



The Inkwell

The newsletter of the Bradford Landmark Society
45 East Corydon Street, Bradford, PA 16701
Phone 814-362-3906 or email us at info@bradfordlandmark.org

April 2007

Published 4 times a Year

Directors of the Bradford Landmark Society

Harrijane Hannon, Pres.

Jay Bradish

Greg Ulyan

Pam Fredeen

Glen Washington

Elizabeth Sefton

Susan Oliphant

Charles Pagano

Stephanie Packard

Robert Esch

Curator at Herbig Bakery

Sally Ryan Costik

Genealogist

Molly Lindahl

Researcher

Larry Richmond

Volunteers at the Bakery

Mary Ryan

Gordon Ernest

Bill Knight

Hours of Operation:

Herbig Bakery, 11AM - 2PM,
Monday Wednesday, Friday

Historic Crook Farm By Appointment

Well, its nearly spring, but it would be hard to tell in Bradford, at least today – there is about a fresh 3” of snow on the ground, and more predicted for Easter weekend. That’s Bradford! They say that it will be the hottest summer on record, too – can’t wait for that.

This newsletter is dedicated to spring. There are articles on Daffodil Days of the American Cancer Society, the Red Poppy (Buddy Poppys) sold by VFW around Memorial Day, Victory Gardens, and of course, floods. You will be surprised how many floods Bradford endured before the flood control projects of the late 1950s. We’ve added some photographs of those floods, too, so you can appreciate just how warm and dry you are in 2007!

And our Antique Appraisal show promises to be THE Bradford event of 2007. It seems like everyone has treasures in their attic, just waiting to be discovered. We’ve had people stop us on the street, call us on the phone at the Landmark and at home, stop us in Tops, at Parkview, and through email. One lady wanted to know if she should come early with her camper and camp overnight! While we hope for lots and lots of people attending, that may be a tad overzealous. Anyway, we invite everyone to come, and there is more information inside this edition of the newsletter.

And then, just for fun, we’ve included a two page listing of things that happened “way back when” in Bradford’s past, all during the spring. People seem to enjoy reading about and remembering, events and dates from long ago.

Meanwhile, back at the Herbig Bakery, we are in the midst of researching a new “house” book and the Crook Farm is getting ready for the school program to begin in May. And don’t forget to keep an eye on new web site, www.bradfordlandmark.org – Molly, our webmaster, keeps doing a great job on keeping it up to date and interesting.

Happy Easter!

"What's It Worth?"

? An Antique Appraisal Show ?

Sponsored by The Bradford Landmark Society

? Sunday, April 29, 2007 ?
1:00 PM - 5:00 pm

? Ritchie Hall, St. Francis Drive ?

? **Admission** is \$5.00 for one, \$10.00 for two, or
\$15.00 for three items. Persons are limited to 3 items (or less).

General Admission \$3.00

Excitement is building as the Bradford Landmark Society gets ready for the Antique Appraisal show. Its been many years since an antique show has been in Bradford, and we have been thrilled with the response as people dig through their closets, attics, garages, and under their beds for all sorts of things that they always knew were worth something, but never had a chance to find out for real. Now they can! It promises to be a really busy day, so plan early, pack carefully, and come and have fun. See you there!

**Books, Paintings, Glass, Iron, Antique Guns, Oriental Rugs,
Lamps, Clocks, Stoneware, Folk Art, Jewelry, Items before
1850, Postcards, Paper items, Stereo Cards, Country
Primitives, Collectibles, and More! Come and have fun!**

Plenty of free parking at Ritchie hall and across the street
at Fretz Middle School.

THE APPRAISERS AND REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR SPECIALTIES:

- **Hans Tanner** Locust Grove Antiques, Geneseo, NY - Paper Goods (books, paper, paintings, postcards, stereo cards and stamps).
- **Anne Serra** Cuba, NY - Glass, earthenware, lighting, toys, forged iron, early textiles and early wood items (ranging from 1750-1850).
- **Matt Cottone** Cottone Auctions, Mt. Morris, NY - Furniture, stoneware, folk art, art glass, lamps, oriental rugs, clocks and paintings.
- **Marshall & Evelyn Tyler** Coffee Mill Antiques, Bradford, PA - Stoneware, dating from 1800-1900.
- **Greg Souchik** Allegheny Arsenal, Bradford, PA - Antique guns and weapons.
- **Ron Yeager** Retired U.S. Postmaster, collector for 40 years, part-time dealer for 7 years. Accredited by American Philatelic Society. His specialty is U.S. stamps, but is also knowledgeable in international stamps.
- **Linda Meabon** Zippo Manufacturing Co. Rep., Bradford, PA - **approximate appraisal** of Zippo products, not collectible value.
- **Shirley Boser** W. R. Case and Sons Cutlery Rep., Bradford, PA - **approximate appraisal** of Case products, not collectible value.

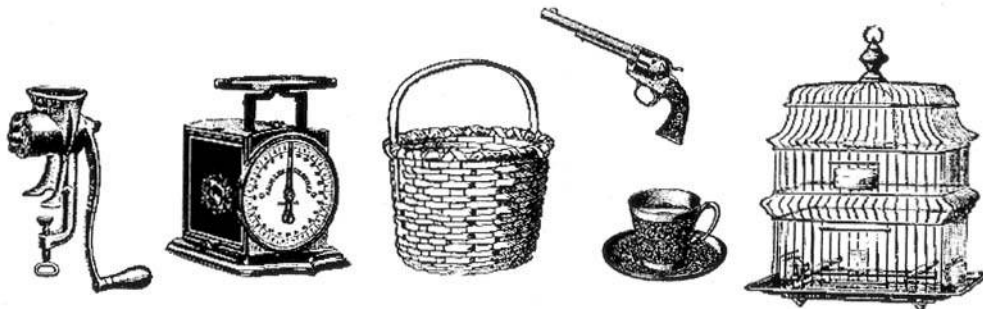


Each person is limited
to a total of three items



Only those items that you can carry in by yourself may be appraised. If you have a large item, such as furniture, please bring several photographs showing different angles and all sides, top and bottom. We will not provide people to help you carry items; all appraisals will be done inside Ritchie Hall.

If an appraiser offers to buy your item, you may do so; however, that is a transaction strictly between you and the appraiser. The Bradford Landmark Society has no involvement in such a sale. Food will be available.



Sometimes, it seems like only yesterday....We know that many of these happened before you were born, but its still fun to look back and learn from history.

The first camping season begins for Girl Scouts at Camp Kil-O-Qua, in Bingham	June 8, 1961
Cigarette blamed for fire gutting Webster street Italian club	May 11, 1961
A new seven unit telephone number system for Bradford and vicinity to be inaugurated Jan 17, 1960	August 25, 1959
Fire at 32 Mechanic Street damages Faulkner Market; this is third fire in recent years in this area of Mechanic Street, including the Paradise Grill fire in 1952 and the Texas Hot Fire of Dec. 12, 1958	February 2, 1959
Remodeled Johnson's Restaurant holds grand opening.	April 29, 1959
Final Kinzua Bridge excursion train with 16 cars holding 860 people aboard cross over the bridge as the Erie Railroad plans to abandon 14 miles of track from Lewis Run to Mt. Jewett.	April 22, 1958
Allegrette's Confectionary Shop closes after 66 years on Mechanic Street.	April 18, 1958
Bradford drops out of the PONY league in the first month of the 1956 season	May 18, 1956
Final movie performances are held in Shea's Theater	March 29, 1956
Old drinking fountains at Holley Hotel, Central Fire Station, and the Public Square are replaced with new ones.	May 23, 1952
Bradford is one of several cities allotted television channels by Federal Communications.	April 11, 1952
Construction moving ahead on new St. Francis Church, East Bradford	May 29, 1950
The Fraternal Order of Eagles will hold a grand opening of their new home at 460 South Avenue (currently Louie's Bar in 2007).	April 25, 1949
AKC Dog show planned at Valley Hunt Club on July 13, 1946.	April 29, 1946
Five Frontino brothers are discharged from the service.	April 13, 1946
John (Jack) Hermes now manages Kendall Service Station (formerly Bradford Filling Station) on corner of Main and Congress streets.(36 Main street).	April 4, 1946
John L. Sullivan, in a letter to the editor of the Bradford Era, says that he will be appearing in the Bradford in vaudeville, and will give \$1000 to any man that he cannot stop in four rounds.	March 6, 1906
Douglas Fairbanks, actor, visits Bradford.	March 22, 1918
Marian Anderson, famous black singer, in concert tonight at 3rd Ward school auditorium. (Landmark has autographed copy of program).	May 25, 1938

Remember When? We take a look back at some spring happenings from years ago..

The Bradford Community Industrial Corp. announces a new industry in the city Plexowood Inc. whose plant will be built on Holley Avenue	March 20, 1963
Work continues on schedule at Hamsher house which is being renovated for University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing at Bradford	June 9, 1963
Last and final dosage of the Sabin Oral Vaccine is received by 17,510 persons	June 16, 1963
Mammoth 90 foot, 22 ton steel beam for new high school auditorium building is pulled through traffic cleared streets.	May 4, 1964
UPB purchases Emery Hotel to be used as student dormitory.	May 14, 1964
Clark's Discount Department store, opens Thursday; located at 667 E. Main street, it promises to be a "shoppers wonderland". (note: Valu Home Center is here in 2007).	March 23, 1965
An "after hours" deposit box has been built into the front right wall of the City Hall on Kennedy street, with all deposits and payments dropping four feet into a secure heavy metal box.	April 8, 1965
Bottle of Beer Distributor holds grand opening at 100 Barbour Street.	May 29, 1965
Bradford Milling Co. building demolished for site of new Holiday Inn	March 19, 1966
Emery Hardware announces that it is going out of business	March 28, 1967
Dr. T. Edward Hanley dies, age 75, oil executive, art and book collector, at Bradford Hospital.	April 10, 1969
P. L. Webster has deeded to the City of Bradford a plot of ground in Oak Hill cemetery, in trust, as a burial place for the old Soldiers of the city. Mr. Webster's gift is highly appreciated.	April 20, 1896
William D. Burdick killed by nitroglycerine explosion in Rutherford Hollow; his head found the next day, April 25, 1899	April 24, 1899
City lot on the corner of Congress and Corydon deeded to the school district for library purposes	April 26, 1897
Bicycle Club is reorganized; new officers and new name Central Cycle Club of Bradford	May 2, 1895
Kinzua, Pa Post Office closes today permanently - an early casualty of the nearby Kinzua dam being constructed	June 30, 1962
Dr. E. H. McCleery, noted for his Kane Lobo wolves, dies at 94.	May 24, 1962
More than 900 people attend the dedication of the new \$1,630,000 Floyd C. Fretz Junior High School, the first school constructed in Bradford in 27 years.	April 29, 1962
Corning Glass Works in Bradford produces the world's largest piece of fused silica for a new telescope at the US Naval Observatory.	April 22, 1962

Floods and Springtime

As spring approaches – who knows, maybe it's already here and we missed it – many people remember the 'good old days' when springtime meant flood time. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Flood of 1947, which most people assume was one of the worst floods ever, in Bradford history. Not so, however. But what is interesting, is the reason that so many people remember this flood – because it coincided with the first broadcast of WESB on that Good Friday in April, 1947.

Bradford, located on the Tunungwant Creek, and located in a valley surrounded by hills, is prone to floods and always has been. Major floods occurred in 1894, 1902, 1904, 1910, 1918, 1942, and 1947, and of course, 1947.

The flood of 1894 occurred on May 21, 1894, and was described by the Bradford Era as "water water everywhere". It had rained for four days and nights, and the flood that came on the fourth day "beat anything within its past history". The banks overflowed, and from the Blaisdell Wood Factory (off Congress Street) the water rushed down the Erie railroad yards. The B.B. & K. trestle near the shops of that railroad were shaky, but able to remain standing by parking railroad cars on it. The water went through Second Ward, through Webster Street, and up Main. The Oil City House, located where Tops Parking lot is today, reportedly caught live trout from the water rushing through the hotel; one proprietor was seen calmly reading the newspaper with his feet propped up while a "babbling brook" ran beneath his desk. Over on Elm Street, the oil barrels of the Haggerty Oil works floated away. Flood waters ran over Kennedy, Amm, Hilton, the Kendall refinery, Main, and Forman. Owners of wooden plank sidewalks, quickly tied them to trees so that they would not float away. And for a while, rumors that the dam at Marilla reservoir, seven miles west of the city, had broken and that a wall of water was on its way to flood the rest of the town had residents terrified. By Sunday evening, the waters began to recede, and the town breathed a sigh of relief.

The flood of 1902 happened in March, when twenty-five streets were inundated. This flood was caused by melting snow, and ice jams on the Tuna, especially near Barbour Street. As the water backed up over the banks, a "bayou" was formed at the intersection of Center and West Washington Streets, State, and Pearl Street. Lower Main Street, including the Riddell House, was flooded. Webster, Miller, Amm, Forman, Boylston, Bishop, Kennedy, Florence, and Davis Streets were all underwater. Finally, a group of men got together and decided to dynamite the creek. A man named Malone holding a bottle of nitro glycerin was lowered with a rope tied around him down to the ice, and dug a small hole, and carefully put the bottle in. Then, pulled back up, and safe, the nitro was touched off. "There was an explosion that re-echoed through the valley and pulverized ice was sent flying through space to crystalline spray, upward. The gorge began to move." Malone and his crew were the heroes of the day, and the water immediately started to recede.

Of course, this flood had its humorous moments, too. A rumor was started that city hall was giving away free rubber boots to everyone and a crowd descended on City Hall, much to the mayor's confusion; an "intoxicated comedian" who was entertaining an audience was seen swept away to the delight of the crowd; and "the usual acts of heroism were performed by eager gentlemen, such as carrying dainty ladies across wet places and giving them aid and comfort".

The flood of 1904 came in January that year, and once again Bradford streets were flooded. By now, it had almost become a habit - Bradfordians piled up their furniture and belongings, headed for the second floor of their homes, and waited until the water subsided. Because this flood happened in January, snow was still on the ground, and combined with the ice flows from the rising ice, created mini-gorges down the sidewalks. But like all spring floods, waters eventually receded.

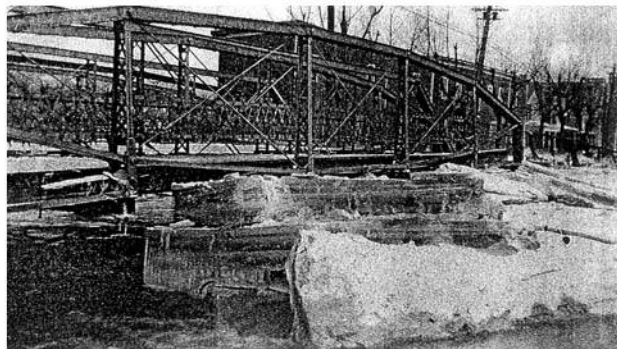
The flood of 1918 brought huge ice flows, which threatened to hit the Barbour Street bridge. Huge ice chunks, some as large as 2 feet thick, and 10 feet across, heaved up on the lower streets. We have included a photograph of some of the ice in this newsletter.

The flood of 1942 was again, disastrous to the city.

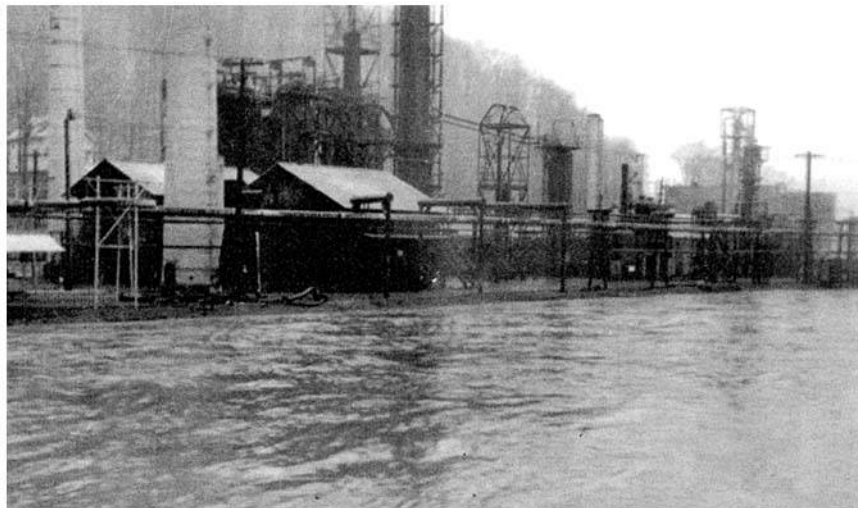
The flood of 1947 is well documented, and it is this flood that finally set the city on the quest for flood control. In 1948 the Flood Authority was formed, and by 1956 more than one million dollars had been spent in its only eight year history. The city felt that not only had it lost money in damages caused by floods but also that industries, like Corning, were hesitant to build here as long as floods threatened the better locations.

The work began down near the Tuna Crossroads, and continued towards Bradford over the next few years. Basically, the creek walls were dredged out, and retaining walls built in their place. The creek was widened in some places and some business owners (such as the Davis Bakery) that were located along the creek were required to surround portions of their land to the Flood Authority.

Today the Bradford District Flood Control Authority maintain the waterways, make repairs, remove sediment, maintain safety standards, and safeguard the system to ensure that the annual springtime floods are a thing of the past.



Barbour St. Bridge Feb. 1918





Edward Payson Weston

As spring approaches, people are spotted once again walking on the UPB trail. Walking is nothing new: older editions of the Bradford Era often reported people walking back and forth to Olean, to Buffalo, on foot and on snowshoes! We thought that you might be inspired by another walker, Edward Payson Weston, a man whom many credit the "sport" of walking. W. H. Hart, a druggist from Bradford in 1907, would often tell his friends that when he was a child he actually met Weston in person. After reading of Weston's feats (oh, that's a terrible pun) we are sure that you will agree that Edward Payson Weston was a remarkable person.

Edward Payson Weston (1839-1929) was a notable pedestrian, who was largely responsible for the rise in popularity of the sport of simply walking in the 1860s and 1870s.



Weston first received attention in 1861, when he walked 478 miles from Boston, Massachusetts to Washington, DC in 10 days and 10 hours, from February 22 to March 4. During the walk, he faced snow, rain, and mud, and he fell several times due to deep snow. His longest period of uninterrupted sleep was 6 hours, and he usually ate while walking. He arrived in Washington at 5:00 pm, and was strong enough to attend Abraham Lincoln's inaugural ball that evening.

The walk was part of the terms of a bet on the 1860 presidential election. The better whose candidate lost was to walk to Washington to see the inauguration of the new president. Weston lost when he bet against Lincoln, and received only a bag of peanuts for his trouble. However, he also received newspaper coverage and a congratulatory handshake from the new president, which inspired him to further pedestrian feats.

In 1867, Weston walked from Portland, Maine to Chicago, Illinois, covering over 1200 miles in 26 days, winning a prize of \$10,000. He received several death threats from gamblers who had bet against him, and was attacked once. He gave lectures to crowds of spectators on the health benefits of walking, both during the walk and afterwards.

Over the next few decades, Weston continued his professional walking career. While he was sometimes beaten in indoor multiday races, he held numerous records for long-distance endurance events. In 1869 he walked 1058 miles through snow-covered New England in 30 days. In 1871, he walked backwards for 200 miles around St. Louis, Missouri in 41 hours. Weston spent 8 years touring Europe, starting in 1876. In 1879 he defeated the British champion "Blower" Brown, in a 550 mile match which he walked in 141 hours 44 minutes.

In 1907, at the age of 68, Weston repeated his Maine-to-Chicago walk of 1867, beating his own time by over 24 hours. In 1909, he walked a "devious" 4000 miles, from New York, New York to San Francisco, California, in 100 days. His last great journey was in 1914, when he walked 1546 miles from New York to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 51 days. Oh, and by the way, he was 75 years old at the time.

Weston spent most of the remainder of his life urging others to take up walking for exercise and competition, warning that automobiles were making people lazy and sedentary. Weston was severely injured when he was struck by a New York City taxicab in 1927, and never walked again. He died in his sleep two years later.

If you are inspired by Weston, we urge you to try the entire Tuna Valley Trail system, including the UPB trail (officially, named the R. E. McDowell Trail), which is 1.5 miles from end to end; the Marilla Bridges Trail which encompasses a one mile path around the Marilla Reservoir shore line on West Washington Street; or the 7.4 mile "Indian Pipe" trail which winds through the forest from Marilla Reservoir to Interstate Parkway. And if that *really* gets you excited about hiking, try the North Country National Scenic Trail which stretches for about 4,600 miles, linking communities, forests, and prairies across seven northern states, starting in upper New York State. In Pennsylvania, the trail runs from the New York State border at the southern end of the Allegany State Park near Salamanca, New York, and south through the Allegheny National Forest. You can find where it crosses Rte. 59 about 2 or 3 miles this side of the Kinzua reservoir.

Happy Hiking!



FLOWERS FOR CHARITY



Daffodil Days

*I wander lonely as a cloud, that floats on high o'er dale and hill.
When all at once I saw a crowd, a host of golden daffodil.
Beside the lake, beneath the trees, fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

I saw a host of golden daffodil the other day, and it took me back to Miss Zias's room, fourth grade at M.J. Ryan School in Lafayette. Miss Zias was an unusually, hmm, *strict* teacher (we kids all called her a witch) but one lesson we all learned, and I still remember, was the monthly recitation of poetry. This poem was just one of nine, full length classic poems that we had to learn by heart. From all the stanzas to the Star Spangled Banner, to Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven" – all of us fourth graders learned each poem enough – more or less – to recite it aloud. Each month, Miss Zias would line us up in the back of the room, in front of the wardrobe (remember wardrobes – large wooden closets with hooks and shelves, long before the days of steel lockers) and one by one, we had to recite – by memory – the selected poem of the month.

I think of William Wordsworth and his poem, every spring, during the American Cancer Society's "Daffodil Days". By the time that March and Daffodil Days finally get here; I am more than ready to buy a bunch of spring flowers! Daffodil Days, a fundraising effort conceived by the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) in the 1950s, was adopted by the American Cancer Society in 1970. In the 35 years since the ACS adopted the fundraising practice, it has become one of the two largest cancer fundraising efforts in the United States, providing over \$2.5 billion for research. The local ACS branch hosts Daffodil Days here in Bradford each spring but if you missed Daffodil Days this year, don't worry – they will be here next spring, too.

Red Poppys

During the days before Memorial Day, members of the VFW – Veterans of Foreign Wars can often be found throughout Bradford, selling little red poppy flowers, to wear on your label. These red poppys became associated with war after the publication of a poem written by Col. John McCrae of Canada.

The poem, "*In Flanders Fields*," describes blowing red fields among the battleground of the fallen. Selling replicas of the original Flanders' poppy originated in some of the allied countries immediately after the Armistice.

In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League began the first nationwide sale of poppies to benefit children in the devastated areas of France and Belgium.

Madam Guerin, who was recognized as the "poppy lady" from France, sought and received the cooperation of the VFW in 1922 after the Franco-American Children's League was dissolved. The VFW conducted its first poppy sale before Memorial Day in 1922 becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. In February 1924, the VFW registered the name "Buddy Poppy" with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. The VFW has made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (the VFW) in Bradford began selling the red poppy as a way to raise money for disabled soldiers in May of 1928.

The Bradford Landmark Society
45 East Corydon Street
Bradford, PA 16701



Nellie Kibbie, owner of Bradford Lunch, 125 Main St., Bradford, PA



The Victory Gardens of World War II

As spring finally arrives (although today it is April 6 and there is a fresh 3" coating of snow on the ground), many people turn to their favorite pastime, gardening. And many people reading this newsletter got their inspiration and love of growing things, from the war years, when growing food was a patriotic duty.

During World War II, and especially after 1942 when certain foods began to be rationed to help the war effort, the Dept. of Agriculture, The War Food Administration, The War Advertising Council, and the Office of War Information all banded together to promote the idea of home gardening. By 1943, the program was well underway, and Bradfordians joined the effort. Donald Graham was chosen as head of the Victory Garden Program in March 1943, and later that month, Kendall Refinery donated plots of land for gardening to its employees. By May, lectures were being given to help food growers get the most produce from their efforts, as gardens sprang up all over the city. The Bradford Era encouraged "The country is looking to you - yes, you who are reading these lines, to grow more leafy vegetables, more yellow vegetables, more tomatoes, beans, beets, and onions".."Food Fights for Freedom!". That year, 1943, saw six million Americans planting gardens. By 1945 it was estimated that 20 million home gardens produced 40% of all the fresh vegetables grown in the United States - as estimated 9-10 million tons of food.

Rationing did not end until 1946, but after three years of "use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without", Americans rejoiced in the ability to eat meat, butter, and sugar again. Gardening efforts were mainly abandoned, as people eagerly began to rebuild their lives and welcome the soldiers home.