

RATION STAMPS--BLOOD BANK--BLACKOUTS

All familiar during the World War II era

Life on the homefront changed drastically during World War II. Everyone wanted to do their part.

Women who had never worked out of the home rode in car pools to Twin Cities defense plants where they learned to rivet and weld. They listened to the music of Glen Miller, Stan Kenton, Duke Ellington and other ~~immortal~~ musicians who will live on forever through the sound of their music as they traveled the highway during the wee hours of the morning.

The swing-shift hours were probably the most disliked for the worker had no day or night hours to him or herself. The only gratification was that they were doing their part to get the boys back home and of course, wages were the best they had ever known.

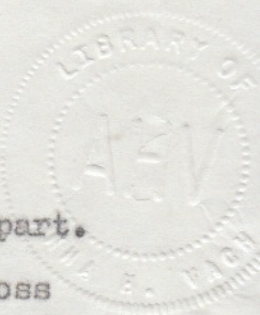
Blood banks set up in small towns across the nation to receive donations of blood to be sent to the war zones.

People flocked to the centers in an effort to do their part. Under the leadership of Mabel Donlin of the Pine City Red Cross unit, 2,257 pints of blood were donated and ~~wonver~~ converted into plasma.

In the beginning, donors were transported to the St. Paul blood center by volunteers but because of many were anxious to give, the unit decided it would be worthwhile to come to the source.

German prisoners of war were held at the Sandstone correctional institution and ironically, a number of them were willing donors.

COPY



Ida Saxon, Melba Clementson, Myrtle Klicker, Mrs. Louis Volenec, Dick Kowalke and Grant Anderson were honored for contributing the most often--six times. The average donor gave two or three pints.

Miss Donlin was one of ~~the~~ two individuals who received the Army Navy E award for outstanding war effort because of the success of her Pine county blood bank. She also received the "Good Neighbor Orchid" from Tom Brenneman's "Breakfast in Hollywood" radio show for her work.

From the mobile unit's calls at Pine City 681 pints of blood were received. Who knows how many lives were saved because of it.

Civil Defense Wardens were assigned to neighborhoods and frequent "Black-out" drills signaled by sirens were part of the local scene. If America should be attacked by air the public had to be trained to respond.

And there was rationing. Sugar, butter, and gasoline were probably the hardest items to do without. Rationing boards issued stamps by the month according to how many were in the family. People with babies had an advantage because the child's allotment was more than he could use. People with surplus often shared with their neighbors, especially during canning season.

Women wore rayon hosiery that bagged at the knees and ankles, and stood in long lines hoping to get a pair of nylons when merchants were lucky enough to get a shipment. The coveted nylons were kept sealed in glass jars in the freezer and saved for special occasions.

Cigarettes sold for 15¢ a pack and since most of them were being sent overseas, there was also a shortage. Remember the lines ?