

# America at War

BY LOYCE MARTINAZZI

American citizens, including those of Japanese ancestry, pulled together as never before. The U.S Army built Camp Adair north of Corvallis, and Camp Abbott on the upper Deschutes River south of Bend as troop-training facilities. There was a rush to "sign up" and join the armed forces. Our men were ready to fight for their country. Eventually women also joined up. Dolores McLaughlin joined the Women's Army Corp (WACs)

Among the men who joined the service were: Myron and Bob Buswell, Bill McLaughlin, Gordon and Don Sunde, Wilbur Nyberg, Walter John Eames, Herb Lafky, Gordon Blank, Clyde and Glen Harkness, John and George Ladd, Bob Saarinen, Bill Barngrover Jr, Wayne Howard, and Ray Gates. Keith Gates was a casualty of the war.

The Executive Order 9066 of February 19, 1942 caused the families of Japanese background living west of the Cascades to be placed under curfew. Over 120,000 Japanese-Americans from Oregon, Washington and California endured relocation. Many lost their homes and property, bank accounts and personal possessions. Hifumi Okazaki, who, with his family were sent to an internment camp, was sent a "Greetings" letter from the president, and was drafted into the 442nd Infantry Combat Team.

Tualatin's Fire Department installed a curfew siren which sounded at 9 pm each night, keeping in practice to alert citizens in case we were attacked. Many of the volunteer firemen were deputized as civil defence workers, monitoring bridges and looking for enemy infiltration. Shipyards went into 24 hour service, building Liberty and Victory ships and escort carriers. Those who were too old to join the service flocked to do what they could. Trucks were converted into buses to carry workers to the shipyards at Swan Island, St. Johns and Vancouver. Workers used to gather at the feed store next to the brick store to ride the bus to the shipyards. Women wrapped a bandana around their hair, rolled up their sleeves and worked along side men as Rosie the Riveter, and Winnie the Welder became popular slogans. Both my mom and dad worked at the shipyards in different shifts. Dad was a rigger, working under Ted Saarinen. Ted had been sent to Benson Polytechnic School to learn to read blueprints and ship construction.

Everyone joined in the war effort, saving metal, tinfoil, paper, even cooking fats. Homeowners were ordered to cover their windows with black shades or paper so light could not be seen at night, and in every neighborhood someone was appointed to make the rounds to see that all complied. If a light could be seen, there would be a knock on the door.

Kids helped by hauling stacks of string tied newspapers to school, along with all the tin foil from gum and cigarette packages; trucks were driven around each neighborhood picking up piles of metal stacked in front yards. Kids saved dimes to purchase stamps which were pasted into a booklet and when filled, could be traded for a War Savings Bond.

*"For the first half of the '40s war dominated our lives. The Empire of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and Germany and Italy declared war on the United States four days later. We were at war."* - Bill Gilham

Drusilla (Duffy) Hamilton remembers doing her share by writing letters to servicemen, as citizens were encouraged to help keep up the morale of those on the front.

During the war years Tualatin's farmers had to deal with shortages of tires, fuel, new vehicles and farm machinery, according to Lloyd Koch. Many draft horses remained on the job for the duration. Joe Itel used to say he liked to use horses because you didn't have to crank them till noon to get started.

"Vanport was a new "town" on the south side of the Columbia river, created at the start of the war to accommodate the flood of workers who came to work in the shipyards. Low-lying, Vanport was protected from high water by dikes on the north and south sides and a railroad fill on the west. "Herb Lafky. In 1948 water broke through the dikes and Vanport was no more.

Ration books were issued to every citizen. Sugar, gas, shoes, rubber, cloth, meat and other items were in short supply. Oleo margarine was developed to use instead of butter. It was white, like lard, and came with a little yellow pellet, added to simulate the look of butter. It did not taste like butter. Rubber and elastic were not to be found in stores, and my mother got from somewhere a cloth-backed map which she soaked to remove

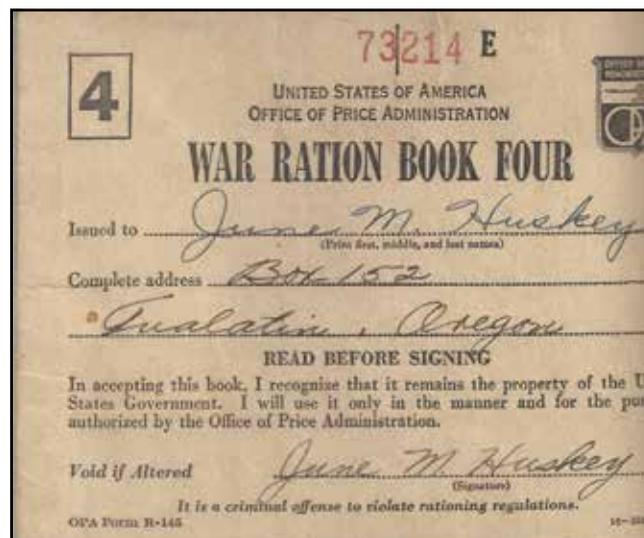
the paper. Then she made underwear out of the cloth for her five daughters, and where elastic would have been used, she made drawstrings.

Everyone was encouraged to grow a Victory Garden, and flower beds were converted for growing vegetables.

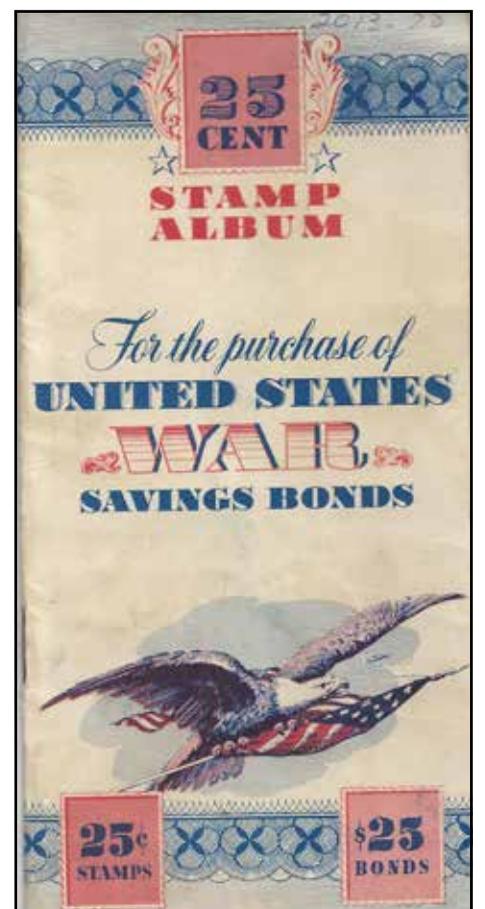
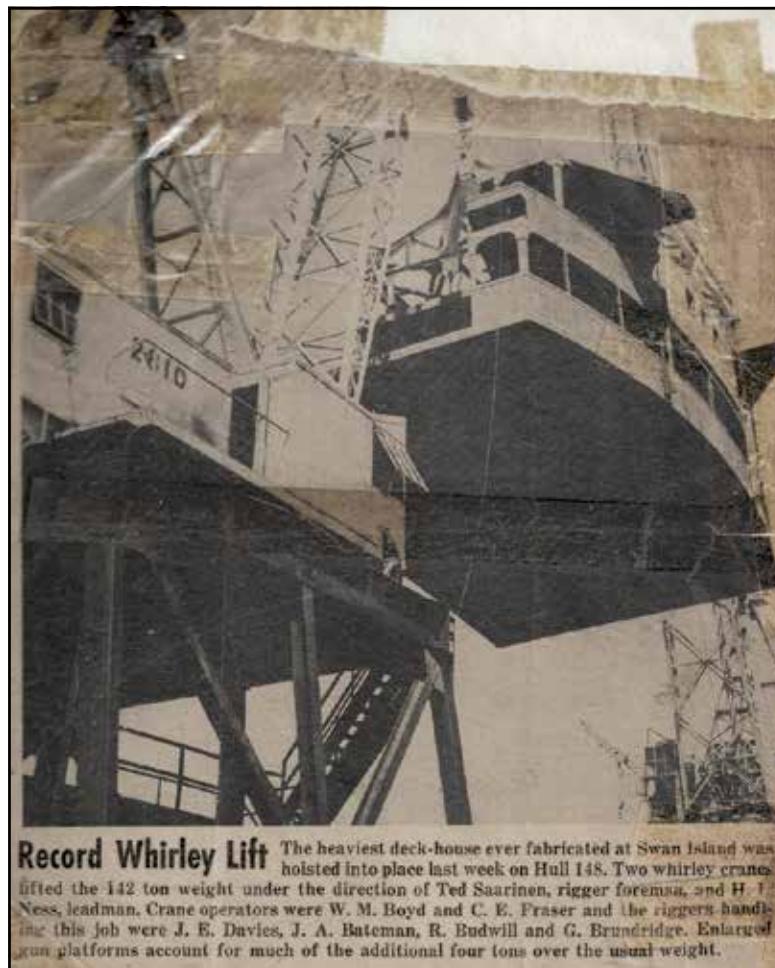
When World War II ended, Oregon was a different place. The great depression was over and the economy was good. Short skirts for women had become fashionable during the war, as fabric was scarce, but after the war, the "New Look" emerged from Paris, with longer skirts well below the knee becoming all the rage.



Loyce Martinazzi was born and raised in Tualatin and is passionate about Tualatin History. She is currently Lecturer of the Winona Grange, Co-Founder of the Tualatin Historical Society and Co-Author of *Tualatin... From the Beginning*.



June Huskey's World War 2 ration book



The back of the booklet had this message: A filled book of 75 Twenty-five Cent War Savings Stamps has a value of \$18.75 and will be accepted in exchange by the post office for a United States War Savings Bond, Series E, maturity value \$25.