

November 19, 1991

A first! A letter to tell you about a meeting that didn't happen. As Snoopy would have said, "It was a dark and stormy night"; a couple inches of blowing snow cancelled a meeting for a first time. Thank you to those who helped out in the telephone tree.

Despite the absence of a meeting for November, there are matters to raise. Most immediately, Arlene Brown is seeking help with the December 9th program of WWII. Areas of request include:

1: Refer to Arlene or Don names of people who could contribute to the WWII program, no matter if they stayed in town or served outside the country.

2: Locate a source of the names of WWII veterans that were listed on the sign that stood on the Greenville four corners.

3: Refer to Arlene or Don names of people who were the wardens during the war years.

4: Remember the sites of lookout towers. One was on the Medusa road by the Bear farm. Another was by the Horton house in Norton Hill (on the first rise east of the church). Were there any others in the Town of Greenville or close to its boundaries?

5: Locate a service flag. The flag, hung in windows, indicated that someone in the family was in the service.

6. Come with memories, details, and artifacts of WWII.

Possible questions to respond to include:

- a. What did school pupils do to help the war effort? Did you collect milk weed pods? save grease? take in scrap metal? What other things did you do? Was school itself affected? If so, in what way?
- b. Who helped to man the lookout towers? Describe that experience. Who set them up? What became of them when they were no longer used? How did you learn to identify the planes? Whom did you call? How long after the war were these watch towers still used?
- c. Did you raise a victory garden? Were you encouraged to raise your own food and surplus as well? What did you do with the surplus?
- d. What songs do you remember from this time? What did you do for entertainment? What was it like to go to the movies? How much did it cost? What radio shows do you remember? Without TV, how did you learn what was going on in the war?
- e. Tell about mail to and from those in the service? Was it censored? What did it cost? What about packages?
- f. Were there local industries related to the war? How were farmers affected by the war?
- g. What were the duties of the air raid wardens? What were the blackouts like?
- h. In what other ways was life in Greenville different during these war years than other years?
- i. Was there any hard feeling toward anyone in town with German or Italian ancestry?
- j. How did the boarding houses fare, and how did they function during these times?
- k. Were there any patriotic celebrations? Were there any dark moments about the Allied cause?

Other notes:

1. Calendars are still available; call me if you need some.
2. Ideas for future programs?
3. The "Voices From the Good War" program of November 7th resonated with the nostalgia and agony of WWII. Despite the broad paint strokes of war, the idea of personal contributions and perspectives came through strongly. Each of the 20-30 characters portrayed added another dimension to the human experience kaleidoscope. Especially jarring were accounts of racial discrimination.
4. Please assume this newsletter is your newsletter also. Although I've written nearly 100% of the 30 issues, your contributions or perspective on local history or notes are welcomed.

Sincerely,

*Don Teator*