

ALWAYS ONWARD

Chapter Seven - 1940 -1949

WAR and RATIONING

1940 and 1941 Barnum, as the rest of the nation, slowly struggled from the economic and emotional mire the Depression had created. Due to the government's demand for improved defense, factories across the nation had reopened and geared themselves toward war-time products. The slight boost to the economy, although marred by strikes in various quarters, was felt in the village. Barnum began to see an influx of people; by 1940 Barnum's population had grown to 327 from 271 in 1930.

The emotional damage felt by families was more difficult to repair. Disillusioned, the local populace questioned the wisdom of F.D.R.'s third term in office, believing that the President's policies leaned toward both socialism and war.

A majority of the Barnum citizenship had supported Wendell Willkie in his bid for the Presidency. An editorial in the Herald read:

In the two-and-one-half months Since his unprecedented and spectacular nomination for the Presidency by the Republican National Convention, Wendell Willkie has demonstrated to the country his dynamic personality and driving energy as well as his quick and clear mind.

Of F.D.R. it was noted:

F. D. R. does not wish to have the election this year decided on domestic issues. He knows he's beaten there. Instead, the Democrats will attempt to show that the international situation is vitally important and Mr. Roosevelt is the only man who is smart enough to handle it.

The paper went so far as to publish a parody of the Gettysburg Address which began, "7 years and 1 month ago F.D.R. brought forth on this continent the New Deal, conceived by the Brain Trust and dedicated to the principals of communism. "

F.D.R. carried the vote and remained in office for another term despite the solid support Barnum had thrown behind Willkie.

Business in downtown Barnum carried on as usual throughout the heated election. The local bank reverted to the title "State Bank of Barnum" in accordance with plans adopted months before. Thereafter, the institution was under the supervision of the State Banking laws and State Commission of Banks rather than being under federal supervision. H.C.

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L.T. Rudebeck purchased the Anderson Motor Company in 1940 and renamed the establishment - Rudebeck Motors.

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Hanson continued to serve as Bank President, E.L. Barstow as Vice President, Henry Johnson as cashier and A.M. Rundgren as Assistant Cashier. In 1942 the Mahtowa and Barnum Banks merged. The move, prompted by business conditions, an increasing amount of cash reserves and scarcity of good loans for investment, was considered by citizens of both towns to be one of "sound judgement"

To give the businessmen a needed boost, the Commercial Club sponsored a Community Sales Day. The merchants made "extra special offers" on merchandise. An auction was held at the used car lot south of the Bank. These gatherings helped draw the community together by fostering better understanding, better social conditions and formed mutual and lasting friendships.

On the sales day Anderson Motor Car Co. offered a wash and grease job for \$1.99 and Atlas and U.S. Tires for \$7.73 and \$5.80. Dathe and Co. ran specials as Table Talk Matches—6 boxes for 16 cents—and Kelloggs Corn Flakes—2 boxes for 21 cents. The Farmers' Co-op offered 6 bars of Ivory Soap for 25 cents and a 3 pound can of Crisco for 55 cents. The Barnum Hotel ran lunch specials. A hamburger on a bun and order of french fries sold for 15 cents, 3 doughnuts and coffee for 10 cents. A&L Garage offered 6 gallons of Metro gas for 99 cents. At Bauer's Tavern and Lunch one could enjoy a hotdog or hamburger for 5 cents and 4 games of pool for 25 cents.

In mid-1940 Anderson's interests in the Anderson Motor Co. were taken over by J.T. Rudebeck and the firm's name changed to Rudebeck Motors. By 1941 the new owner was delivering cars to "outer regions" as far as Lawler.

By 1941 the economic upswing was growing more apparent in and around the village. Bell Telephone announced its plans to install a "new dial system" in Barnum to replace the manual plant. Because of difficulty procuring the new instruments, Bell officials estimated a two-year wait until the change could be made.

Near the old Brickyard on Trunk Highway 61, north of the village, a factory for the manufacture of cement building blocks was constructed and opened operations under the name of Carlton County Cement Block Co. Proprietors of the new establishment were L.W. Rhoads, Mrs. R.L. Goodell, J.H. Bell, Fred Hecker, Roy and Mickey Candless were the first employees. The new plant advertised:

To all who have intentions of building or making improvements this year we are in a position to save you money and lots of it If you want a basement or new foundation under your house, or better still, a new house, we will be glad to show you why our plan is fireproof, less upkeep and more permanent, warmer in winter and cooler in the summer.

Barnum was offered a federal industry in 1941 which was sponsored by the National Youth Administration and Farm Security Corporation. Arrangements were made for the use of one of the Carlton County Fairground buildings, one that had been used as an eating establishment by the 4-H Clubs, with the Comprehensive Branch of the American Can Co. Under the plan 80-100 young men were employed in shifts of 20 to 25 men per week. Each laborer received \$15.00 for a full week's work. The business lasted only six months.

In the summer of 1941 Minnesota Power and Light was assuring local consumers that the corporation was, "Trained for emergency and defense. 1,000 local employees are trained and experienced, each in their specialized jobs of producing and distributing electrical power under any and all conditions. "

With the Depression coming to a close, area farmers began making a noticeable comeback. In 1940 the Arrowhead Cooperative Guernsey Sales Association was formed in order to obtain higher prices for milk cows. Farmers faced another dilemma in their milk production business; a new law in Minnesota prohibited cream carriers from hauling

The Maplewood Poultry Farm and Hatchery was one of the major industries in Barnum throughout the 1940's and on into the 1960's when the building were dismantled and the land sold.

buttermilk back to the farms in the same cans that were used to carry cream to the Creamery.

Later in the year Hugo Anderson was elected President of the Minnesota Baby Chick Cooperative Association. Anderson's poultry farm, the Maplewood Hatchery, was one of the oldest exclusive breeders of U.S. Certified White Leghorns in the States. Anderson chose all his breeders with care and caution which earned him notoriety. He owned

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over 18,000 U.S. Certified Maplewood Breeders in 1940. The modern breeding farm boasted buildings equipped with running water, electric lights and the new Buckeye Streamliner Incubator. Anderson employed many Barnum residents; among them May Hanson who worked as Secretary/ Receptionist along with Mrs. Anderson for many years. Each summer agricultural students, professors in agricultural colleges and County Agents would make a pilgrimage to Maplewood to gain insight into progressive poultry farming on the more than 100 acres of clean, shaded range.

Barnum Guernseys broke into the movie business and appeared on the silver screen in 1940. The Barnum Herald reported:

Mr. and Mrs. B. Guernsey have finally broken into pictures. A complete picture story of Guernseys in Carlton County has just been finished and is ready for showing. The pictures are in color and are on lantern slides. One set of pictures is on file at the University Farm, where it will be available to County Agents throughout the state for showing at local dairy meetings. Another set will be kept at the Carlton Extension Office for showing in Carlton County. The film depicts the roles played by J.L. Doan, L.J. Beck and H.C. Hanson in the area's Guernsey breed development. The Arvenson Brothers' pure-bred herd holds the starring roles.

Barnum Agricultural representatives to the 1941 32nd Annual Dairy Cattle Congress and National Belgian Show, American Poultry Congress, International Water Fowl Exposition and Industrial Machinery Exposition in Waterloo, Iowa, were Axel Larson, Darney Arvenson, S. Blackmore, Carl Hansen and F.M. Duesler.

The Barnum Bull Association met in the summer of '41 to regroup and implement an artificial insemination program due to interest voiced by farmers for that particular service. At the first meeting Harry Finifrock was elected president of the fledgling organization.

1940 saw several "firsts" for the school system. On February 10th the school staged its 1st Annual Winter Sports Carnival. A lively queen contest was sponsored by the Commercial Club. Vying for the coveted title of First Sno Queen were Bernice Baldwin, Mildred Antilla, Lois Grandell, Lois Harrington, Genevieve Gilbert, Edna Paulson, Elanor Kakko, Bonnie-Jean Felgen and Melba Rudebeck.

That year the High School Band, under the direction of Mr. Niemi, participated in Duluth's Battle of the Bands. Mr. Niemi and Superintendent Homme received a congratulatory letter from H.R. Dale, President of the Duluth Chamber of Commerce for the band's outstanding performance. It was the musicians' cameo appearance in that particular contest. Later that year the 45 piece band participated in the Cloquet Music Festival and received an Honorable Mention for their performance.

On a brisk November day in 1941 the village closed up shop between 1 and 2 p.m. to honor its Conference Championship Football Team with a special assembly program in the High School auditorium. Gold footballs were awarded to 19 lettermen by Arnold Rundgren, President of the Commercial Club. The Club sponsored the program, Bob Solheim having been, "in charge of the affair." Representing the village as speakers were L.E. Severson and Dr. Lester Johnson. Both men congratulated the squad highly on its fine work of remaining undefeated three out of four years.

The basketball boys did not take a backseat to the grid iron guys. They did a splendid job of dedicating the new gym by "trouncing" Willow River 17 to 16 in view of a packed house of screaming fans. Further into the basketball season Barnum sponsored the District Basketball Tournament. Record breaking crowds totaling over 2,000 fans crowded into the

state of the art" gym during the three day event.

On Thursday, February 22, 1940, the new school addition was formally dedicated. Later that month 600 students from 12 schools gathered at Barnum High School to participate in a Music Festival. Each school presented vocal and instrumental numbers and that evening all the choral groups and bands combined to entertain the public with a "Mass Festival."

The Barnum teachers were not shy of musical ability either. Mr. Allen Niemi Barnum's music director, played first violin with the Duluth Symphony when the orchestra offered up The Messiah for the public's Christmas entertainment. The symphony was accompanied by a chorus of 300 and featured four outstanding soloists who had been engaged from Chicago.

The G.G. Barnum P.T.A. continued to keep the residents abreast of both local and world events. During the October meeting keynote speaker was Dr. C.E. Norberg, medical missionary and survivor of the ill-fated ZamZam which had been sunk by a German submarine in the spring of 1941.

The road conditions in the spring of 1941 were the worst they had been for years. Traffic over rural roads into Barnum was forced to revert to horse and buggy transportation, others were obligated to slosh through the mud and ruts via shoeleather. By July the roads had improved

enough for the annual Mid-Summers Day Picnic to be held as scheduled at Little Hanging Horn Lake. Prizes for the biggest, oldest, tallest, shortest couples and largest families were awarded. Swimming races and 100 yard boat rowing races were held with a quiz program wrapping up the afternoon's events.

Entertainment sometimes came in strange wrappings in the village, as was the case in the presentation of A Hillbilly Wedding, produced by the Barnum/ Moose Lake Farmers' Organization. The play, presented in the Barnum High School Auditorium, boasted a cast consisting of 100 people from Barnum and the surrounding communities. One of the farce's

Homecoming celebrations for victorious teams were often kicked off with a downtown parade.

The Grid Iron Guys. This group led Barnum to capture the District Title for several seasons.

highlights was an all-male dancing chorus known as "Minnie and Her Dimpled Darling Dancers." Those displaying their finely honed stagecraft in the chorus line were John Gowan, Dr. Johnson, Paul Hullander and Ed Clough.

The dancing chorus' fame paled when Miss Bette Larson, who had won fame and popularity in Washington, D.C. circles, arrived in the village via plane, "direct from the capitol," for a short visit. Miss Larson had been crowned "Miss Civil Defense" two months earlier while attending a ball in the Capitol Building.

Radio continued to provide family entertainment at home, but not all radios proved strong enough to receive all the programs. One of the few radios that could pick up select sports events was located in Rudebeck's Garage which soon became a favored gathering place for the male species on boxing nights; especially if the famed Jo Lewis was in the ring.

Popular songs were routinely aired over the radio waves and included local favorites as "When You Wish Upon A Star," "Oh, Johnny," "Playmates," and "Blueberry Hill." While many Barnumites hummed, whistled or sang along with the top ten, not all forms of new music were well received. The Herald laid attack on one popular 1940's style:

The combination of swing and classical music is a gross infringement of the rights of the Masters, the detriment to swing. Jazz and Ragtime were fads. Whether swing will undoubtedly be a fad if the present day composers persist in using classical music as a foundation for swing. Swing, like present day boogie-woogie, is categorically American.

The Barnum Theater continued providing "clean, healthy" films as "Charlie McCarthy—Detective, starring Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd," and South Of Pago Pago. The home diamond ball team kept fans equally as breathless as the movies did. In 1940 the baseball team topped the league by a win over Sturgeon Lake. "Stevens, Rudebeck and Ball led in hitting with three hits apiece." The Herald noted. "Severson hit a homer in the 6th with no one on base to give Barnum a two-run lead." The ladies, not to be out done, played a mean game of Kittenball I and defeated Moose Lake 16-1 in the final game of the 1940 season.

All was not entertainment for the villagers. In 1940, the Council voted on drilling a new well for the village's water system. The old well had been proving troublesome for some time with an infiltration of sand. The pump was "cut" so badly from this that it was beyond repair. After studying all possibilities, the Council found installing a new well cheaper than attempting to repair the old system.

Another major concern of the Council was the citizen's safety. Children were issued a warning to refrain from hitching their toboggans, sleds, and bicycles onto motor vehicles. Many youth, seeking excitement, were engaged in the thrilling past-time. One brave young man had hitched his sled to the tail of a northbound Greyhound bus and was awarded with a free ride to Mahtowa for his efforts. However, motorists were unaware of the tail-gating passengers and serious accidents resulted when the car's brakes were applied and children, unable to hop from their sled, slid under the vehicle.

In 1941 the Council moved to establish a Municipal Liquor Dispensary for the sale of liquor notable as a beverage and containing 3.2% alcohol. The set hours of operation eliminated sales on Sunday, before 3 p.m. on Memorial Day and 5 p.m. on any election day. Monday through Saturday there would be no liquor sales before 8 a.m. or after 12 midnight; no off sale after 8 p.m. The Municipal Liquor Dispensary would contain no pool or billiard tables, no slot machines, dice or any gambling devices. With Ordinance #19, all other ordinances regulating the sale of liquor and consumption of the same were repealed. The Temperance Movement was sent into a rage.

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Perhaps it was to help appease the Temperance group's outcries that Ordinance #22 was passed regulating the licensing and retail sale of cigarettes and cigarette wrappers (rolling paper). A license, costing \$1.00 a month, was required to sell cigarettes and issued only to people of "good moral character." There was to be no sales of cigarettes made to anyone under 18 years of age. Sales of cigarettes containing opium, morphine, jimson weed, bella donna, strychnia, cocaine, marijuana or any other deleterious drug except nicotine was strictly banned.

Concerns that encompassed a larger area than Barnum were also concerns of the village. Residents' concern for war-torn Norway and Finland continued on into the early '40's. Both countries were in desperate need and relied heavily on American generosity; the Barnum citizens were generous. A collection of old clothing was taken. Pot lucks were held to lend aid to Barnum's neighbors across the sea.

Fighting the ravages of disease remained a prime concern for the town. An anti-polio program was held at the High

School with proceeds going toward continued research for the ultimate control and prevention of the disease. In January of 1941 it was reported that the last germ had been successfully isolated by scientists, but a vaccine would not be perfected for many years hence. The American Legion Post contributed \$5.00 to the fund and the Auxiliary \$3.00.

An Immunization Program had been initiated in 1940 by the newly organized Health Council in Barnum. Children and adults alike were offered vaccinations against Smallpox and

Diphtheria. The community joined all of Minnesota in making their 1941 New Year's resolution to end Smallpox and Diphtheria in the state. Warnings of the rise in both diseases and possible epidemics due to neglect of offered immunization programs, were posted in the Herald.

Even with the economic upswing there remained a number of needy families in Carlton County. Under the direction of Mrs. Carl Duesler, a Mattress Project was started in the Barnum area. Rural families whose net income was less than \$500 a year were eligible to make mattresses, the number being dependent upon the size of the family. A family of three or less was entitled to one mattress, a family of four or five received two mattresses, while six or more in a household would receive three mattresses. At the end of the project 1800 homemade mattresses had been completed for local families in various work centers around the county. Later, work on an equal number of comforters was implemented. Families who made mattresses were eligible for as many comforters as they had made mattresses.

Churches remained a focal point for the community. In 1941 the Barnum Circle of The Women's Society of Christian Science of the Methodist Church was organized at the home of Mrs. C.C. Hanson.

The local Boy Scout Troop did not neglect their charitable duties. In December of 1940 the group collected toys, games and books to repair, repaint and put in good condition for distribution at Christmas to the needy children of the area.

In 1941 Barnum villagers prepared for the Christmas festivities bent under the oppressing threat of war. In July of 1941 the Japanese had moved to Indo-China and seized the capital of Viet Nam. Their next target was cited at the Dutch East Indies. At that time President Roosevelt had frozen all Japanese assets in the U.S., limiting Japan's ability to purchase American supplies. In November of 1941 the American Intelligence Agency laid hands on and decoded a Japanese message which indicated that war against the United States was close at hand.

At 7:55 a.m., Sunday, December 7th, all of Barnum's fears regarding the war became a reality. A wave of Japanese bombers attacked a U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, a second wave came an hour later. On December 8th President Roosevelt's message was heard on radios in Barnum resident's homes:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the U.S. of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

Within four hours Congress approved declaration of war against Japan. Three days following the declaration, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S. That same day Congress reciprocated without a dissenting vote. The Herald cried:

JAPAN FORCES US. INTO WAR

Thursday, December 11, 1941

Last Sunday the Japanese government, adopting Nazi tactics, without warning, attacked the U.S. Naval Station at Pearl Harbor, near Honolulu, on the Island of Oahu, points in the Phillipine Islands and other U.S. possessions in the Pacific with an air raid. It is given out that 1500 Americans were killed and a like number injured in the air raid. It is also said that a ship laden with lumber was sunk by a Japanese submarine between San Francisco and Honolulu, proving that the Japs had this raid planned for some time.

The news electrified the people of the U.S. and has done more to unify the different factions that have sprung up in this country. Enlistments in our army, navy and marine forces immediately reached a point where it was difficult for the recruiting stations to handle them. On Monday morning Congress declared a state of war exists between this country and Japan. Many other nations have also declared war on Japan and others are expected to follow.

Japanese air force are said to have attempted a raid on San Francisco but were driven off. An Officer of the Nazi High Command is said to be in Tokyo directing Japanese operations.

The situation is critical, though no one feels the U.S. will lose the conflict, but it may be long drawn out.

Coming from Japan, a nation with which the U.S. has been at peace ever since Commander Perry of the US. Navy opened

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Japanese markets to the world some 86 years ago, this uncalled for attack on our government will have a greater effect upon unifying and solidifying sentiment here than it would had it come from a European Axis power. We're into the scrap now, and we must all stand by for ultimate victory, cost what it may.

Reactions ranging from anger to fear swept through Barnum. Local males who were eligible for enlistment swamped local recruiting stations. A local Red Cross immediately went to work making surgical dressings for the National Red Cross to ship overseas. Mrs. Docken served as chairwoman, assisted by Mrs. S.E. Robinson and Mrs. C.D. Adams. By December 1, 1942, 40,000 bandages were donated by the Barnum Red Cross and the Barnum Commercial Club. The Red Cross also set about with fund raising activities to help purchase items as magazines, stationery and books to send to the 2,000,000 man fighting forces overseas.

O.A. Homme, J.T. Rudebeck, and Fergie Johnson represented the community at a meeting held in Carlton for the purpose of discussing ways and means for some type of welfare activities to assist the county's young men who were called for training under the selective service plan. Their goal was to demonstrate to the enlisted men that the citizens of the county had the servicemen's well-being at heart. This committee, baptised the Carlton County Selective Service Committee, first action was to furnish each Carlton County G.I. with a copy of his hometown newspaper.

As Barnum was affected by the war, so was the rest of the nation. Mrs. L.J. Beck received a letter from her daughter in Washington state. Composed immediately following the Pearl Harbor attack, Mrs. Beck's daughter sought to both inform her parents of conditions on the west coast and to assure them of her safety. It appeared to exemplify the feelings of war, anger and shock of all U.S. citizens:

No doubt you are looking at this letter, anxious to know how we out here on the coast are.

It is a hectic world we're living in now, Mother. It is much better if I don't talk too much about it, because everytime a thing is reported, it seems to enlarge itself upon my mind.

Our happy, carefree days are gone, I'm afraid. This grim business of being in war is keenly felt here in Seattle. Everyone on the street seems to be going around with a grim, set look on their face—such hatred for the Japs—and believe me, we have plenty of them here — the city and county jail is full of them.

The Second Interceptor Command has called us again. We were supposed to have a vacation after the first of the year. It sure didn't take them long to get in touch with us, Mother. I am working from 8 p.m. to midnight every other night. I don't know how it will work out, but this is no time to be selfish about things. If other people can do it, so can I. Boeing Aircraft and the shipyards are heavily fortified. Already they have anti-aircraft guns in position. Army convoys a mile long were pouring into Seattle from St. Louis.

If I don't write often, please don't worry about me. No doubt you will hear if Seattle is bombed. Anyway, you will know that at night from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight I will be in a bomb-proof building. We must all be good soldiers these days, Mother. You are doing your bit. I am doing mine. Love to Dad.

Florence.

Prominent Barnum citizens in the 1930's and '40's included: (back row , l to r): Mr. Rhoades, former postmaster and owner of the Rhoades Inn; Hugo Anderson, owner of the Maplewood Hatchery; Hans Solheim, owner of the Marshall Wells Store; Dr. C.E. Seimer, D.V.M. (front row, l to r): William Docken, high school superintendent; Dr. Lester Johnson, D.D.S.; Axel Larson, owner of the feed store.

Everyone was urged to "do their bit." Journalist Susan Thoyerin appealed to the Barnum women via her column "This Business of Living:"

Women in the past have risen to the occasion in every national emergency. Isn't there every reason to believe that the women of today care as much what happens to their country and will be willing to do their part on saving it from the tyranny whose shadow lies over the rest of the world?

In 1942 the Women's Services for Civilian Defense organized in Carlton County. Six women from each district volunteered to assist the organization. Their assigned duties were to:

1. Inform herself of the general facts of the defense program and activities in the locality, state and nation.
2. Make a friendly call at each home in her area.
3. List and report all families having members in the armed forces and express to them a word of community appreciation.
4. Advise each household of the conservation of scarce materials and scrap gathering campaigns.

5. Report through her superiors to the regularly established governmental agencies any instances of welfare assistance programs that did not appear properly cared for.
6. Encourage participation in the Victory Program through activities in the Red Cross, purchasing defense savings stamps and bonds and through volunteer programs.

O.A. Hommes and Henry Johnson became appointed as Associate Members of the Legal Advisory Board for Draft Registrations. Draft registrants throughout Carlton County were called upon to prepare questionnaires which were to be returned to the draft board five days after receipt. By March of 1942 1,341 persons from Carlton County were registered

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with Selective Services and enroute to boot camp. 91 were from Barnum. Weekly, the list of draftees became longer. In late 1942 a revision of rules by Selective Service Boards stated that Boards were no longer authorized to grant stays of induction or deferments to registrors applying for commission or enlisting. This action, along with other rulings, increased the number of men drafted into various branches of the service and drastically cut the working force in the states. On February 16, 1942, the third registration under the Selective Service Draft was held in Barnum at the Village Pump House. The draft included all men who had attained their 45th birthday on or by February 16, 1942 and had not previously registered.

Reports on Nazi and Japanese movements within the United States boundries flooded the local paper. An article from the American Magazine was reprinted in the Herald, alarming local residents. This article claimed that, through terroristic methods, the German government had organized within the United States a network of unwilling spies and saboteurs. This group, the article reported, consisted chiefly of former residents of Nazi conquered nations who were coerced into joining the Nazi network by threats made on the lives of relatives remaining in German subjugated countries. It stated, "The slave-spy system is directed in Germany by a special council including the heads of the Trojan Horse groups who helped to undermine the victimized countries of occupied Europe."

News of Hess, one of Adolph Hitler's most trusted lieutenant ranking 3rd in the Nazi organization, had helped himself to a plane and flown to Scotland, reached Barnum. He was prevented injury while making a parachute landing. Speculations as to what the landing in Scotland meant arose in Barnum, but no further reports were received, and Hess' motives remained a mystery.

Between February 2nd and 7th, 1942, all German, Japanese and Italian nationalities residing of the Pacific Coast and adjoining states were required to file applications for identification certificates. Such aliens residing elsewhere were required to do the same between February 9th and 28th. Failure to file an application was punishable by severe penalties; including the possibility of internment for the duration of the war. When filing, these persons were required to have a current photo of themselves and to answer a number of questions regarding their recent activities. So began a reign of paranoia across the nation.

Beginning in 1942, 391 local village boards had deferred their area projects as a war aide. The building of county garages, road construction and school buildings were postponed for the duration of the war in order to divert financial strength to the federal government. The plan's goal was to remove local units from competing with the federal government for essential materials, help retard inflation and enable the areas to acquire a stronger financial position to meet the soon hoped for post-war situation. All new projects were halted for the duration. Bare maintenance on all road work and no new construction became the rule of thumb.

Immediately after the decision to do bare maintenance of roads, the Minnesota government cut driving speeds to 40 m.p.h. The reduced speed was strongly enforced due to the shortage of automobile tires and increasingly poor road conditions. Tires on automobiles owned by private citizens were becoming worn and were considered dangerous at higher speeds. Members of the armed forces when on duty, persons engaged in civilian defense work, commercial busses behind schedule and physicians responding to emergency calls were permitted to speed along at 50 m.p.h. That October driving speeds were cut back further, to 35 m.p.h., in order to save on fuel. At the same time, fuel oil consumers were notified that they would be required to get along with one-third less fuel oil than usual to heat their homes in the upcoming winter.

Entertainment t was often found in the simple pleasures, as this outstanding stringer of fish Hans Solheim and his friends proudly displayed.

During this time the federal government began to call for citizens to deliver scrap iron, aluminum, paper and copper. Barnum residents were informed that wire from electrical chords, light fixtures, copper ashtrays, cooking utensils, old wash boilers, lamps, door pulls, door knockers, valves and curtain rods were to be donated to help the war effort.

Citizens were also subjected to War Time, or Daylight Savings Time, beginning January of 1942. The purpose was bi-fold. With the longer days, energy used for lighting homes, businesses and factories were reserved. The lighter evenings also enabled plane-watchers better visibility for an extended period of time to search the skies for enemy aircraft. An airplane spotting service was organized in Barnum during that month. Although some residents scoffed at

the idea of this service being needed, the Herald defended it stating . it has been proven that it is the first line of

defense against enemy aircraft. " Jack Rudebeck served as the Official Barnum Township Observer.

The government also urged communities to organize a Local Defense Council. The local councils assumed the responsibilities of all Civilian Defense Activities in the county or city in cooperation with the State Defense Council. Several duties were laid on the shoulders of these councils including organizing scrap drives and forming Air Raid Organizations.

Barnum's Local Air Raid Organization was formed in the spring of 1942. The volunteers were to be carefully selected men who were, "physically fit, can remain calm and courageous in an emergency and who can be relied on to faithfully train and carry out assignments without compensation. " Eight men volunteered to serve as wardens in Barnum. Axel Larson was in charge of the town blocks laying south and west of Rudebeck Motor. Arnold Rundgren patrolled the blocks south and west of the pavement from Eastman's Corner. Roy Rudebeck patrolled the blocks north of the Goodell building

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and east to Severson's Corner while Fred Simpson Sr. covered the blocks north and west from Barnum's Cash Corner to the pavement. Arthur Anderson was responsible for the blocks south and east of the school house and Roy Harrington the blocks beginning at White's Corner west to Severson's Corner. Paul Hullander was given the duty of patrolling the hill top and west to White's Corner. Aside from their Air Raid duties, the volunteers were given first aid training sponsored by the local Red Cross to enable them to lend aid to victims of an attack.

President Roosevelt directed an all-out scrap rubber salvage campaign to be conducted for a two week period in 1942. The campaign was under the direction of the War Production Board's Bureau of Industrial Conservation. Twenty-seven of the Carlton County 4-H Clubs, including Barnum's, were designated to help in the rubber salvage drive. At that time, the Carlton County Salvage For Victory Committee was organized. C.C. Hanson was elected Supervisor of all scrap drives. The goal of the organization, strongly supported by the Barnum residents, was to respond to the dire need of scrap metal, rubber and paper salvage to help win the war. Barnum's Commercial Club formed a committee comprised of B.F. Jessop, C.C. Hanson, D.C. Adams, J.T. Rudebeck and W.R. Lanxon to make arrangements for the reception of scrap metals collected locally.

Coinciding with the Salvage For Victory Committee, the Carlton County Salvage Company was formed. All residents of the county were requested to accumulate and dispose of as rapidly as possible all scrap metal except tin cans which were, "virtually worthless to the war effort." In early 1942 a house to house collection for aluminum was held under the direction of E.L. Barstow.

By mid-1942 the scrap rubber salvage campaign was in full swing.

Filling stations and garages were authorized to purchase reclaimable rubber on a basis of 1 cent per pound.

In order to help those still on county assistance or those whose incomes were drastically cut when a family member enlisted in the service, the government froze all rents for the duration of the war.

The war effort made carrying out a daily business routine difficult as gas station owners soon discovered. When the proclamation of gas rationing came about, filling stations were placed under rigid guidelines. When a customer pulled into a station to purchase gas, the attendant was required to ask for a mileage ration book before filling the vehicle's tank. This person must be sure that the correct ration sticker was properly affixed to the car. He could deliver no gas if the ration book had expired, if the coupons were not properly endorsed on the back or if the coupons were already detached from the book. Failure to observe any of these rules placed the attendant in direct violation of the mileage rationing regulations and he faced possible court proceedings. No credit was given at service stations, all sales—even to close friends or family—were required to be on a cash basis.

In view of the drastic shortage of replacement parts for automobiles, garage owners encouraged citizens to keep cars and trucks in good working condition. Rudebeck's Garage promot-

ed the, "New Chevy Plan, Chevrolets New Car Conservation Plan is designed to help you keep your car serving faithfully for the duration. " Felgen's Garage warned, "Present conditions demand that owners keep their cars in good condition at a// times. By keeping your motor in tune at all times, you may enjoy its continued use. And remember to buy U. S. Bonds or Stamps. " I In February, 1942, tire re and tube allotments went into effect for passenger cars, motorcycles and light trucks. There were 15 tires and 13 tubes available in the county for those vehicles. Heavy trucks and busses were allotted 47 tires and 53 tubes while there were 16 truck or bus retreads available that February.

The effect of gas rationing soon began showing in the community. Attendance at events dropped drastically. Residents were urged to come to town by sharing cars in order to save on gas and wear on tires. Janice Mapes, who was a Senior in High School that year, reflected, "We didn't do anything because everything was rationed and restricted, especially the gas. We couldn't even take a Senior trip that year. "

Gas and automobile replacement parts were not the only items to be placed on a ration basis. While still wrestling with the problems that had arisen with tire rationing and automobile allotments coming up, the Commodity Allocation Boards which had been formed throughout the state were delivered a new task with the announcement of a complete sugar rationing plan ordered by Leon Henderson, Federal Price Administrator. Every individual, no matter how old, would be required to obtain sugar through this plan. Faced with registering over 27,000,000 residents in Minnesota, the Boards turned to local schools and enlisted teachers' assistance with the overwhelming task. Each family was to select a delegate who would report the amount of sugar they had in the home. More than two pounds per person was considered an excessive amount and any amount over that was deducted from the total to be allowed under the new rationing plan.

In order to receive a book of the new sugar ration stamps, each household was required to complete a questionnaire. The questions included the exact name of each family member, an exact description of each member giving height, weight, color of eyes, color of hair, age and sex. The person registering for the family was required to state his or her exact relationship to each member. It was also required to state, by the pound, how much sugar was in the possession of the household at the time of registration. The allotments were set at one pound of sugar per person for a two week time period. In November of 1942 coffee rationing began. With this new restriction, a citizen began raising questions, stating in the Herald that it was unnecessary to expand the government's "far-reaching programs. "

Businessmen would agree with that citizen's opinion. On April 25, 1942, the sale of sugar was stopped in all groceries' By October, prices were frozen on milk products, eggs, poultry, mutton, white potatoes, canned citrus fruits, fresh citrus fruits, flour, cake mixes, onions, dry-edible beans and corn. As a result, few ads from grocery establishments were found in the local paper, creating an income shortage for the editor as well as the groceries' owners. A few items could still be found on sale such as the Co-op Cleansers which sold 4 for 99 cents, or White Floating Soap, 4 for 22 cents.

With the decreased income from advertisers, and the paper shortage, the Herald's editor, Mr. Sloan, was forced to raise subscription rates to \$1.50 a year. He also mandated that, "only paid subscribers" would receive the paper. In 1942 Mr. Sloan took over management of the Moose Lake Star Gazette when Herman W. Sisco, editor and manager of that paper, joined the navy. Mr. Sloan agreed to publish both papers to, "Maintain the interests of both of our communities. "

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The shortage in the work force created innovative thinking on the part of businessmen. A self-service system was installed at the Farmers' Co-op Store. Customers waited on themselves and then brought their goods to a cashier whose desk was located in the center of the store and settlement was made. "It's rather strange, wandering about," one citizen confessed to the Herald, "but interesting to handle the goods before buying."

Shortage of materials as copper and zinc forced Northwestern Bell to announce to Barnum consumers in the Herald:

The nation depends on metals. Defense weapons and telephone lines and equipment contain a great deal of copper, aluminum, zinc and other metals. National defense is taking much of the available supply. Already the telephone business is using substitutes for copper in wires in cities and between towns. Soon we may not be able to get any copper for additional telephone plants except as it is considered essential to the national defense.

Poor service and delays in the same were the direct result of the metal shortage.

Shortly after the declaration of war, the urgency of purchasing War Bonds and Stamps was impressed upon each citizen. In a message to Congress, reprinted in the Herald, President Roosevelt stated:

The American people know that if we would raise the billions which we now need to pay for both tires and gas by utilizing a "one-horse" powered mail wagon. Irish Johnson, one of the local mail carriers, did his "Bit" and rationed the war and at the same time prevent a

disastrous rise in the cost of living, we shall have to double and more than double the scale of our savings. Every dime and dollar not virtually needed for absolute necessities should go into War Bonds and Stamps to add to the striking power of our Armed Forces.

As with rationing, the school system was called upon to lend assistance in the Bond and Stamp Drive. The Barnum public school started their Bond and Stamp Drive in a whirlwind fashion. Students bought Stamps totaling \$44474. The first drive climaxed the efforts of the movie industry to stimulate sales and, as a result, the entire Barnum student body was treated to a free shot at the Lake Theater sponsored by owner Wait Lower.

During the second drive, the students purchased \$1,165 worth of stamps and bonds, enough to purchase one jeep for the armed forces. One week prior to the end of the drive the stu-

dent body was short \$609 of their goal. Coach Oageson stepped into the breach and announced to everyone that, if the student body would subscribe enough to purchase the jeep, he would sing a solo in front of the entire assembly. Apparently the coach's reputation as a singer was phenomenal as the drive was completed in a rush. The requests for his solo ranged from "Pistol Packin Mama," "Paper Doll" to "White Christma. "

Barnum's school system was busy with activities outside of Bond Drives. The Northern Division Championship of District 25 Basketball tournament was held at the high school. The Barnum boys took the three day tourney and went on to District Playoffs. Later, an Independent Basketball tournament sponsored by Barnum businessmen, was held at the school. All proceeds were turned over to the Boy Scout Local 169.

The Senior Class of 1942 presented the play, "Don't Take My Penny, " the 17 member cast was the largest in the history of any Barnum school production.

That same year the Mesque and Gavel Society was organized at the High School. The group's goal was to provide High School students with a, "Motivation for continuing progress in the uses of the oral language. "

All was not peaceful in the school district and soon a small war was ignited on Barnum's homefront. During a March School Board meeting, the members voted 4 to 2 to dispense with the services of Superintendent O.A. Homme at the close of the school year. Certain partisans of the Superintendent proceeded to raise a protest and informed Board members, "where to get off. " This sector formed a Concerned Citizens' Committee, held special meetings, drew up petitions and mailed notices to all district voters inviting them to a mass citizens' meeting at the school. This meeting just happened to be scheduled on the same night, at the same time, as the School Board meeting. Not all district citizens were receptive to the Committee's speaking for the majority. One citizen wrote an open letter to the Committee which was carried in the Herald. This person stated that he resented a small group stating they represented his interests when, in fact, he had not granted them permission to do so.

The School Board meeting was "packed to the rafters." A heated debate ensued with members of the audience who supported Mr. Homme applauding every word the Committee spokes person issued. The group would stand, wave their fists and shout, "BOO" when Board members addressed the audience.

Despite the extreme pressure placed upon them, their earlier decision and unintimidated and voted unanimously to uphold their earlier decision and to proceed with hiring a new superintendent. W.L. Docken, who had served for several years as High School Principal, accepted the offered position. E.H. Aagesen replaced Mr. Docken as Principal.

The High School's homecoming celebration remained unaffected by governmental restraints in October of 1943. The kick off event was a parade which formed in the Village Park and marched down Main Street ending at the football field. The parade, consisting of floats and acts, was led by the Boy Scout Color Guard and the High School Band. The event was termed "a caps off day for Barnum, " with the football team defeating Rush City 20 to 6, capturing the District Football Championship once again. Following the game, enthusiastic fans retired to the school for coffee and doughnuts.

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Shortly after the grand celebration, the federal government restricted school busses from transporting students to athletic games, state or county fairs or similar events. In short, the busses could transport students to and from school only.

The first formal prom in many years was held at the school in 1943, its theme being The Old Fashioned Garden. Spring rains had flooded the gym, but with perseverance and elbow grease, the students bailed out the room and the dance proceeded as scheduled.

The school system was not alone in feeling the ever increasing pressure of restrictions and demands of the government mandates. In early 1942 farmers were informed that permits would be required for any farm construction. Those wishing to construct homes costing more than \$500 or out-buildings costing more than \$1,000 were required to file for a permit. The U.S.D.A. was charged with the responsibility of stopping "nonessential" agricultural construction. In turn, the farmers were required to prove that the proposed construction was absolutely essential to their agricultural production. Farmers were also notified that, if they neglected to voluntarily turn scrap iron and steel over to government officials it would be seized off their property. In May, 1943, Carlton County's Scrap Metal quota was set at 1200 tons. Collecting trucks were sent out to rural areas in the belief that most of the scrap was tucked away on farms. Farmers were informed that only spare parts likely to be used by them for repairs could be saved, the rest was to be turned in for governmental use.

Reports received from the University Farm indicated that every ounce of food or feed raised in Carlton County was to be harvested and put to good use if residents desired to avoid a serious food shortage. At the same time, Carlton County was struggling under the most serious labor shortage in its history. Businessmen, factory workers, children—everyone not already occupied full time on a farm or incapacitated—offered their services to help get up bumper crops. The Barnum school was closed for two days to allow students to work on area farms. The serious shortage of men on dairy and livestock farms in Minnesota prompted the State Draft Boards to defer further induction of young men who were employed on those establishments.

Compounding the rationing, labor shortage and restrictions, a heavy wave of thievery hit the local farms. Farmers were warned to be on the alert at all times and report any observations of suspicious appearing persons to the local sheriff. The thieves had been transporting stolen livestock at night and gassing chicken houses in order to steal poultry in an easy manner. It was believed that the thieves were members of a black market operating in the area.

Barnum farmers were angered by the John L. Lewis Mine Workers-United Dairy Farmers Association's demands to eliminate the agricultural County Agent System and for heavier taxation on Co-operative stores. Farmers believed strongly in the benefits the County Agent System provided and had fought a long, hard battle to have an Agent located in the area.

One of the County Agent's jobs during the war was to promote good nutrition. Parents were urged to "feed the family for health, morale and victory." A campaign was started to enlist hundreds of men and women in the county as leaders in the Victory Drive's goal of having every family properly fed. The agent, George Chambers, initiated training sessions in Barnum to instruct citizens in the choice of foods, utilization of homegrown foods and preparation of food for the best family health. In his weekly column found in the Herald Mr. Chambers stated, "Raising food at home is

going to be in style this year for both the farm family and the family in town with a large back yard. “

Among the difficulties farmers faced, there was little progress made in the fight against oleo margarine. An order issued by Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt in 1941 allowed manufacturers of oleo to include certain ingredients which made the product nearly an exact imitation of butter.

Seizure of the Island of Guernsey in the English Channel created concern in Barnum for the future of the Guernsey breed of cattle. With Germany's conquest over the small island, Barnum farmers wondered if the “Nazi appetite” would make the breed extinct.

Dotted among farmers' worries and hardships were moments of reward and pride. In 1942 a cow belonging to Robert Putzke qualified for admission to the advanced Register of the American Guernsey Cattle Club. J.L. Doan was given the honor of being recognized as the outstanding Guernsey Leader of the United States in 1942 by the American Guernsey Club. Rose Hill Clara, a Guernsey owned by Carl Hansen, completed a milk record making her “Queen of all Minnesota Guernseys in the American Cattle Club. “

Barnum's reputation as a Guernsey Center was enhanced by the purchase of a number of choice cows for Stephen Early's farm near Baltimore, Maryland. Early was a private secretary to President Roosevelt.

The entertainment business, while faced with problems, did not neglect their duties to help win the war. Walt Disney produced several animated features starring his cartoon characters, chiefly Donald Duck, promoting citizens' patriotism. Locally, theaters held “Scrap Drive Shows” where children who delivered designated items to the school were given free admission passes. One show, called a Copper Matinee, was held at the Lake Theater. A complete show, including feature and short subject, was presented free to all school children who had delivered a scrap of copper to their respective school. The movie was Talk Of The Town, starring Cary Grant and Jean Arthur, accompanied by a color cartoon and news reel. One of the more popular movies shown during a scrap drive show in 1943 was a feature length cartoon Salu Dos Amigos produced by Walt Disney. That December the Scrap Show was Holiday Inn.

Women's fashions which had reflected the impact of the war by the general restraint shown in the styles' subdued colors and inconspicuous lines in 1941 gave way to more shocking, and definitely less modest, fashions in 1943. At that time fashion swung outrageously toward the bare midriff, slim skirts and large hats. By 1949 a new bathing suit from Paris would set the village back on its heels. The suit was known as the bikini.

At the outset of the war a few surrounding counties canceled their annual fair. The Carlton County Board of Directors believed that the Fair was needed even more than ever by the local citizens. It had been the request of Joseph E. Eastman, Director of Defense Transportation, that all fairs be cancelled. This request was discussed by the Board and found to be in direct conflict with the express wish of President Roosevelt and Secretary of Agriculture Wickard. During the 1942 Fair all patriotic organizations as the USO, Red Cross and Civilian Defense were in attendance to promote their

activities. Two Minnesota boys, the Plehol Brothers, who had a national reputation for their harmonica playing, were featured at the Grand Stand. Saturday was Thrill Day. Smokey Harris, "a colored daredevil" and his troop of All American Thrill Aces entertained with death defying stunts in cars and motorcycles. Sunday was designated as Music Day and a 120 piece Kilt Brass and Accordion Band was featured. To kick off the 51st Fair, a Nations On Parade consisting of three production numbers and circus acts performed in front of the Grand Stand. A.H. Dathe was given credit for much of the success of the fairs and, in 1943, was chosen as Head of the State Exposition by the Minnesota Agricultural Society.

Organizations played an important role in Barnum's lifestyle during the war years. The Flower and Garden Club had grown and its members' efforts well rewarded at the Fair. The local Boy Scout Troop 169 continued collecting scrap copper, paper and rubber to donate to the war effort. The ODD Fellows continued meeting, the Legion strove toward helping the "boys overseas." In 1942 the first Santa Day was sponsored by the Commercial Club. Arrangements were made with Mr. Alberg, Manager of the Barnum Theater, to run a free movie. The Red Cross doubled their efforts and helped the Carlton County Local Red Cross to sew 4,000 Red Cross garments. Barnum citizens supported the Red Cross and helped the group exceed its projected monetary goal of \$50 in 1943. A Victory Book Campaign was initiated by various members of the community. Contributors could drop off their donation of books at either the school library or Solheim's Hardware. The donated reading material was to be shipped overseas to help enlisted men pass the long, lonely hours away from home. In 1942 the Willow River and Barnum Presbyterian Churches united, making a two-point parish unit.

In January of 1942 President Roosevelt declared a war on the home front against a more personal enemy to those left at home—Poliomyelitis. During one of his Fire Side Chats, F.D.R. stated, "Strong children make a strong community. A strong community makes a strong nation." Naturally, a strong nation had strong national defense. Citizens in Barnum were well aware that polio was rapidly becoming a number one killer of young children. In response to the President's plea for all out combat against the disease, the Barnum American Legion sponsored an Anti-Polio Program. The Benefit Program was held at the school; the evening's entertainment provided by village residents. Dr. Blakely and Father Schmitz presented lectures. Mrs. Richard Upgroove gave a "splendid performance of several vocal numbers." Among the students who participated were Gertrude Fetters and Helen Saukko with susaphone and trombone solos. Ladean Overlie of the faculty addressed the audience on, "The Value of Helping Others."

With increased rationing came a new problem in the form of food poisoning. Pressure cookers were rationed on a non-quota basis, only 150,000 cookers were manufactured nationwide in 1942. Rationing of canned goods had begun earlier in the year. Every member of a household could hold in possession only five cans of fruit or vegetables without suffering penalties. Penalties for over stocking included the loss of an eight point stamp for each can in excess of five per person and was to be enforced by the grocery stores where villagers shopped. The residents were informed that the plan was designed to discourage the increasing problem of hoarding. Consequently, poor canning methods at home were common. In May, 1943, a Community Canning Project was opened in Barnum to aide in the production, conservation and processing of food for farm families. Estimated charges for this service, including the cost of the cans, was 3 cents per can. Families brought in their produce according to a schedule announced weekly, prepared and packed food into cans and then processed the staples under the supervision and guidance of the Plant Manager. During a three day period in August 1,400 jars of fruit and berries were processed at the Cannery.

Personal tragedy was never far away from the villagers' life and on a Wednesday evening it was brought even closer when William Howard Cain, aged 48, was found dead on the sidewalk in front of the Barnum Hotel. Cain, the night police officer for Barnum, had apparently suffered a cerebral hemorrhage while making his rounds. Foul play was suggested as a cause of death; but after County Coroner's examination and County Attorney Yetka's investigation, Cain's death was found to be from natural causes. The Herald noted, "Never have we seen a community whose feelings were so wrought upon as was evidenced in Barnum last Thursday a.m. when it became known that William Cain had passed away while attending to his duties as night officer. All day long there was a pall cast over this community. "

Blackouts, which initially created a disruption in the village, soon became an accepted part of the resident's lifestyle. The periodic drills reminded them of the tragedies that were occurring in the European War Theater. Prior to well announced, "unscheduled, " blackouts being held, the Herald posted guidelines for the drills:

1) DO NOT try to call the Control Center for information. This is important because our lines become so plugged with calls from lonesome people calling from dark rooms when these lines should be open for use for official calls from Duluth, Minneapolis, and Moose Lake.

2. Use your phones only for emergencies.

3. Learn your signals well. A two minute long blast means houses and buildings black-out, cars drive with dim lights on, pedestrians and busses continue on their way. Short two minute blasts mean pedestrians get under cover [This means INSIDE NOT in porches or doorways], cars stop with lights out and passengers take cover, buildings continue black. One short blast means all clear. Traffic moves. Full lights.

Even though all homes were to be completely blacked out, when Amos and Andy's program was aired on the radio there were a few families who moved the radio to a back room and risked the small dial light on the radio in order not to miss a minute of their favorite show.

On December 14, 1942, Minnesota prepared to participate in a nine state blackout which was to begin at 10 p.m. and continue until 10:20 p.m. that evening. The Herald informed readers:

It is especially necessary that Carlton County be listed as one of the counties in the state that did its patriotic duty. Farm districts will be very helpful to a successful conclusion of the blackout if every person will consider himself or herself a duly appointed patriot and pass on the word to his neighbor. All lights in farm yards and farm buildings should be extinguished

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during the blackout period as well as all lights in cities and villages.

The much advertised "surprise" blackout was termed a success in Barnum. R.S. Goodell who was in charge of the air wardens had his force well organized having sent notices to

every household in the village. Only one violation was cited. A driver of a large commercial truck attempted to run through town with his lights extinguished rather than park beside the road until the all clear was issued. William Brietbach, Sr., on duty at the north end of town on Highway 61, stopped the driver and informed him to wait until the all clear was given.

The second blackout was considered equally as successful in terms of residents dousing all lights. When the signal came, the street lights turned off which was the cue for the public to darken their residences. During that exercise a car with a siren was driven about town to warn people that the blackout was in effect. This car, driven without lights, collided with a car from Mahtowa, also without lights on, which was attempting to sneak through Barnum during the restricted time.

Barnum villagers followed the war's progress closely. In 1942 the Japanese captured the Philippines, the Battle of Midway occurred, the North African campaign began. These battles, skirmishes and victories had a meaning to the villagers. They, along with the rest of Carlton County, had a vested interest in 1,950 men in uniform by 1943. Governor Harold E. Stassen resigned the governorship to join the armed forces, the first man in that position to do so in Minnesota's history.

Journalist Don Wiek, whose column appeared routinely in the Herald, summed up the citizens' feelings toward the Nazi's Supreme Leader. "We submit that Adolph's genius lay in his ability to steal other people's ideas, wrap them up in one package and deliver the package according to schedule. Hitler is the Devil's mailman, and his victims pay the postage. 11

Of great concern to the villagers were the restrictions placed on written communication with those fighting across the sea. The Office of Censorship in Washington, D.C. warned, "if you know what ship a sailor is on or what company or regiment a soldier is with overseas, then you know a military secret which may we// turn the tide against the U.S. " Families at home spent months wondering where their son was located and worrying about his safety. In 1943 rigid guidelines were enforced on parcels mailed to the men in service. No parcel could exceed five pounds or 36 inches in length and girth combined. Only packages containing articles sent at the specific request of the addressee and approved by a Commanding Officer would be accepted. That same year the Red Cross announced that it was unable to accept private orders for special Christmas packages for U.S. Servicemen held prisoner in enemy countries. 10,000 special boxes for those men were prepared and paid for by the Army and Navy. Personal gift parcels could be mailed directly to prisoners by using labels provided by the government, but needed to be shipped by October of that year. Whether loved ones received the parcels remained a question in villagers' minds.

The Felgen's received word that Erwin was cited for bravery under fire. The Herald's article read:

When the Japs attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Erwin Felgen, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Felgen of Barnum, was employed in the Naval Yard there as an electrician. During the action a cable was put out of commission and Erwin was one of those directed to make the necessary repairs. For this bravery he received a citation from the Government.

Erwin was an example of the many young men who displayed heroism and valor during the long siege.

Another young man, Private George S. Carlson, received recognition in a different manner. An article wired to the Herald from the Press Service in England read:

Even though he walks around with his head in the upper altitudes, a Shiverham American University coreman has managed to have his share of headaches in the Army.

Private George S. Carlson, who hails from Barnum, Minnesota, is 6 foot 8 inches tall, one of the biggest men in the U.S. Army. When he goes to bed at night he has to pull out a specially made contraption so his feet won't be sticking out in the cold. A motor pool sergeant once tried to make a driver out of him, but he [Carlson] couldn't get his knees under the dashboard and on his first road test he couldn't connect with the footbrake. That trip wound up in the ditch. Because of his size, clothing has been a problem. When he was inducted at Ft. Snelling, Minnesota, he walked around with leggings covering the exposed gap between the bottom of his pants and his G.I. shoes until a 37 inch length trousers could be procured for him.

Carlson, now assigned to the Guard Co. at S.A. U., admits his height helped him once or twice. When he was a mere stripling in High School at Barnum he stood 6 foot 7 inches tall. The High School, with him as center, won every basketball contest they played in the State League.

But, Carlson's biggest beef is Army Regulation MR-19, paragraph 130. Says he, "That regulation says a man over 78 inches can't be in the army. What am I—a stowaway?"

For a time Carlson was believed the tallest man in the U.S. Army. He was bumped down to second place by a young man from Texas who topped Carlson by one inch.

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Letters, some requiring censorship, some not, began pouring into the Herald and private residences toward the end of

1942. Many of the letters were headed, "Somewhere in Australia — Africa — Germany — England — An Island. " Ed Clough, a rural mail carrier, handled such communication as Charles A. Schubert's letter, passed by Censor on May 31, 1943:

This is to let you know that I am receiving your paper. I have been stationed at - - - - - overseas for about one and one-half years and am in good health. We have a hard job ahead of us and I feel certain that our people at home are backing us 100% and hope for a speedy return to all of us.

Another letter from the South Seas was passed by Censor May, 1943:

In our last letter we were unable to mention where we were stationed. We were stationed on the Island of New Caledonia and were there approximately ten months. We have recently left and are unable to give our location now.

The continued tropical heat sure isn't the healthiest of climates. We are hoping every-day for the war to end so we can get back to the good old U.S.A. When we do get back it will take us some time to get used to the northern climate again, which we won't mind at all.

As news is plentiful, but unable to write, will close for this time. Hoping this finds everyone fine back there and hope it isn't too long before we get back with all.

Tech. Srgt. Clifford Sather and Tech. Cpl. Norman Waseen

Warren Daily wrote on a Saturday, May 1, 1943:

I have now traveled from one coast to another and am waiting the completing of the new ship on which I will make my stand. I have long awaited this opportunity to get to sea and put to work my 28 weeks of basic and advanced torpedo training. I have so much to fight for that I'm sure I'll like the sea, no matter what she casts up against me. My main intention is to do my utmost to get this hellish war over with quickly so that all of us peace loving people can get back together again.

Bob Starr, who was stationed in "Africa or there abouts," wrote to his parents August 13, 1943:

Hey! Today was Friday the 13th. I say "was" because the most important, and I may well say, dangerous, part of the day has come and gone. I made my 13th raid on Friday the 13th. Now let me hear someone say Friday the 13th is unlucky. We never lost a ship and you'd never guess what we hit. I don't dare tell you for it might be my neck.

Melvin Rudebeck wrote from "Somewhere in England:"

I am in England and like it quite well here. My greatest trouble was getting used to the blackouts and the exchange of money was quite a problem at first. I am in the same camp as Buzz Hart of Moose Lake so we can talk over old times. I sure hope to listen in on the football games as we hear the series is now being played We have our arguments over them in regard to who will win.

From "Somewhere" Norman Waseen wrote:

We are giving the job all we have and want to get this war won—fast. One thing soldiers never seem to get enough of is letters. Letters from family, from the girlfriend, from the boy at work, from anybody. News, of course, would be plentiful here, but due to military secrets, it's scarce.

By mid-1943 the United States was making post-war plans. The American Red Cross put forth an all-out effort to establish aside for the vets who would be returning to adjust once again to civilian life. Post war planning meetings were held in Carlton County, with several being held at the Barnum Village Hall. The group's aim was to provide jobs for returning servicemen and also persons thrown out of employment when the cessation of the war occurred, and to curb any chance of another depression. County Agent Beneditz announced the appointment of a Co-Advisory Committee to assist returning servicemen establish in farming and to ease back into a normal civilian life.

The close of the war appeared immanent when Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met on December 1, 1943, in Teheran, Iran and reached a complete agreement to, "Strip Japan of her stolen empire;" but the war was to continue on. By January 4, 1944 there were 61,126 service casualties reported.

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1 doz. raised doughnuts — 14 cents

Barnum's prediction for the New Year read, "This New Year we're beginning, maybe, the decisive year of the war. The Pacific offensive already is under way, aimed at the heart of the enemy." The citizens had reason for optimism in 1943 as the Americans had captured Guadal Canal, the Soviets had defeated the Germans at Stalingrad and the Allied Powers had launched an invasion in Italy. During 1944 the Allies would invade Normandy while the Americans would recapture the Philippines.

The war continued to produce uncomfortable effects on the homefront. A price comparison was run in the Herald to prove to villagers that inflation was slowly, but steadily, creeping up on them.

Sold in W.W.I —1918 W.W.II—1943

picnic hams -.22 cents lb. .35 cents lb.

loaf of large bread -.07 cents .14 cents

.25 cents

In 1943 the ration value of butter increased from 20 to 24 points, creating a decline in its production. The commodity already was not equal in cost of production to other farm commodities, and the increased ration value discouraged people from investing the precious ration stamps in butter. The spring dairying production was in an "alarming state." Machinery was breaking down, replacement parts nearly impossible to locate. The lack of manpower on farms was beginning to take its toll, farmers who were already putting extraordinary long hours felt it impossible to, "keep up the pace. | |

By 1945 the county faced a meat shortage. Cause for the shortage were cited as a decrease in hog production, lack of incentives for bringing cattle to market, a 10% decrease in poultry numbers while a sharp rise in government purchase was seen, and an overwhelming increase in the civilian buying power. Black market operations were complicating the meat distribution plan. A price sealing was implemented on beef; the top price which could be charged for beef was 26 cents a pound. To resolve the meat dilemma the State War Board appointed a State Marketing Supervisor.

Meat and poultry were not the only targets for Black market business. Counterfeiting of gasoline and sugar rationing coupons were unbalancing the entire rationing system and bogus stamps were selling at top prices. Although the consumption of alcohol was legal, the sugar needed to manufacture it was severely restricted. The illegal use of millions of pounds of sugar for "Bathtub Gin," or moonshine, depleted the grocery store's supply of sugar. The "Feds" were routinely reporting disruption of anti-ration plots and raids on "Gin Houses."

On March 14, 1945, the Solid Fuel Administration for War Issued Regulation #26 making it mandatory for every coal consumer to sign a consumer declaration on or before May 15, 1945. Retail dealers were not to make delivery of coal after May 15 unless a signed consumer declaration was on file in the distributor's office. Consumers were limited to 80% of what they normally required to heat their homes.

A new State Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Law was passed during the 1945 Minnesota Legislative session. Under the new directive a driver involved in an auto accident must: 1) Stop immediately and disclose his identity; 2) Notify police or the sheriff in case of "personal injury or death"; and 3) Report the accident within 24 hours to the Commissioner of Highways in St. Paul. If these steps were not followed, the violator's driver's license was to be suspended pending investigation.

Barnum's local government was also in a state of change. In 1945 the first Cemetery Commission was set up by the Council. H.J. Stevens, H.J. Solheim, L.W. Rhoads, Henry Hanson and G. Johnson formulated the first Board. Sanitary conditions went under the scrutiny of the Council. Citizens were informed that the accumulation of ashes, garbage, refuse or any other debris or organic matter that would decay and become offensive or injurious to the public health would not be permitted between May 1st and November 1st of each year.

In 1945 Dr. Lester Johnson, Dentist, left Barnum to accept a position on the faculty of the College of Dentistry of Baylor University, Dallas, Texas. Edna Hullander sold the Hullander Super-Service Station to Leslie Duerenberger of Duluth. R.S. Goodell opened the State Farm Mutual Insurance Co. in town. The Barnum Herald was forced to cut the size and volume of the paper due to the severe paper shortage. Local restaurants and hotels suffered under the ceiling prices on meats and beverages.

The Land O' Lakes Creameries, Inc. canceled their annual business meeting in order to comply with the Office of Defense Transportation's directive which sought to conserve wartime transportation by the banning of conventions.

On May 10th of 1945 the Herald could report:

Well, the end of the war in Germany has come!

Tuesday, announcement was made that the German forces have surrendered unconditionally to the United Nations, U.S., England and Russia.

GLORY HALLELUJAH!

Never has a nation been so thoroughly whipped as that of der Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, the Master Fiend. Many of the German leaders have been captured, but the whereabouts of Hitler are a quandry. Reports are that he has made a successful get-away, has committed suicide or was killed in action in Berlin. No one knows definitely.

Action because of the end of the war in Germany has already made itself apparent. The "brown out" has been cancelled, the curfew has been revoked, there is a prospect of additional allowance of gasoline to civilians, resumption of manufacturing of several articles is to be permitted.

Everyone is pleased with the conditions, but fully aware that the war is only half over. Japan must first be subjugated.

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Movement of American troops from Europe to the Pacific war area is said to have already begun. Japan is far from being defeated, yet, but the end of the war with Germany will undoubtedly hasten the end of the war in the Pacific.

Let us fervently hope so.

Tuesday evening a union meeting for Thanksgiving was held at the school house at which an expression of joy at winning a victory from the Nazi government was made. Prayer was offered for lasting peace.

In 1945 the nation was saddened by President Roosevelt's death, but voiced confidence in Truman's ability. Adolf Hitler did indeed commit suicide in his bunker. The war in the Pacific raged on with Americans surging ahead and eventually capturing Okinawa.

With a single bomb, then known as the A-Bomb, the United States incinerated a four mile area at the center of Japan's Hiroshima. A second bomb hit Nagasaki. Japan, devastated by the air raids, surrendered aboard the Battleship Missouri.

Minnesota had seen 4,399 of her Northstar soldiers die in battle or from injuries received in battle. 302 were listed as missing in action, 383 soldiers died in prison camps.

Not long after Germany's surrender the Herald reported:

WORLD WAR I/ IS ENDED!

Great was the rejoicing when last Tuesday morning the radio announced that the Jap's reply to the United Nation's ultimatum was on its way to neutral Switzerland, to be transmitted to the U.S., England and Russia - The Big Three. It was also strongly hinted that the Japanese government had acquiesced to the terms of the ultimatum. It was not until early evening; however, that the formalities were completed and President Truman could announce to the waiting world that the surrender was true. At the same time the British and Russian governments made similar announcements.

Metropolitan communities went wild over the news while in the rural communities and smaller cities the news was received more quietly and little enthusiasm was shown until the official announcement had been made in Washington. Here in Barnum business places closed on Wednesday and many flags were displayed

Immediate results followed the surrender - censorship was abolished, rationing of canned goods, gasoline and fuel oil revoked.

The Boys will soon be back home - let the people rejoice.

A letter received from Roger Blakely depicted how the news of surrender was received in the Pacific.

... and, at last, just a few minutes ago, we heard it on the radio. "President Truman has just announced that Japan has surrendered.

These last few days - I've never known anything like it, First, the news of the frightful, new atomic bomb, then Russia's a's declaration of war, the President's bold, direct statement last Friday, "Nothing will stop us but the Japanese surrender, then the rumors of peace, the agonizing hours of waiting - hours that stretched into days - and at last this morning the end.

The first news couldn't have come to our bomb group more dramatically. It was last Friday after midnight. All the crews gathered for a briefing with a flight over Japan a few hours away. Then the Colonel walked into the room and said, "Japan has asked for surrender. The mission is canceled. " After the cheering and whistling, he warned us that this was only a preliminary negotiation and did not mean the end of the war and we were all to go back to our tents; go to bed and not get drunk. So everybody has been waiting soberly and hopefully the last few days as through we couldn't believe our good fortune. It's still hard to believe. I'll write more later - when I calm down.

The local garages encouraged everyone to keep their cars in good repair - but not everyone heeded the advice. A careless driver rolled his vehicle (top); but Rudebeck's Garage was able to repair the damage (bottom).

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Later Roger had the opportunity to fly over the devastated areas of Japan and informed his family:

So this is Japan, I thought, this is the country we've beaten. A neat, green industrious land given no evidence from the air of the evils that have come out of it. Suddenly, the fields and woods gave way to city blocks and we knew we were in a city. You could see a pattern of streets and avenues, a building here and there, but mostly acres and acres of red ashes. I would be easy to imagine that this was a prehistoric city, just recently unearthed by geologists.

One of the immediate effects of victory, aside from the lifting of rationing and curfews, was not taken as a positive move by the villagers. By mid-May the Cannery was closed. Notice was given that, due to the changing course of the war following Germany's surrender, Community Canneries would no longer be funded by the Food Production War Training Program. The Barnum Board of Education, responding hew and cry of the citizens and organizations, voted to reopen the Cannery. A copy of the decision and many accompanying letters of protest to the Department of Food Production caused government officials to reconsider their decree. The Cannery was reopened for a thirteen week run, July through October.

With the ending of the war, business in downtown Barnum began picking up. Weekly, more and more ads for

specials" and "sales" offered by various merchants were seen in the Herald. Once rationed commodities began slowly being placed on the open market. Unfortunately, the merchan-

dise was more costly than during the pre-war years.

In 1945 Barnum warmly greeted a new dentist. Dr. W.G. Johnson from Carlton opened his dentistry in the old Ziebler Building. By 1948, Dr. Johnson had left the village and Dr. 1. Frankel of Minneapolis took over the practice.

With the lifting of gas and tire rationing the Greyhound Lines changed the bus schedule to five north and south bound runs a day. The bus line informed villagers that, "All trips are operating considerably faster, giving greatly improved service between communities and towns on the route."

In 1946 the State Bank of Barnum passed the million dollar mark and joined the Federal Reserve. As of May 1, 1947, the Barnum Bank discontinued the standard practice of mailing statements to customers who lived within the village limits. The same year Henry Johnson disposed of his interests in the bank and, after holding the position of Cashier for twenty-one years, retired. Mr. Mike, well known in Barnum as he had worked in the bank for a short period of time and was married to H.C. Hanson's daughter, took over the position.

Barnum residents were saddened to see Dathe and Company close its doors in 1946. Hans and Bob Solheim bought the vacated building and proceeded to remodel. The newly remodeled store offered 2,500 feet of salesroom for farm supplies and major appliances and additional 2,500 feet for sporting goods, tools, housewares, auto and plumbing supplies and a "sparkling new gift section." At the same time, Solheims joined the Marshall-Wells chain, believing that they could offer Barnumites the greatest variety at the lowest prices through association with the chain.

During that time Mr. Gerlach closed his grocery in the Goodell building. Robert Goodell, who had assumed the family business, decided to remodel and modernize the entire building. Four comfortable apartments were made on the second floor. On the lower level, Robert and his wife, Florence, opened a variety store. A concrete block building was added to the construction to house a furnace and hot water system. LeRoy Goodell, Robert's brother, who was a master electrician rewired the building and installed thermostats in each room.

L.H. Durenburger sold his vested interests in his service station to Mr. and Mrs. Aine Afte of Duluth. Rudebeck's Motor Company opened a new store which carried a full stock of used army and navy merchandise. "All used material laundered and renovated," the Barnum people were assured. Cotton Gloves sold for 24 cents a pair, Reindeer Air Corps Gloves (Sheeplined) were \$3.00. An Army H.B.T. Jacket cost \$1.50 while Army Flight Jackets went for \$20.00.

L.W. Rhoades purchased all controlling interests in the Carlton County Block Company formally owned by V.W. Thompson. The company employed a crew of 17 men. In 1949 H.J. Stevens took over the company.

In 1947 J.P. (Joe) Felgen remodeled his Coffee Shop which was known far and wide for its excellent service. A partition was erected, making two rooms from the one. Felgen "fitted up" one with solid black walnut showcases and stocked them with his line of merchandise consisting of certain patent medicines, toilet articles and magazines. Joe retained the agency for Northland Greyhound Bus Service. The other section was opened under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Wekseth. The interior was refinished, new booths installed and the establishment reopened as "Ma's Coffee Shop."

Stevens' Garage was opened for business in the old Cannery Building with H.J. Stevens as owner in 1947. In 1949 Mr. Onnie Jarvi opened a shoe repair shop. The Barnum Novelty Company was organized and owned by Andy Anderson and Carl Meyer. Their main product manufactured was bird houses made from large logs. The company received 2,000 contracts for the houses which sold for 85 cents each wholesale, \$1.65 on the market. The Rubys expanded their business and opened Ruby's Red Owl during the same year. Barnum received the services of a medical practitioner in 1949 when Dr. Martin Munson opted to establish his practice in the village. In 1948 Edward Stevens received appointment as the new Barnum Postmaster.

At A time Stevens took over the Post Office, the postmaster was required to purchase all office equipment—the desk, chair, post office boxes and the clock—at a cost of \$350. A dispute over the clock arose one day when Clements Hanson, who was employed in the Bank, retrieved the time piece stating it was the Bank's property. Stevens promptly visited the financial institution, explained in clear terms the in's and out's of the postal business and returned the clock to its proper place in the Post Office.

When, in 1947, the Northwestern Bell exchange operators went on strike the telephone business began to slowly grind to a halt. The strike was soon resolved, but the corporation immediately asked to be granted a rate increase. The increased operating expenses due to the "Third Round" Wage increase of its employees and the urgent need for

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establishing a level of earnings sufficient to enable the business to obtain from investors the large amounts of money required to expand services were given as reasons for the request. The new Barnum rates were \$2.75 for a private line and \$2.25 for a four party line on a monthly basis.

M.P. & L. soon followed suit and raised electric rates, the first increase in the company's history. During its 25 year life the rates had been reduced many times. In 1948 wages were up 64%, coal up 74% and the company could not afford those services and the present rate of income. Barnum residents' electrical bills went up less than a penny a day.

In 1947 the Herald's publication was suspended from August of that year to October 1948. In the October 21, 1948 issue Mr. Sloan bid farewell to his faithful subscribers and friends:

In August, 1947, 1 completely broke down and was ordered to discontinue work of any kind. Through the kindly interest of Charles R. Grace, Charles L. Allen — Assistant Dean of the Medvill School of Journalism at Evanston, ILL—, H.L. Lord, R. S. Goodell and J. T. Rudebeck a prospective buyer was found in Owen A. Rood, Jr., a student of Medvill. After visiting Barnum, he purchased the Herald and took possession of the plant in person in September. He is a young man of excellent reputation, fully competent to carry the Herald on to further fields of usefulness. He will be able assisted by his wife.

I wish to express my gratitude to the many people who have loyally supported the Herald while it was under my administration and to commend to Mr. and Mrs. Roods the same confidence and support that has been given to me.

Shortly after Roods took over management of the Herald the paper was thrust into a

heated dispute. In protest of the Carlton County Vidette being awarded "1st Paper Of The County" the Herald withdrew its bid for "2nd Paper." The Moose Lake and Cloquet papers declined the Carlton Commissioners' offer of that position following the Herald's withdrawal. A heated debate between the Commissioners and the paper was taken up. The Commissioners, who claimed that the Herald's withdrawal was illegal, threatened to press suit against Editor Rood. Rood contended that, as the Commissioners had offered the position to two other papers after the Herald's withdrawal had officially recognized and accepted as legal the paper's stand. The Moose Lake Star Gazette also had a \$17,000 libel suit filed against it by the Commissioners on the grounds that the editor had ruined their reputations. Both lawsuits went to court. After a long, embittered battle the Gazette was cleared of charges as was the Herald. Mr. Roods was awarded the position of "1st Paper Of The County" as a result of the court ruling.

The summer of '48 was hit by the worst drought in 77 years. Farmers agreed that, "if the drought doesn't get it (the crops) the 'hoppers will." Crops that hadn't withered under the intense heat and died from lack of moisture were under attack by hordes of grasshoppers. Clifford Benson described the invasion which took place between his farm and Clarence Gustafson's. The hatching was the biggest Benson had ever seen. "There must have been millions of them. There were hundreds of them to the square foot-nine and ten to each stalk of timothy."

The village of Barnum was notified of a serious electric power shortage existing in the area. Because of extremely dry weather during the summer, by October the water reservoirs supplying a large part of the electrical power were dangerously low. R.A. Solheim, then Mayor of Barnum, decreed that an immediate, substantial cut in the use of electric current by all consumers-residence, business or industrial-to avoid an extremely serious condition. If voluntary

In 1947, Joe Felgen remodeled the Felgen Building and rented out one side to the Rudolf Wasketh's. Wasketh's new restaurant was known as "Me's Coffee Shop," shown in the foreground. On the left of "Ma's" was the Felgen Garage and on the right was Felgen Variety. At the end of the block, next to Ruby's Red Owl, stood the Marshall Well's (Solheim's) Variety.

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reduction was not seen, Solheim reported, the necessity would arise to parole the available electric current and cut off of sharply reduce some classes of service. The villagers put forth heroic efforts and averted what may well have been an environmental and economic disaster.

Despite the drought and grasshoppers farmers continued to do an outstanding job in the agricultural world, and their efforts were justly noted by the outside world. Journalist Russell Asleson wrote a feature story for the Minneapolis Tribune in June of 1949 which depicted H.C. Hanson's role in rebuilding Barnum when the lumbering business left and Hanson's part in helping tie the community's future to agriculture. Hanson's farm was featured in a movie, "Hay and Pasture Days in Minnesota. "

Harold Hogan and James Lanxon were elected Directors of the Carlton County Testing Association. Hogan also received 2nd place honor with his herd's average of 444.1 pounds of but-terfat a month.

When E.A. Martens of Iowa attempted to register two hogs, which he had purchased from Lester Duesler and Carl M. Johnson of Barnum, at a fair in Rock Rapids, Iowa, he was required to provide affidavits stating the barrow and sow were born in 1949. Mr. Martens was to be denied entry because, as the animals weighed 300 pounds each, the officials could not be convinced that the hogs had been born that year. When asked for his hog-raising secret, Duesler smugly replied, "We just grow'em big here."

Since 1940 the cost per unit of farm production had steadily increased by 75%. The various factory strikes seen around the country resulted in decreased manufacture of farm machinery and increased price. As a result, over 1,000 county farmers, who were actively engaged in soil conservation, took advantage of benefits offered by the federal government to help relieve the financial burden they found themselves shouldering.

Following the close of the 1945 Fair and the end of the war, immediate plans were underway for the 1946 Fair which was to be the grand home coming for the servicemen and women. Fate decreed otherwise.

On June 1, 1946, a tornado swung in from the south/southwest leaving havoc and thousands of dollars worth of damage in its wake. In the Barnum area the hardest hit was the County fairgrounds. Every building on the grounds, except for the 55 year-old main building, were demolished or badly damaged. Power lines were left a tangled mess. Only four trees out of the beautiful 40 year-old grove of pines were left standing. Fences were flattened; equipment scattered over a wide area.

The same twister created chaos in town. Several large windows in the school had exploded or been broken by falling trees. The Rusher's garage was demolished. Several residents' porches, including those at the Lord and Zimmer homes, were either blown away or crushed. Three electric poles at the M.P.&L. substation near the depot were blown over and the village was without electricity until 7 a.m. the next Friday.

Plans for restoration of the Fairgrounds were immediately drawn up to ensure that the Fair would be held on schedule. With opening day less than three weeks away, the state was hit by an epidemic of polio. Realizing the dangers of spreading the disease, the Fair Board, after careful deliberation, voted to cancel the 1946 Fair for the first time in 'its long history. With the cancellation, the Fair Association was forced to assume hundreds of dollars worth of obligations contracted for as the premium lists and advertising.

Believing that the County Fair was an institution that should not be allowed to die, even though it had been dealt a terrible blow, the Board began to make plans for the 1947 Fair before 1946 came to a close.

During 1947 the entire Fair plans was gone over. Approximately 3,500 square feet of cement floor was laid in the dairy building and extensive repairs made to the Grand Stand, industrial buildings and poultry buildings. Welcomed improvements were made to the main entrance, the entire grounds were re-wired and all buildings received a new coat of paint.

The Fair went smoothly that year. The Western Champion Black Hills Rodeo was featured at the Grand Stand while Roger Brother's Carnival entertained on the midway. 4-H members presented a Centennial Pageant. The new bleachers which had been added to the Grand Stand, increased the seating by 450 were packed for the event.

In 1946 the Moose Horn Gun Club was organized. H.J. Solheim donated a new tray for throwing clay pigeons and Sherman Lord donated the use of a portion of his property near the village to use as shooting grounds.

In 1948 the Volunteer Firemen adopted a charter and set up a relief organization which would furnish incomes to the widows and children of firemen and pay a pension to retired or disabled firemen. The Village Council ordered a modern firetruck at the cost of \$5,000. In order to accommodate the new truck, the old pumphouse was remodeled and enlarged. In 1949 a new fire barn was constructed. The original members of the Fire Department were Eddie Stevens, Fire Chief; Arnold Rungren, Arnold Johnson, Roy Rudebeck, Harold Cummins, Robert Solheim, George Basche, Arnold Lahti and John Mike. The first Benefit Firemen's Ball was held February, 1949. The two hundred in attendance danced to the music of Charlie Felgen's Orchestra.

The Methodist Church had been growing throughout the forties. Early in the decade the church's chimney was repaired and extended, in 1942 a Service Flag was put in the church for members in the armed services. In 1943 a double wood floor was installed in the basement, and, in 1943 the Pastor's salary raised to \$750. In 1946 H.C. Hanson donated a Hammond Electric Organ to the church and Rev. Rieff came to the pulpit, to remain until 1969. In 1948 the church set a goal of \$20,000 to be raised in two years for construction of a new church. Clements Newman was appointed treasurer of the building fund.

Barnum's school system was undergoing noticeable changes as well. In 1945 forty three new books were added to the library. Students were reading My Friend Flicka and Thunderhead by Mary O'Hara, Bambi by Solten, The Yearling by Rowings and The Robe by Douglas.

W.L. Docken resigned as superintendent and R.J. Vieths assumed the position. That year the rural district schools of Aitkinson, Park Lake, Beehive, Watson, Munson and a portion of Sandy Lake closed and became a part of the Barnum School District.

In 1946 a Type A Lunch Program was initiated in Barnum. Fruit, milk, sandwiches and a hot dish were provided for

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\$1.50 a month and the donation of one white plate to the school. In 1947 the federal financial assistance which enabled the school to operate the lunch program at low costs to families was discontinued. Due to the federal cutback Barnum was forced to cancel the lunch program. By 1949 the program was reinstated. Surplus commodities donated by the federal government cut the school's overhead, allowing pupils to participate in the program for 15 cents a meal.

Mr. John Lundblad replaced R.J. Vieths as Superintendent in 1948 and would serve in that capacity well into the 1970's.

As 1949 drew to a close the Herald ran a column dealing with prophecy for 1950. One journalist predicted another great depression:

The guns have long since been silenced, the boys are home, except those who remained to consecrate those scores of battlefields.

The war plants are full of ghosts, everybody has already bought that new car, refrigerator, washing machine and corn cultivator. Taxes are still a mighty headache because those kinds of wars certainly come high.

Wheat is 70 cents a bushel at the elevator. Oats are an even two bits.

Those \$200 and \$250 cream checks sound like a story of the fiction writer. The fellow who sports a \$100 take home check from the Creamery is looked upon by his envious neighbors as a fit museum piece.

Businessmen; however, continued to bask in the rosey economic aftermath of war, and, at the closing of the decade, wished their patrons:

MAY YOU ALL HA VE A NIFTY 1,950