

December 19, 1991
Well, Arlene, now you've done it!

Arlene Brown's program about World War II was a tactical success, from the opening salvo to the closing shots. Nearly 30 came out to the December program, one which Arlene had been planning for a few months and had publicized very well (with Chris McDonald's help too). Supporting credits go to Harriet Rasmussen and Lee Brown for their help in organizing and setting up.

Bob Willower set the mood for the meeting by opening with a few musical selections of the war years. Arlene followed with an explanation of the displays she had arranged - clippings, medals, pictures, lists of soldiers who served, letters, etc. Harriet Rasmussen read several pieces she had written relating to the war years - the Don Abrams story, the Balsam Shade years, and others. Edna Adams related Norman's experiences in Germany. Lee Brown described what living home in Norton Hill was like. Len Gardiner related his early flying lessons and his pilot experiences. Many others had stories that, in some ways, effected what the previous month's show, "Tales From the Good War", showed about the war experience.

Topics like the blackouts, rationing, letters to loved ones, lookout towers and plane identification, music, school, the change in the lives of almost all Americans, collecting milkweed pods, the war as shown in the papers and magazines, the images the US held of the enemy countries, the moment Pearl Harbor was announced, the atomic bomb, and so on, were the topics of this night. Many present at the meeting remembered those years as their teenager or young adult years, memorable and impressionable years.

Arlene, Lee, and Harriet had set up several boards and tables with the numerous memories and pieces of WWII. Added to these collections were those items that several others brought with them.

The meeting closed around 9:30 but, as was true with the one-room school house program, hours more could have passed this night with the stories and recollections of this pivotal time of American history lived personally in many small corners of the country. Although the actual meeting has passed, anyone who wants to re-live it can do so on videotape, thanks to Debra Teator.

A thank you and congratulations goes to Arlene Brown for having an idea for a meeting, sharing her idea with us, and organizing the program. Despite a cancelled November meeting and the worry about everything fitting in place, the meeting came off smoothly - evidence that people with good ideas is what makes the GLHG work.

Our next meeting, January 13th, is a share meeting. Come with the goodies you've been saving up since September.

Sincerely,

Don Teator

P.S. Our attendance included Janet and Earl Halstead, Marge and Ray Bennett, Jeanne Bear, Gerald Boomhower, Arlene and Lee Brown, Edna Adams, Claribel and Len Gardiner, Drisling, Ketcham, Alice Roe, Debra and Don Teator, Phyllis Beechert, Harriet Rasmussen, Red Sutton, Elnora Phinney, Louise and Pete Rinaldi, Ken Dean, Joe Mangold, June Clark, Kathie Williams, Betty and Toot Vaughn, Barbara Barony, and a howling gentleman named Rudy whose last name I can't recall. My apologies to anyone I forgot.

P.S.S. Happy holidays!