver. Dr. Lyle Buehler of Niles was the doctor in charge and Mrs. A. B. Leask of Niles was the graduate nurse on duty. First aiders to accompany the unit were Mrs. Loren Marriott, Mrs. Mildred Wahaub, Charles Wahaub, and L.F. Whitbeck.

In October 1942 the first session of a school of instruction for staff assistants in connection with the Red Cross procurement mobile unit to Washington Township was attended by 50 women with Mrs. L.E. Bailey as general chairman. Mrs. C.B. Whitehouse and five other members of the Oakland Red Cross were instructors present at the meeting held under the sponsorship of the Washington Union Night School. There was a call for the need of uniforms for the volunteer workers on the grounds of the psychological effect upon the workers and the public with whom nurses, staff assistants, and others would be in contact. Attendance at the four two-hour classes and 50 hours of practical work would entitle staff members to wear the Red Cross pin.

Another very important job was blood procurement. Done under the auspices of the Red Cross, the mobile procurement unit would visit the Township several times a year and cited 10 donors who have donated the yearly max of five pints in Washington Township. Four of these were from Centerville in 1943: Manuel M. "Chick" Santos and his wife Adeline, Arthur Belshaw, and D.L. Hegen.

Those who have given 8 pints over this period were:

- Irvington: Evelyn Garcia, Lewis Adams, & George Scammon
- Newark: Fred Rieder and S.G. Scott
- Alvarado: George Hocking and Mrs. Blake Hill
- Niles: Mrs. Marston Dassel and Fire Chief Tony Alves
- Centerville: William Rae

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**SCRAP DRIVES**

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World War II was an industrial war. And metals were needed to build the weapons that would win the War. The shortage of rubber was the most serious impediment to the Allied war effort, but metals of all kinds were also needed and in huge quantities.



Building tanks, ships, planes, and other weapons required massive amounts of metals, more than any other war in history.

An Army Sherman M-4 tank required more than 20 tons of metal. A Navy battleship needed more than 900 tons. And building the world's largest Air Force meant that aluminum would be needed in unprecedented quantities. Thus the Government, after Pearl Harbor, either cut off the supply of metal to the consumer economy or strictly rationed it. Everything from barbed wire to farm equipment was rationed. Kids were unable to get bicycles, tricycles, and pedal cars, both because of the metal and the rubber.

Expanding mine production took time. And increasing imports meant that ships had to be built which also took time. There was metal that was immediately available. One estimate suggests that 1.5 million tons of scrap lay useless on U.S. farms. And there were also large quantities in the cities as well. The Government urged Americans to turn in scrap metal for recycling, and schools and community groups like the Scouts across the country held scrap metal drives.

Celebrities pitched in to help promote these drives. The metals that could be obtained through scrap drives included aluminum, copper, iron, nickel, steel, and tin. Given the need for aluminum for aircraft production, drives were launched for old pots, cans and even tin foil were collected. People recalled saving tin foil from gum wrappers. Often they made tin foil balls, which were then taken to the collection sites.

The Victory Key campaign was launched as some keys (especially Yale and Corbin) contained large quantities of nickel needed by the Navy. Americans got caught up in the patriotic feeling and sometimes brought in historic cannons or even monuments to the collection sites that after the War they wished they had saved.

Old wagon wheels that helped carry settlers across the plains are now being scrapped as part of Washington Township's effort for the Nation's war effort. In October 1942 Salvage Wardens would invade a farm and carry away huge wagon wheels where the iron rims and hubs could be melted down for bullets, tanks and guns.

In October 1943 J.V. Goold, principal of the Washington Union High School in Centerville, was chairman of the tin can drive. He asked school children to assist in collecting cans, which were picked up by trucks from Oakland at a central site in each town. Town chairmen were appointed as follows:

Alvarado:	J.C. Wasley
Alviso:	Mrs. Elsie Madruga.
Centerville:	J.V. Goold
Decoto:	Bernie Joseph
Irvington:	Joe Silveira
Mission San Jose:	E.B. Hodges
Newark:	Joe Pashote
Niles:	E.D. Bristow
Warm Springs:	Leslie H. Maffey

The cans had to be dry and clean, free of wrappers, and flattened after the tops and bottoms had been removed.

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\* **PAYING FOR THE WAR** \*  
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From an Internet Article written by Sarah Sundin:

"The Second World War cost the United States \$300 billion dollars, with the federal budget rising from \$9 billion in 1939 to \$98 billion in 1945. To meet this growing amount taxes were increased with an additional 5% Victory Tax. To assure payment, on June 10, 1943 the government approved the first automatic deduction of taxes from paychecks. But more was needed, and the government turned to bonds, which had been effective in World War I.

War bonds were sold at 75% of face value (a \$25 bond sold for \$18.75) and matured over ten years. While the rate of return was below market value, bonds were a stable investment with the bonus of aiding the war effort. Channeling cash into bond purchases helped prevent inflation in the robust wartime economy as well."

"Defense bonds first went on the market on May 1, 1941 and they were renamed War Bonds after the U.S. entered the war in December 1941. Bonds were available in denominations of \$25 to \$1,000 designed to be affordable for everyone.

For 10¢ people could purchase War Stamps, which were placed in specials albums. When full the albums could be redeemed for a bond. War Stamps were especially popular with children.

Employers set up automatic payroll deduction systems, so employees could set aside a certain amount for War Bonds with each paycheck. A robust advertising campaign, rallies and other promotions, and a series of War Loan Drives brought in even more needed money.



U.S. War Bond Posters 1942

As part of the war effort, many newspapers, magazine, and radio station donated advertising space and time. Posters sprang up in store fronts. Even comic books got in the act as superheroes promoted bond sales. Popular songs also encouraged sales, such as Bing Crosby's recording of "The Road to Victory" for the Sixth War Loan Drive.



Bond rallies were extremely popular, featuring Hollywood stars and popular musicians. Celebrities conducted auctions – a kiss from Hedy Lamarr, Betty Grable's stockings, Jack Benny's violin, and the horseshoes of Triple Crown winner Man O' War. Movie theaters and baseball stadiums sometimes offered free admission with the purchase of a War Bond. At the UCLA-USC game on December 12, 1942, a student-led War Bond drive raised \$2 million."

"Eight War Loan Drives were conducted in the U.S. from 1942 to 1945. War Loan Drives should not be confused with War Bond sales which had been sold since 1941. Each was meant to raise an additional \$9 - \$15 billion in sales. Towns received quotas, with the aim of promoting competition between towns. Volunteers went door-to-door, pleading for sales and rewarding purchasers with stickers to display on their window or door. The Drives were conducted on the following dates:

- First War Loan Drive: Nov. 30 to Dec. 23, 1942
- Second War Loan Drive: Apr. 12 to May 01, 1943
- Third War Loan Drive: Sep. 09 to Oct. 01, 1943
- Fourth War Loan Drive: Jan. 18 to Feb. 15, 1944
- Fifth War Loan Drive: Jun. 12 to Jul. 08, 1944
- Sixth War Loan Drive: Nov. 20 to Dec. 16, 1944
- Seventh War Loan Drive: May 14 to Jun. 30, 1945
- Victory Loan Drive: Oct. 29 to Dec. 08, 1945

By the end of the War, 85 million Americans (out of a population of 131 million) had purchased \$185.7 billion dollar of bonds – over \$2,000 per person at a time when

the average income was \$2,000 per year. The patriotism and personal sacrifice of the average citizens played a significant part in the Allied war effort."

**Taken from an Internet article by: Sarah Sundin.com**

To repeat the impact of World War II today would require a truly massive effort. Replicating the six-fold increase in the federal budget that was seen in the early 1940s would result in a nearly \$20 trillion budget today. That equates to \$67,000 for every man, woman, and child in the country. Surely, the tremendous GDP growth created by such spending would make short work of the so-called Great Recession.

To a degree that will surprise many, the US funded its World War II effort largely by raising taxes and tapping into Americans' personal savings. Both of those avenues are nowhere near as promising today as they were in 1941. Current tax burdens are now much higher than they were before the War, so raising taxes today would be much more difficult.

The "Victory Tax" of 1942 sharply raised income tax rates and allowed, for the first time in our nation's history, taxes to be withheld directly from paychecks. The hikes were originally intended to be temporary but have, of course, far outlasted their purpose. It would be unlikely that Americans would accept higher taxes today to fund a real war, let alone a pretend one.

That leaves savings, which was the War's primary source of funding. During the War, Americans purchased approximately \$186 billion worth of war bonds, accounting for nearly three quarters of total federal spending from 1941-1945. Today, we don't have the savings to pay for our current spending, let alone any significant expansions. Even if we could convince the Chinese to loan us a large chunk of the \$20 trillion (on top of the \$1 trillion we already owe them), how could we ever pay them?

So here then is how the citizens of Washington Township helped pay their share of the cost of WWII:

- Forty employees of the Booth cannery had 50¢ a week taken from their pay to buy Savings Bonds on December 28, 1941 to help fund the war.
- The Centerville Elementary School received a certificate from the United States Treasury in April 1942 in appreciation of the school's purchase of \$1,500 in war bonds and war stamps.
- Washington Township organized their own war bond drive at a luncheon meeting at the high school on May 22, 1942 with captains for each town appointed by A.J. Rathbone, Chairman. George Roderick was appointed War Bond Captain for Centerville. It was decided that air raid wardens would be asked to assist in the house-to-house canvassing starting on May 25<sup>th</sup>. It was hoped that each person would pledge at least 10% of his income for bond purchases. Subscribers will be given window cards to show they were cooperating in the war bond campaign.
- L.R. Burdick, who was appointed chairman of the Washington Township War Finance Committee, challenged every man, woman, and child in the township to buy an extra bond in the \$15,000,000,000 national campaign in 1943.
- The first activity of the newly elected Women's Committee of the Washington Township War Finance Program in January 1944 under the Treasury Department was to assist campaign managers in the 4<sup>th</sup> War Loan drive beginning on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The township drive was led by Mrs. Gladys Williamson with Mrs. Loren Marriott leading the drive for the town of

Centerville. Assisting Mrs. Marriott from Centerville were Jack Blacow, Robert Blacow, and Lester Burdick.

- Washington Union High School students sold \$7,000 worth of bonds in the 4<sup>th</sup> War Loan program (Feb. 19144), bringing their total for the school to \$20,000 in war stamps and war bonds.
- The drama section of the ladies Country Club put on a drive during the Fourth War Bond in May 1944 through which they raised \$3,000 in war bonds. They did such things as wash cars, mowed lawns and gardening, and taking care of children, not accepting money but taking War Stamps and War Bonds as payment.
- The Washington Township "Fifth War Loan Invasion Army" was ready to start firing the week following D-Day. The Township's invasion day for the start of reaching their goal was set to begin June 12, 1944. Their goal was \$600,000 and R.L. Burdick of Newark was spearheading the Township Drive.
- Loren Marriott, chairman of the Washington Township War Bond Drive for the 6<sup>th</sup> drive went "over the top" in December 1944. The quota was \$547,224.

With the end of the War came the end of the contract for Mexican National workers housed in the U.S. In October 1945 it was estimated that half of the 4,000 Mexican nationals imported into the U.S. were "missing" in California (they did not return to their native Mexico). They were the considered to be in the U.S. illegally and were then rounded up by the U. S. Immigration Service in the two county area. The disclosure came in the wake of new "raids" in the Alvarado and Centerville areas of Southern Alameda County in which more than 10 Mexican nationals were taken into custody for deportation.

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\* **VOLUNTEERS** \*  
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All of the towns (and the Alviso District) of Washington Township contributed mightily to the war effort. As much as the war cost the U.S., it would have been far greater had there not been a mighty workforce of volunteer Americans who gave of their time to support the War. This was throughout the United States.

In Washington Township it would be almost impossible to name every persons that gave of their time or their resources to support and the war. The Oakland Tribune had a few articles about the exceptional effort put on by the people of Washington Township. Here are three articles:

"In March 1944 it was noted that a total of 1,215 women representing the Country Club of Washington Township had worked 13,014 volunteer hours for the Red Cross during the past year. At the surgical dressings room at the Centerville Elementary School 71 women have put in 9,700 hours; at the canteen and blood procurement center six nurses, 10 staff assistants, and six canteen workers have put in over 3,000 hours. Two motor corps drivers put in 60 hours, while four members of the club put in over 100 hours in home service work and 26 other members had taken nutrition courses.

Also in March Centerville put on a tremendous drive to raise funds for the Red Cross. The general manager of the drive was Loren C. Marriott, while he was assisted by Fred Rogers and Jack DeLuce solicited donations from business firms.

Besides the business sector the Centerville district was been divided into four sub-districts with the following persons appointed as leaders. Mrs. Frank Souza, Floyd McCown, J.R. Sutton, and Mrs. Loren Marriott

The following house to house solicitors reported to the four individuals above: Mrs. M.S. Almeida, Mrs. Owen Goodale, Mrs. John B. Fonseca, Mrs. Rose Furtada, Mrs. Marie Brazil, Mrs. Marie Dutra, George Roderick, Mrs. Florence DeLuce, George Coit, John E. Dutra, Mrs. Elsie Madruga, Mrs. Marie Dutra, Mrs. Marie Rose, A.P. Rose Jr., Mrs. Mabel Smith, Al Smith, Mrs. Henry Machado, Erle Hygelund, Mrs. Marion Newman, Tom Silva Jr., Phillip Souza, E.B. Hodges, Manuel J. Bernardo, Mrs. Evelyn Perkins, Mrs. Mary George, Claremond Secada, Mrs. Gilbert Smith, Mrs. Tuchsens, and A.E. Alameda."

On May 5, 1944 the *Oakland Tribune* paid a wonderful tribute to the ladies of the Country Club of Washington Township by the club editor of the newspaper, Mrs. Lida Brockhagen, who said in her column:

"Are women's groups in outlying areas more patriotic than are those in the cities? A report as such was presented at the annual installation tea of the Country Club of Washington Township held in Centerville would be the envy of almost any club group in the East Bay area. Out of a membership of 130, 125 have given 14,000 hours to Red Cross services during the past year and for the five not participating - these members were too elderly or had been out of town.

The services to the Red Cross included blood donor procurement, folding surgical dressings and sewing, but this is not all of the club's activity. Members have done much for the Handicapped and Crippled Children's Guild, for the blind, for the U.S.O. House in Hayward, and for Veteran's Welfare.

They have furnished a solarium at the Naval Hospital and adopted a ward there, which includes 40 to 75 wounded servicemen to which they take delicacies twice a month. The drama section of the club put on a stunt during the Fourth War Bond drive through which they raised \$3,000 in war bonds. They did such things as wash cars, mowed lawns and gardening, and taking care of children, not accepting money but taking war stamps and bonds as payment."

Accolades continued to roll in for the ladies of Washington Township as the Red Cross Surgical Dressings unit was recognized for their efforts in during the War:

"Three Washington Township women put in more than 1,000 hours each at the Red Cross Surgical Dressing rooms at the Centerville Elementary School. They were: Mrs. Fritz Waltenberger, general chairman of the rooms, Mrs. Mary Rodrigues and Mrs. Mary Rose. Those who have put in more than 500 hours are Mrs. Pearl Dusterberry, Miss Elizabeth Dusterberry, Mrs. Peggy Wright, Mrs. Mary George, and Mrs. Hilda Christensen.



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**POST WAR**  
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With the end of World War II local schools were expecting a drop in attendance as people were expected to go back to the Mid-West. But all Washington Township schools posted a net gain except for Mission San Jose.

**November 1945:**

School	Attendance	Inc (Dec)
Alvarado	224	50
Alviso	91	6
Centerville	235	20
Decoto	420	40
Irvington	240	0
Mission San Jose	65	(10)
Newark	243	30
Niles	371	41
Warm Springs	92	15
Washington High	569	44
	2,550	236