The City of Macomb, Western Illinois State Teachers College and Camp Ellis During World War II

An Abstract Presented to
the School of Graduate Studies,
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In Partial Fulfillment
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This thesis by John Joseph Hartnett is accepted in its present form by the History Department of Western Illinois University as satisfying the thesis requirement for the degree of Master of Arts.

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Abstract

This thesis provides insight into an area that is too often ignored in American history. The problems encountered at home during World War II were many and complex. This study of the Macomb community provides unique insights to studies of this nature. The placement of Camp Ellis along with the input and influence of Western Illinois State Teachers College created many new social, economic and cultural adjustments for the community. Situations of this type remain relatively unexplored by contemporary historians.

The research involved in this study deals almost exclusively with primary source materials. In particular, manuscript collections, personal correspondence, and oral interviews. The interviews and correspondence provide valuable insights unobtainable in secondary source materials. The value of oral history to a study of this nature is crucial. Those individuals selected provide a sampling of viewpoints from different sections of the Macomb community thus adding unique insights into all aspects of the thesis.

This study demonstrates that a small Midwestern community shared many of the same problems that were experienced throughout the country, in particular the Japanese problem

witnessed throughout the Western portion of the United States. Despite then, the community's isolated location and relatively small population the problems encountered in this Midwestern area were highly comparable to that of the entire nation.

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INTRODUCTION

This study examines the impact of World War II upon the small midwestern town of Macomb, Illinois, and Western Illinois State Teachers College. The town and college community's experiences during the war would undoubtedly have been similar to dozens of other relatively isolated communities in the United States had it not been for the placement of an army training and prisoner of war camp, Camp Ellis, in the immediate vicinity of Macomb.

The existence and close proximity of a small town, a state college, and an army-POW camp resulted in activities and interactions with which most other American communities did not have to contend. The situation created was unique, and situations like it remain unexplored by contemporary historians. The absence of studies of this kind justifies this work.

The research involved in this study deals almost exclusively with primary source material because the secondary sources that are of any value to this topic are few in number. The secondary works available at best only serve to put the topic into perspective regarding the overall home front experience during the Second World War.

Primary sources consulted include: newspapers, manuscript collections, personal correspondence, and oral interviews. The use of primary source materials in this work is generally advantageous, the only drawback being the credibility of persons consulted in the oral interviews and personal correspondence. Interviews and correspondence of this nature, given the passage of time, are susceptible to imperfections in memory and, therefore, at times are not fully reliable. This does not mean they cannot be valuable to the historian. In this study, they are used to complement the additional research and data. Applied in this matter, interviews with persons who lived in the community during this period add color and zest to the topic. They also allow the writer investigating a topic of some thirty years past to feel for himself the impact of the events during this period. In addition, they offer the writer information not usually found in conventional sources historians consult. The interviews and correspondence provide a sampling of viewpoints from different sections of the Macomb community during the Second World War, from merchant to student, from newspaper editor to GI, and thereby afford unique insights. The transcripts of these interviews will be available in the Archives and Special Collection Department of the Western Illinois University Library for any reader or researcher who wishes to consult them.

This will not be an exhaustive study of the war's impact on the Macomb community; space and time limitations prohibit such work as that. Instead, it will touch upon a

variety of social, economic, and cultural occurrences experienced in the Macomb community largely as a result of the interaction of people and institutions brought about by the needs of war. A study of this community can be illuminating when considering home front operations during the Second World War. The paucity of studies with home front operations make this study, and more like it, necessary.

This study will also include a brief examination of the community's experiences in the immediate post war period in order to provide the reader with greater perspective of the impact of the war on this community. This will include the effects and efforts of persons in this area in relationship to the Illinois war effort and that of the entire nation.

The assistance received from those persons interviewed, particularly that of Coach Wix Garner and Coach Ray Hanson, was invaluable to the completion of this study. The individuals contacted by mail and the correspondence that followed were also very helpful in the research and writing of this thesis. To these kind people who were patient and considerate enough to give of their time, thanks are extended.

Gordana Rezab and Debra Reynolds of the Western Illinois Memorial Library Archives, as well as the staff of the Macomb Daily Journal, are also to be thanked for their time and efforts in assisting in the research of this study.

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Chapter I

The Community's Transition

The defeat of France, on June 22, 1940, by Hitler's armies and the subsequent German siege of Great Britain began a long and sometimes bitter controversy in the United States. President Roosevelt's inclination to aid threatened democracies set off a heated argument between isolationists and interventionists that went down in history as the "great debate."[1] Even Illinoisans, situated in the secure heartland of America, could not altogether ignore events in Europe and Roosevelt's response to them. Questions bothered them, such as: How far should our defense measures extend? Should we aid Great Britain? If so, should we extend financial aid to the point of risking war? Was this our war? Should Congress, not the President, decide the issue of war or peace?

Compared to the rest of the country, the Midwest, including Illinois, was judged isolationist, a judgment keenly resented by an active minority who supported intervention, and insisted that the section was misrepresented by isolationists.[2] The people of Macomb, Illinois, located in McDonough County in the west-central portion of the state, apparently shared the isolationist feelings of the midwesterners

during the period of the debate concerning intervention into the European conflict. This small community, with a 1940 population of 8,764, was similar to other communities in Illinois in many respects. Due to its size, modest amount of industry, and wealth of agriculture, Macomb faced problems which dozens of other rural midwestern communities confronted during the years preceding the United States' involvement in the war. Like persons in other communities, the citizens of Macomb were concerned with American intervention abroad, Roosevelt's lend-lease program, and selective service during the time preceding the attack on Pearl Harbor.

It was during this period that critics of President Roosevelt's policies were most vocal, including those in west central Illinois. Roosevelt's efforts to aid Great Britain during Hitler's siege of that nation brought out strong objections to those policies in Macomb. Early in 1941, Louis Randolph, spokesman for isolationist sentiments and editor of the town's daily newspaper, the Macomb Daily Journal, began what was to be a series of spirited editorials against Roosevelt's program of aid to Great Britain and his policy of lend-lease.

In January, 1941, Randolph asserted that the United States should have learned its lesson from the First World War, declaring that even though most of the American people believed the country had done just that, total war was, nevertheless, once again close at hand. He hinted that the

United States should be smart like other nations and take care of itself, leaving the war in Europe to those nations involved.[3]

This series of isolationist editorials by Randolph continued throughout 1941, intensifying in tone as the possibility of war became more real. Soon after his first editorial, he told his readers that the United States had already become a belligerent nation, that the decision for war had already been made. All that remained at that point, he claimed, was to gear the American people and economy for total war. He lashed out at Roosevelt and his administration in a plea to the President to inform the American people just exactly what they were in for by aiding Great Britain.[4]

The Lend-Lease Bill, which gave the President sole power to lend or lease arms and equipment to nations fighting Axis aggression, arounsed even stronger response from the Macomb Daily Journal and its editor. According to Randolph, the evils of the Lend-Lease Bill were numerous, all of which pointed to the increased power given the chief executive. He was totally against this blank check which gave F. D. Roosevelt (FDR) sole power over the nation's destiny.[5] He did not trust Roosevelt or any other individual with that type of unlimited power, the power to decide whether the United States went to war or remained at peace. This bill went beyond the people's wildest dreams; to ask the American people for this power was to deny that the democratic system worked, asserted Randolph.

In the isolationist editor's view, only one thing could have been more astounding than Roosevelt's request for lend-lease, and that would have been a request for total war. Nothing short of war should warrant a program with the consequences of the Lend-Lease Bill. In this instance, Randolph indicated that President Roosevelt was attempting to draft the United States into the European conflict by means of the lend-lease program. He continued these attacks throughout the month of January, vehemently protesting against FDR's policies toward Great Britain, demonstrating both anti-administration and anti-British sentiments (presumably reflecting the opinions of persons in the Macomb community).

Randolph revealed another dimension to his isolationist views in an editorial which appeared on Friday, January 24, 1941. This piece dealt with Colonel Charles Lindbergh's address before the House of Representatives concerning Roosevelt's Lend-Lease Bill to England, and Germany's awesome power against her. In this address, Lindbergh asked the House to pursue a negotiated peace between the United States and Germany, after the inevitable British defeat. Lindbergh believed Germany would never challenge the continental United States. Randolph's editorial was written before there was time for nationwide reaction to Lindbergh's speech. Time showed the public's response to be one of indignant outrage toward Lindbergh's proposal. Nevertheless, Randolph believed that Colonel Lindbergh's address should not be taken lightly

by the American people. He believed Lindbergh was qualified to say the things he did, and, even though they were viewpoints that the American people did not want to hear, it did not mean that they were invalid. Randolph's closing argument defended Lindbergh, stating, "The bearer of an unpleasant truth is a better friend than an optimistic liar or thoughtless hothead."[6]

In view of Randolph's position regarding aid to Great Britain and Roosevelt's policies, one wonders for whom the last part of the aforementioned quotation was directed. It seems probable that Randolph's use of the quotation was a thinly valid way of calling the President an "optimistic liar." This editorial also demonstrated Randolph's extreme isolationist sentiments and possibly reflected views of most of Macomb's citizens, although this cannot be certain. The absence of any group or person in the area expressing disagreement with Randolph makes it seem probable that he accurately reflected the community's views as he aligned himself with Lindbergh's stand for a negotiated peace with Germany. The editor remained steadfast in subsequent weeks in his position against sending arms and equipment to what he and Lindbergh believed was a doomed Great Britain.

In February, 1941, Randolph renewed his protest against lend-lease, defending those persons, such as Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana for his stand against the bill. Randolph stated that all those who questioned lend-lease were

distrusted regarding their loyalty to the President and the country; he believed the voice of the opposition was smothered by Roosevelt's administration.[7]

Randolph, on February 7, 1941, took his plea to the people of Macomb in an appeal to the individual citizen to write his elected officials opposing the Lend-Lease Bill before it was too late.[8] He asked them to show other Americans and the world that the United States refused to be dragged into a war by the executive branch of the government. Once again, Randolph left no question in anyone's mind as to what his position was concerning the Lend-Lease Bill and United States' involvement abroad. He was an isolationist in every sense of the word, and he told his readers just that on February 14, 1941. In this editorial, entitled, "We Can Be The Dictators," he explicitly rejected the proposal by defeated Republican presidential aspirant Willkie and Roosevelt that the United States lead the world in democracy after the defeat of Hitlerism, and cynically asked his readers in the closing sentence of his editorial, "Who would want to do this?"

It is possible that the people of Macomb, as well as the rest of the Macomb Daily Journal staff, were not so nearly interested in Roosevelt's policies and the Lend-Lease Bill as was editor Randolph. On March 12, 1941, the day following the passage of the Lend-Lease Act, the Journal's front page was not filled with news of the measure, but instead devoted its entire first page to the new line of women's fashions for

the spring of 1941. If one assumes that a newspaper delivers news of concern to its readers, the lack of coverage on the front page makes it seem apparent that this time Macomb's citizens were disinterested in the war in Europe. The battlefield was a long way from a small community in the midwestern United States.

Randolph, nevertheless, did not cease expressing his isolationist sentiments after the passage of the Lend-Lease Act, although his opposition to intervention was not as strident. He spoke out once again on September 4, 1941, following the German submarine attack the previous day upon the U.S.S. Greer, a destroyer on patrol off the cost of Iceland. In this editorial, he stated that the attack was to be expected in view of the fact that American vessels were venturing into hostile waters, possibly transporting goods to nations actively involved in war.[9]

Randolph remained unyielding throughout this period regarding American involvement in a European war. He was adamant while the people of Macomb seemed to be complacement concerning the events of the war. Both were to undergo immense change, however, as a result of the events at Pearl Harbor a few months later.

Meanwhile, the students and faculty at Western Illinois State Teachers College (WISTC), located in Macomb, began to move toward greater awareness of and preparation for war as early as October, 1941. The Western Courier, the campus weekly newspaper, stressed the need for a Reserve

Officers' Training Corp (R.O.T.C.) program on campus, in an effort to prepare leaders and future officers to face the impending crisis which they believed was inevitable as American involvement became more apparent.[10]

Indeed, they had not just recently come to that opinion. An editorial which appeared in July of 1941, expressed the same sentiments. In this editorial, the Courier stressed the need for college graduates in the armed services to provide intelligent leadership, in order to ensure that the American forces were trained in mind as well as in body.[11] The Courier seemed implicitly to hold the view that the students and faculty of WISTC were willing to involve themselves in a war effort if that possibility occurred. This proved true as events led toward a war in which the United States was directly involved.

In the fall of 1941, WISTC students felt the first effects caused by a world at war. The country's increased defense build-up caused a decrease of twenty-five percent in WISTC's enrollment for the fall term of 1941. A total of 758 students, 113 freshman men and 169 women, registered for fall classes, compared to a total of 1,074 a year earlier and a figure of 1,097 in 1939.[12] This loss in students was credited to enlistments in the Illinois National Guard and other branches of the armed services. Even during this period before Pearl Harbor, many of the young men wanted to get in the service as soon as possible. They felt they belonged in the service and, as a result, quite a few volunteered before

they were drafted. Perhaps fifty percent of the men of WISTC who left school at this time to join the armed services did so voluntarily. While this estimate may be high, it is evident that many men did leave the campus to enlist in the armed services or begin work in defense areas before they were drafted, in view of the decrease in enrollment in 1941 as compared to 1939 and 1940. The newly created defense industries with their attractive wages were also cited by the Courier as being partially responsible for luring students away from the campus.[13]

Later in the fall term, WISTC began a series of Kosmopolitan Klub forums dealing with selective service. On December 3, 1941, just four days before the catastrophe at Pearl Harbor, a forum was held with guest speaker Dr. Maynard C. Kruger of the University of Chicago presiding. The meeting was open to all members of Western's campus to discuss the draft and what it meant to the students of WISTC. Two additional forums to discuss selective service were to be held at later dates on campus.

The actual outbreak of war and America's direct involvement against Japan, Germany, and Italy, brought about even greater changes in the town of Macomb and on the campus of WISTC. The Macomb community was brought to war consciousness immediately as a result of the events at Pearl Harbor. The possibility of injury to two young men from the Macomb area who were aboard the U.S.S. Oklahoma, one of the ships hit at Pearl Harbor, along with the increased intensity of

the draft, rapidly forced the community to a sense of reality regarding the events of the war. Discussion of the war was everywhere, and suddenly, for the first time, a pro-war sentiment prevailed.[14] It might also be noted that Macomb Daily Journal's editor, Louis Randolph, was silent on December 8. His editorial on the day after Pearl Harbor did not pertain to the war or any events of the previous day.

Randolph quickly became involved in the prevailing sentiments, however. On December 9, he called for the immediate formation of a Macomb Civilian Defense Program, stating that time could not afford to be lost in this area of defense. He went so far as to suggest that if city officials had problems locating a director for the program, the Journal would assume control and supervise the program without pay. Randolph, at this point, abandoned his isolationist sentiments and, on the following day, expressed complete support for President Roosevelt's war message.[15] Randolph was now totally behind FDR in his call for every individual to perform his duty efficiently and cheerfully. At this point, isolationism became a casualty of Pearl Harbor in Macomb and in the rest of the nation. Randolph went on to present a plea to the citizens of Macomb, after calling for a civilian defense program, to buy wisely and avoid hoarding. Hoarding was not necessary at that time because there was as yet no indication of any shortages or increase in prices. Shortages were not to be feared, he asserted, because the country had plenty of food for itself and its allies.[16]

Later in December, Macomb organized a local Home Guard to replace the regular Macomb National Guard Unit which, at that time, was stationed in Tennessee. This unit was formed under the direction of the Civilian Defense Program headed by Ray Hall, Wayne Wetzel, C. E. Flack, and Louis Randolph. The Home Guard was stationed in Iowa at Ft. Madison and Keokuk, to patrol bridges crossing the Mississippi.

The change of attitude in Macomb and in editor Randolph was dramatic. Macomb was no longer able to remain an isolationist midwestern community. A war had been declared, and the community reacted and adjusted much as other citizens throughout the country in a series of changes that marked the beginning of the town's war effort.

Students and faculty at Western Illinois State Teachers College also felt the effects of Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war that immediately followed. On December 8, several hundred students assembled in the college auditorium to listen to President Roosevelt's war message with the prevailing mood of shock, dismay, and concern over losing deferments.[17]

Just two days later, the WISTC community felt the first direct effects of the war when student pilots were grounded on orders from Washington. Previously, WISTC faculty conducted a program instructing students in a civilian pilots training course. The orders from Washington stated that all student pilots were grounded until the government could be assured all involved were loyal American citizens. Paul Wetzel, course instructor, and Harry Clugston, director of

the Macomb air strip, instructed the students to have a proper birth certificate and two letters of recommendation from area businessmen attesting to their loyalty. Wetzel feared the course would be discontinued altogether for security reasons, however. Indeed, the course was discontinued for several months.[18]

It was at this time that WISTC's president Walter P. Morgan met with those men registered for the draft to discuss their change in status as a result of the recent declaration of war. Morgan stressed the need for cool thinking and a level headed attitude due to the unpredictability of events following the declaration. He also reminded the young men on campus that there were still provisions in the selective service for deferments to allow them to continue their education. Morgan emphasized education as being of equal importance to serving in the military. He believed the men and women of WISTC must stand ready to serve the country, but at the same time not lose sight of their educational objectives. In Morgan's eyes, the pursuit of education was of equal or greater importance than the pursuit of war.[19]

The attitudes of the men on campus were two-fold, according to Arthur Ter Keurst, then Dean of Men. There was first a sense of anger and a strong desire to defeat the Axis powers quickly and decisively. Secondly, there was a feeling of discouragement and a fear that their education would be terminated as a result of the country's involvement in a world war. The entire campus was left with a feeling

of uncertainty concerning its future. Dean Ter Keurst, like President Morgan, stressed the need for the men to stay in school as long as possible and to continue their work with diligence in order to prepare them for whatever the future might hold.[20]

On December 17, 1941, Morgan again took the opportunity to express his belief that education should continue along with defense work, stating that progress made by state teachers colleges was a must if education was to continue throughout the war and after its conclusion.[21]

An editorial appeared in the Courier the same day, very similar to Morgan's statement. In it the opinion was expressed that remaining in school was of equal importance to serving in the Military because teacher shortages would be felt after the war. Education must be maintained at a high level during the emergency because education was important in a democracy, stated the Courier. Every individual must do his part; remaining in school was a major contribution on the war effort.[22]

Morgan and the Courier were not advocating pacifism in these statements, but preparation for any demands the war might make upon the faculty and students of WISTC. The administration and students of WISTC were willing to share the burdens of a nation at war, although their patriotism did not impel them to rush to recruitment centers.

The town of Macomb, as well as the WISTC community, underwent definite changes as a result of American's initial

involvement in World War II. Still more changes were to come. It quickly became impossible for Macomb to remain a quiet, isolated Midwest town with a state teachers college located therein. Instead, the community was soon to become an atypical area, containing not only a college but also an army training and prisoner of war camp, Camp Ellis, whose construction was just around the corner.

Chapter II

The Impact of War

Another major adjustment for the Macomb community and the students and faculty of WISTC in the early war years was the construction of an army camp which was to be located in nearby Fulton County. The formal announcement and authorization for construction did not come until Saturday, September 5, 1942, although construction was discussed months before it was announced. United States Senator Scott Lucas announced the authorization for construction and that work was to begin as soon as possible with costs to be in excess of five million dollars.[1]

Initially, for Macomb, this meant an influx of thousands of construction workers, causing problems with housing shortages and law enforcement. For farmers near the towns of Table Grove and Ipava, where the camp was to be located, this meant a loss in property and in some instances a loss in the year's harvest. (See Appendix I for maps revealing land acquisitions made in the three county area surrounding Camp Ellis). In order to cope with this situation, a land acquisition office was opened by the government in Lewistown, Illinois.

On September 5, camp engineers were already seeking housing and an estimated 5,000 construction workers were soon to follow with a major portion of them seeking housing in Macomb. Committees were appointed by Mayor Wetzel in an attempt to solve the severe housing problems Macomb was about to face, and appeals were made to householders to prepare single rooms and apartments wherever they were available. The problem was compounded by beginning construction during the winter months. This timing prevented the use of any temporary dwellings, such as tents, because of the usually severe Illinois winters.[2]

The camp itself was to consist of 2,200 buildings set up in a triangular division with a capacity for housing 35,000 soldiers in three units: infantry, calvalry, and service. (Camp Ellis actually became strictly a service or quartermaster training outpost). Plans also called for switch tracks to be connected with the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy rail lines on the Southeastern edge of Table Grove, Illinois.[3]

Construction began almost immediately with no delay in obtaining property from land owners in the Table Grove and Ipava areas. Each owner was offered a price for his land. If he chose to accept, the transaction was sent to Washington and he received payment as soon as it was cleared by government officials. If he chose to decline in favor of a larger settlement, the sum offered by the government was put in escrow while negotiations continued. The problem farmers faced if they chose the latter course was that the government assumed control of

the land while negotiations continued. Once the announcement was made, action began quickly, leaving very little time for pondering or preparation on the part of area farmers.

A loss of an initial 8,000 acres was expected for Table Grove and Ipava area farmers. Originally, crop loss was expected to be minimal. However, on September 24, 1942, Lachlan Crissey of Lewistown, Illinois, the government attorney in charge of land acquisitions, announced all crops would be appraised for their value as of that date, purchased, and removed immediately. Also at that time a court order, handed down from Springfield, Illinois, gave many of the area farmers only until October 1 to vacate their land. The policy for crop purchase was the same as that for land acquisition. If the owner accepted the appraisal price, he was paid by the government and the deed was completed. If not, the government attorney Crissey filed a declaration of taking and the government assumed control regardless.[4]

The crop was sold to the highest bidder. The area's entire corn crop was sold to Frank W. Clugston for $11,515. This procedure was to be followed for selling all other crops harvested in the area. This system was put into effect after a court order was issued halting any feed or harvesting of crops by their owners to prevent constant re-appraisals.[5]

On September 8, the Macomb City Council met to discuss the problems the town would face as a result of the proximity of the camp and the large influx of workers its construction would bring. The Council expressed concern over the possibility

of trailer camps arising at various points throughout the city. Also discussed at this meeting was the problem of appropriating additional funds necessary to increase the city's police force. Mayor Wetzel organized seven committees to study and discuss the community's problems. No positive action was taken on this day; however, the Council chose instead to wait to see what developed as a result of camp construction.[6]

Editor Randolph reacted to the Council's inaction in his editorial of September 10, appropriately entitled, "Better Wake-Up." He pointed out that this was not the time to sit tight but the time for action and preparation. He believed the camp and its construction would bring with it lawlessness and prostitution, as well as con-artists of all kinds. Randolph realized that the problem with enlarging the police department was appropriating the funds necessary to pay the additional men that were needed. He proposed using WISTC students in lieu of professional policemen, believing college students to be intelligent, efficient, and dependable. Employing them would benefit all involved. The city would be receiving competent protection for a smaller sum, and the students would receive payment for a worthwhile part-time occupation.[7]

Randolph also pointed out the need for a police expert, with a tough reputation and experience in a similar situation, to train the present force and any future additions to the department. In his closing statement Randolph expressed the

opinion that it might already be too late for Macomb to prepare itself for the community's upcoming problems.

Randolph returned to this concern a week later on September 18, once again urging the City Council to take positive action to bolster Macomb's police force. His suggestion to use WISTC students was ignored and no new members were added to the community's police force because of an ordinance which stated all Macomb policemen must be permanent residents. Randolph believed this ordinance to be ridiculous in view of the present situation. He, along with many other community members, foresaw serious difficulties unless the Council acted immediately to cope with its problems. This plea went unheeded by Mayor Wetzel and the Council as the influx of people into the Macomb community continued.[8]

The construction of Camp Ellis continued throughout the winter of 1942-43 and despite the problems caused by a very wet spring and poor drainage, Camp Ellis was ready to begin operation in April of 1943. The camp upon its completion consisted of 17,750 acres and contained close to 2,200 buildings, from hospital to recreational facilities, with the capacity to house from 25,000 to 40,000 soldiers. The GI's began to arrive in April and were put under the command of General Russell I. Maxwell, who, previous to his assignment at Ellis, had been stationed in the Middle East working with service and supply units. Maxwell was assisted by Colonel H. C. Minuth and Colonel Basil D. Spaulding, who originally opened the camp during its initial stages.[9]

On May 6, 1943, all three officers were honored as guests of the Macomb Chamber of Commerce. At this banquet, General Maxwell attempted to open communication between Camp Ellis and the Macomb community. He applauded the town for its efforts at working to keep operations running smoothly and assured the citizens of Macomb that he would be personally available to discuss any problems that might occur.[10]

Camp Ellis was one of the largest camps in the United States and the soldiers there published one of the largest camp newspapers during the war, the Camp Ellis News. The first issue appeared on April 30, 1943, a simple mimeograph edition. The paper grew into a full size newspaper of excellent quality and was published in Macomb at the Macomb Daily Journal office, which profited by printing the paper. The Journal was able to obtain extra newsprint, which was in short supply during the war, enabling it to publish one or two additional pages of news daily.[11]

The Camp Ellis News was praised by editor Randolph for its open format which was a good example of freedom of the press enjoyed at Ellis. He pointed out that the Ellis high command did not tamper with the reporting and editorial policy of the paper, and that the staff took advantage of this opportunity to publish one of the best camp newspapers in the country.[12]

The people of the Macomb community and the Fulton County area had mixed emotions concerning the placement of a military camp in their vicinity. The general opinion in the town of

Table Grove, Illinois, a very small and peaceful rural community, was one of astonishment and disbelief upon hearing the announcement. The people wondered why the government would choose their little community for placement of a military camp.[13]

The people of Macomb voiced similar opinions and were concerned about the changes the camp would bring to their community. Many citizens feared the possible corruption the camp would bring along with the disruption of the community's daily activities.[14] Although these fears were never realized to any considerable degree, Camp Ellis did bring with it various problems to which the community was forced to adjust.

Housing shortages became the first of these difficulties as a result of the influx of construction workers and the subsequent arrival of GI's and their families. The citizens of Macomb were urged to open any available rooms for occupancy. The community responded and quickly became filled to capacity; it was rumored that there was not an empty bed to be found in Macomb.[15]

The housing shortages in Macomb also affected the students of WISTC. The problem was twofold. Finding housing was a big problem. At that time there were limited dormitory facilities on campus. The second problem was securing funds to pay rents that had tripled and even quadrupled due to the great demands in the housing market caused by the placement of Camp Ellis. Editor Randolph noted the students' problems early in September of the 1943-44 school year. He pointed out that rent payments had gone beyond the financial means

of college students, apparently contributing to a drop in WISTC's enrollment. The citizens of Macomb were being short-sighted in raising rents and thus curtailing the capacities of WISTC. Randolph believed the college was a permanent asset to the community; solving the college's housing problem was a responsibility of the citizens of Macomb.[16]

The arrival of GI's into the Macomb community brought an apparent end to controversy concerning the placement of Camp Ellis. The soldiers of Ellis were warmly accepted in the Macomb community. Early in June of 1943, Macomb citizens began to organize USO facilities under the direction of Barney Maticka. The American Legion Hall was used as a temporary location for the USO until more elaborate plans could be devised. The women of the community organized the Macomb Women's Community Council, under the leadership of Lucille King, to assist in the work begun by Maticka and the USO. The community's churches also became active in efforts to make the Ellis GI's more comfortable in the Macomb area. The First Presbyterian Church opened a center for FI's with a snack bar and recreational facilities. The churches also offered special services and transportation for the soldiers, announcing their weekly programs in the Camp Ellis News every Friday.[17]

The Macomb community continued its efforts to make the men of Camp Ellis comfortable, opening up in December of 1943 the Ewing building as an additional USO center. This facility, located on South Randolph Street across from the post office,

contained a lounge, snack bar, recreational area, and writing room and was also directed by Barney Maticka.[18]

Also announced at that time was an additional USO facility, the Holland Clinic, which was to be renovated for the Ellis GI's. The plans for this center compared favorably with the largest and most appealing centers in the country. The city of Macomb appropriated $16,586, along with the federal grant of $24,972 from the Defense Recreation Committee, to pay the expenses of purchasing and remodeling the clinic.[19]

These announcements could not have come soon enough to suit editor Randolph, who in October had warned the community that it would need additional facilities to serve the soldiers during the winter months. Randolph also pointed out that food and entertainment were not enough, that friendship and comfort were of the utmost importance to the soldier in a strange community and should be provided by the citizens of Macomb.[20]

Negro soldiers were treated differently, however. Despite the fact that Camp Ellis was located in the northern section of the country, policies one would expect to find in the South prevailed, including segregation. In July of 1943, plans were made to convert the second floor of Macomb's City Hall into a USO center for the black soldiers stationed at Ellis. The City Council, USO officials, and American Legion representatives met to discuss the plans and arrange for the immediate renovation of the designated area. Emerson Black, director of the Negro USO center, praised the American Legion for sacrificing their rooms on the second floor for the emergency.[21]

The arrival of Negro soldiers at Camp Ellis and into the Macomb community did cause some problems. The people of Macomb lacked both knowledge and exposure to blacks as did the people of many small communities in the area. They were just not accustomed to having them in their environment.[22] As a result of this lack of acceptance, many blacks from Ellis took their business to, and sought recreation in, Peoria, Illinois, a larger community with a larger black population.[23]

Vail Morgan, a reporter during the war for the Macomb Daily Journal, believed there were anti-black feelings in the community and also confirmed the fact that many of the black soldiers avoided Macomb, taking their business elsewhere, once again, usually to Peoria.[24]

Editor Randolph expressed his opinion and perhaps that of the community concerning the black soldiers at Camp Ellis in a commentary on a booklet written by Brigadier General E. A. Stockton of Camp Stewart, Georgia. This booklet, entitled, "Educational Programs for Colored Troops," discussed appropriate behavior for the black soldiers in Georgia, which Stockton pointed out must follow the state laws to the letter. These laws for blacks included staying out of white places, sitting in designated areas in public facilities, and demonstrating proper respect when confronting white people. Randolph agreed with Stockton's booklet and stated that blacks in the Macomb community should adhere to these rules designated for the blacks in Georgia. He pointed out that advancement for blacks should come by proving their worth and not by defiance.[25]

The town of Macomb was not without racial incident, however, and Randolph was quick to point this out to the community. In November of 1943, a rape took place involving a black soldier and a farm woman who resided in the vicinity of Camp Ellis. Ellis officials quickly investigated and apprehended the rapist less than a week after the incident. Randolph praised the work of the Ellis officials in bringing the matter to a close in such rapid fashion. He went on to say that hysteria and a reign of terror could have followed if the case was not closed as quickly as it was. The citizens of the Fulton County area could rest easy due to the quick apprehension and subsequent court martial of the rapist, reported Randolph.[26]

On the whole the record of the black soldiers at Camp Ellis was a commendable one, indicating that local racial prejudice and discrimination was unjustified. Olive Gamage, while a civilian employee at an Ellis post exchange (PX), believed the behavior of the blacks to be superior to that of the Caucasian soldiers in many instances.[27] Margaret Kipling, a PX manager at Ellis, dealt with black soldiers daily and observed politeness in manners and a friendly attitude among the black soldiers.[28]

Camp Ellis also interned approximately 2,500 German prisoners of war (POW's) stationed within its boundaries. The reaction from the Macomb community and the Fulton County area was mild in regard to the presence of these POW's. The only evidence of any adverse reaction came from those families

with sons killed in action who resented the enemy being in the area and treated as guests.[29] This complaint was not widespread in the Macomb community, however.

The record of the POW's at Ellis was very good. They were called upon to do work in many areas of the camp and were also hired out to local farmers and businessmen for work out side the camp. On these occasions they were compensated for their work.[30]

Many of the POW's located at Camp Ellis were English speaking and enjoyed talking with the American people with whom they came in contact. Carroll Brown, who worked as a surveyor and later on refrigeration units at Ellis, had many conversations with the German POW's while working in their area. He considered the prisoners to be both intelligent and friendly.[31]

There seems to have been some resentment among the GI's at Camp Ellis toward POW's. They felt that the German prisoners enjoyed too many luxuries which included eating well, enjoying excessive recreation time, and working very little. In contrast, many of the GI's resenting the presence of the prisoners had feelings of insecurity concerning their future.[32]

The GI's stationed at Camp Ellis did cause certain problems in the Macomb and Fulton County area. On October 2, 1943, the Macomb Daily Journal reported that Privates Hobert C. Strong and Robert H. Long were being held awaiting charges of stealing and demolishing a car belonging to Ivan Head of Bushnell, Illinois. State's Attorney Keith F. Scott said the two

stated that they might have stolen the car but did not remember the events clearly after an evening at a Bushnell tavern. The 1934 Ford belonging to Head was demolished after an accident about one mile outside of Bushnell. The two GI's were not injured in the accident and spent the night in jail. A similar case was reported the same day, also in the Bushnell area. A 1940 Ford owned by R. J. Moore of Bushnell was found abandoned with the motor severely damaged.[33]

On October 15, another car theft was reported involving Ellis GI's. Clarence Brower and Cecil Biteg were arrested in Chicago with a Studebaker owned by Z. C. Elliot of Bushnell. Brower and Biteg stated that the car had been loaned to them by an unknown man named Arthur. This case, like the previous two, was turned over to camp officials.[34]

Camp Ellis also brought some positive contributions to the Macomb community and the surrounding area. One outstanding event was a play written, produced, and performed by the soldiers of Camp Ellis, entitled "By the Numbers". The play was originally intended to be shown exclusively in the War Department Theatre at Camp Ellis, but due to the enthusiastic response the play received, Major General Maxwell, camp commander, gave permission for the production to be presented in cities adjacent to the camp. The play, which was shown in Macomb on September 14 and 15, 1943, to full houses at the Illinois Theatre, dealt with everyday life in a military camp. (See Appendix II for the program and list of credits as it was distributed on September 14 and 15, 1943).

"By the Numbers" was produced by the Special Services Office under the direction of Major Frederick McCaw. The play warranted the attention it was given in the Macomb community for it was reportedly a very worthy production. It served to improve relationships, which at that point were excellent, with the town of Macomb as well as other surrounding communities.[35]

Also serving to improve the relationship between Camp Ellis and the surrounding area was an Open House which took place at the Camp on July 4, 1943. This event consisted of a full parade, open inspection of Camp Ellis' five training groups (service, quartermaster, engineer, signal, and medical companies), formal camp dedication ceremony, a band concert, and a picnic lunch, to mention just a few of the open house activities. The event was expected to entertain 50,000 people before the day was finished.[36] (See Appendix III for the complete program of events for the Camp Ellis Open House on July 4, 1943).

In summary, Camp Ellis brought many things to the Macomb community but major problems and difficulties were not among them. The camp did not cause problems in law enforcement as was expected by many community officials. This was due in part to the fact that although 8,000 construction workers were expected to descend on the city, only about half that number actually arrived in Macomb. Mayor Wetzel stated that all had run smoothly during the construction period with the positive aspects of Camp Ellis dominating the atmosphere.

Wetzel commented that the camp had enabled many people to find employment and rent rooms who were unable to do so before camp construction. Chief of Police William Hegstrom agreed with Mayor Wetzel stating there had been no large increase in arrests as a result of camp construction. He did state, however, that the number of arrests for intoxication had increased.[37]

In Ipava and Table Grove the prosperity brought by the presence of Camp Ellis was felt immediately as population doubled in both areas as a result of camp construction. In Ipava the population soared from 650 to 1,400. The town also opened two additional taverns with few additional problems in law enforcement. Once again the predicted problems with camp undesirables and drunkenness were not to be found. Ipava did, however, add an additional law enforcement officer to its staff, a night man to relieve the day man, making their force a two-man operation.

Table Grove also enjoyed new-found prosperity resulting from the placement of Camp Ellis. Its population rose from 550 to 1,100 and its business was up an estimated fifty percent. Table Grove also constructed two new taverns to provide ample entertainment for its increased population.[38]

One of the major sources of income for both Table Grove and Ipava were the slot machines located in taverns, restaurants, and other businesses. They were operated illegally but condoned by area officials because each town was given a percentage of the profit from its machines. This split was arranged without publicity to avoid any legal complications. The ma-

chines were confiscated at one time in a raid by the Fulton County States Attorney's Office, but were replaced and in use again shortly after the raid.[39]

Overall, the placement of Camp Ellis and the soldiers, families, and construction workers it brought did change the lifestyle of the residents in the Macomb, Ipava, and Table Grove communities in several ways. Many new and different events took place which changed the daily routines of these citizens. The war was brought directly into these communities by the placement of the camp and subsequent USO facilities along with the many illegal facilities in Table Grove and Ipava.

Naturally these events caused certain tensions and occasional difficulties in each town, but the record speaks for itself. The transition made by the citizens in the Macomb and Table Grove-Ipava communities was remarkable. After the initial shock announcing the placement of Camp Ellis, these communities opened their doors to Ellis and its soldiers. This is not to say that these communities did not profit by its placement, for that is obvious. They did, however, accept the soldiers on a personal basis which made the transition and relatively smooth operation of Camp Ellis possible.

Chapter III

The War and the Campus

The Second World War and the placement of Camp Ellis in the area had a great impact on Western Illinois State Teachers College (WISTC) too. WISTC's faculty moved one month after Pearl Harbor to organize a War Council under the direction of Dr. Arthur Tillman in order to make the college's activities in the area of defense as dynamic as possible. The Council's initial steps were taken by the college's faculty in an effort to conserve rubber and gas.[1]

The students of WISTC were restless and unsure of their immediate future during the initial stages of the country's involvement in World War II. Thomas Callahan, writing for the Western Courier, rejected the advice of President Morgan and Dean Ter Keurst to remain cool and continue with their college education in an intensified fashion in order to finish before they were called into the service. Callahan asserted that it was ridiculous to ask students to remain cool and calm with increased wartime activities, defense work, and rationing all around them. The idea of waiting until one was drafted before thinking about the service was hypocritical according to Callahan. He called for increased war awareness

on the part of the men on campus and requested a more realistic approach from WISTC's faculty.[2]

Indeed, the students and faculty of WISTC were already beginning to feel the effects of the war. School activities quickly began to suffer due to an enrollment decline of twenty-five percent, campus unrest concerning the draft, and student apathy. These factors, along with a decrease in the activities budget, had a detrimental effect on Western's social environment.[3]

In March of the 1941-42 school year, as the students of WISTC began to initiate their Red Cross program and other wartime activities, news of Western's first military casualty was reported. Former student Howard Corbin was killed attempting to parachute from a disabled training plane.[4] The students of WISTC were beginning to realize that the World War II was a part of their lives and that it would affect their activities throughout its duration.

The 1942-43 school year brought additional changes to the campus of WISTC, which at that time was to become more actively involved in the country's war effort. The fall of 1942 began with two significant changes on campus. WISTC began that year with a new president, Dr. Frank A. Beu, who replaced the retired Dr. Walter P. Morgan. Morgan had been president from 1912 until Beu took over in September of 1942. The new president received his B.A. and M.A. at Northwestern University, majoring in Social Science and English. He later completed his Ph.D. in education at the University of Chicago.

Before coming to Western, Dr. Beu held a position as a Professor of Methodology at Eastern Illinois University and later became Dean of Instruction at the same institution.[5]

WISTC also began that year with another significant drop in the enrollment for fall quarter. The totals for that quarter were 718 students, 303 men and 415 women, compared to a total of 810 students registered for the previous fall quarter. This number increased to a total of 813 students for the regular school year and 692 for the summer term. These figures show a marked decrease from the 929 students enrolled for the 1941-42 regular year and 801 for that year's summer session. WISTC graduated 110 four-year students and 27 two-year students in 1942-43 in contrast to 124 and 52, respectively, in 1941-42.[6]

The figures for the 1942-43 school year were deceptive, however, in view of the large freshmen class which entered WISTC at that time. A total of 270 freshmen registered for fall classes, 123 men and 147 women. This was only a five percent drop from 1941 when 284 freshmen students enrolled, 113 men and 171 women. This figure becomes even more significant when compared to the decrease in freshmen from 1940 to 1941, which was much more drastic, because in 1940, 412 freshmen registered for fall classes. This small loss in the number of freshmen entering WISTC was attributed to Western's attractive new military programs. The Courier agreed with those freshmen who enrolled in WISTC's military programs and

implored upper classmen also to take advantage of the new curriculum introduced by President Beu.[7]

As part of the new curriculum at Western in 1942, all men were required to enroll in compulsory physical education courses in compliance with government orders. They were required to participate in four periods of physical education per week. Athletic Director Ralph Barclay, who replaced Colonel Ray Hanson, then serving in the Marine Corp as he did in World War I, set up the program for Western's men. The program entailed tumbling, a barricade course, cross country, steeple chase, hand-to-hand combat, calisthenics, and marching. The only male students exempted from the courses were those involved in interscholastic football and cross country.[8]

This effort to bring the men of WISTC to physical preparedness was welcomed by the Courier whose staff expressed their pleasure in an editorial which appeared on September 23. This piece called for maximum compliance with the program in view of the task which faced the country. The new physical education program would benefit the individuals, the college, and the country, stated the Courier.

In December of 1942, an announcement was made, the first of its kind, by Miss Sarah Miner of the Monroe Hall cafeteria. Miss Miner asked the students to limit themselves to two and one-half pounds of meat per week in order to help keep the United States Army the best fed fighting force in the world. To do this efficiently a meatless day each week was requested of the students at Western. At that time meat

was not being rationed. Thus, compliance was voluntary on the part of the students.[9]

A month later, in January, 1943, a full wartime curriculum was being considered by the faculty curriculum committee to serve those students preparing for war work. These courses were drawn up by Dean Ter Keurst according to government recommendations to train students for specific posts in the country's war effort. In addition to Western's wartime pre-nursing and business training programs, courses being considered in January were to prepare students in such fields as engineering assistant, food management, lab technician, map draftsman, meteorologist, model making, personnel work, pre-flight aviation, physical therapy, recreational assistant, social service work, statistician, and technical and scientific aide. On February 17, 1943, it was announced that these courses would become effective for the spring quarter beginning on March 8. The courses were set up in one, two, and three-year curriculums under the direction of Dr. Frederick H. Currens, Dean of Faculty, and Dr. Arthur Ter Keurst, Dean of Men.[10]

Also at this time the civilian pilot training course was reintroduced on the campus of WISTC with the capacity to train ten men in eight week sessions. In an effort to accelerate this program to serve a larger number of students, WISTC also offered the course in two six-week summer sessions. WISTC's war curriculum did not stop there, however, for evening courses were also offered in an adult education program. This

portion of Western's war curriculum included Red Cross programs, nutrition, and first aid courses.[11]

The policy of the Western Courier remained steadfast in its position concerning the value of education during the war period. The Courier staff believed the teacher education program should continue alongside the new war curriculum and defense programs instituted at Western. In April of 1943, an editorial appeared in the Courier which stated that those persons who planned on a teaching career should not give it up because of the war. Indeed, the war increased the need for competent teachers by creating shortages of trained personnel for several years to come. The editorial closed by saying that all high school graduates should consider the teaching profession; teaching was of great importance to the country's war effort.[12]

Later in May of 1943, a similar editorial appeared in the Courier in response to President Beu's pleas for 50,000 teachers for the post-war period. Here teachers were advised to remain at their posts until it was certain there was greater need for them elsewhere. Students training for the teaching profession should also remain in school until it was clear that they could serve the country better in another way. At that time, the editorial asserted, evidence was lacking that either students or teachers should desert their profession.[13]

The Western Courier also made efforts during the war to remain in contact with former students who were called away from campus to serve in the military. The Courier staff

initiated a program to send copies of the newspaper to those in service to keep them informed of campus activities. The paper also printed excerpts from the letters it received from men in service to keep those on campus informed of the activities of former students. In addition, the Courier promoted a program in which students on campus could become involved in a letter writing campaign to former students then in service to inform them of campus events in a more personal manner.[14]

The other campus publication, the Sequel, was also filled with information concerning WISTC's war programs. The 1943 yearbook opened with a message from President Beu in which he discussed the new war curriculums at Western. Beu explained the dual role Western had undertaken in continuing the teacher education program while at the same time offering war programs in cooperation with the War Manpower Commission and the United States Office of Education. Dr. Beu's address closed with a plea to those students finishing a two-year program who were not urgently needed in war work or teaching to continue with a four-year program to prepare them for peacetime employment when they would be urgently needed.[15]

The approach taken by the 1943 Sequel staff was directed towards binding the students of WISTC with the nation's war effort. The continual reference to President Beu as "Our General" and to various department heads and faculty as colonels and captains was apparently an attempt by the

staff to generate war awareness which would lead to a greater contribution from the students at WISTC.

The 1943 Sequel did not, however, forget those actually given military titles in the World War II. A section in the yearbook was devoted to those in service who were WISTC students at some time after the country's declaration of national emergency in 1940. It should be noted that in 1944 the Sequel's approach towards World War II was not as casual as that of 1943 due to the increase in American casualties, particularly those of former Western students.

The opening of the 1943-44 school year witnessed WISTC's sharpest decline in enrollment. Only 419 students matriculated in the year's three quarters. The summer term was more productive, however, when 636 students registered for the two six-week sessions. A total of 89 students graduated from WISTC in the 1943-44 school year.[16]

President Beu, in an effort to bolster enrollment, attempted to meet the needs of the people in the Macomb area with a series of courses offered in the late afternoon and early evening. This special war program contained both credit and non-credit offerings. This list of offerings included such courses as nutrition, health care, and first aid.[17] WISTC's faculty, in the fall of 1943, also opened its flight training course to local men and women in one-year curriculum. This opportunity was of great value to men preparing to join the Army or Navy Air Corps. This course, as was the regular

college course, was taught by Professor Wayne Wetzel and flight instructor Harry L. Clugston.[18]

The faculty of WISTC continued to meet the demands of war by broadening their available emergency war curricula. All of the special war courses were being offered at the same cost as the regular college courses. Students enrolling in these courses would not lose any college credits after the war as a result of having entered these courses. The new curriculum varied from agricultural courses for increased food production to chemical engineering for advances in war industry and technology. These additions were also aimed at preparing students for the post war period, offering a two-year curriculum in physical therapy and pre-dentistry, to mention just a few. Many local people capitalized on these new courses, including high school students and the wives of those men stationed at Camp Ellis.[19]

The Courier remained active in the campus war effort during the 1943-44 school year with a program promoting bond and stamp drives and in keeping students aware of some of the little things they might do to aid the country's war effort. For example, in November of 1943, the Courier reminded the students on campus of the amounts of food wasted daily, resulting in increased hours of production and shortages, which caused a decline in the nation's war productivity and morale.[20]

The Courier also continued to point out to WISTC's students that it was no disgrace to be in college even though there was work to be done elsewhere in the country's war ef-

fort in the classroom in order to take advantage of their opportunity to become qualified teachers for the post-war period.[21]

The Courier also chastized the majority of the students on campus in March of 1944, for not doing their part in WISTC's war effort. The contribution of those on campus should equal the effort of those who left Western to join the armed services, stated the Courier. Students could begin by contributing to the Courier's Red Cross Fund Drive. The efforts of the Courier to contribute to war programs were continuous and, apparently, quite effective. The campus weekly newspaper served in many cases as a catalyst for the college's contribution to the nation's war effort.[22]

The Courier continued its efforts throughout the 1944-1945 school year, a year in which the effects of the war were glaringly apparent in the college's enrollment figures. Only 40 freshman men registered for classes out of a total of 175 students entering that fall. The enrollment for the entire year did increase, however, from 490 in 1943-44 to 516 for the 1944-45 school year. There were 27 graduate students included in the latter figure.[23]

Once again, in the fall of 1944, the Courier pleaded with those students on campus to avoid the tempting salaries being offered in the various war industries and stay in school because of the anticipated need for college graduates, particularly certified teachers, after the conclusion of the war. The period following the war would require teachers to

be able to inform their students on the values of a peaceful civilization, it was claimed, in order to insure against the possibility of another world war.[24]

Along with the work done by the Courier throughout the duration of the war was the excellent record of WISTC's athletic program which was able to maintain its activities despite adverse conditions. Early in 1942 WISTC lost their football coach and athletic director, Ray Hanson. Coach Hanson was called once again to serve in the Marine Corps as he had been in World War I. Hanson's assistant, Ralph Barclay, assumed the duties of athletic director in his absence and Wix Garner took over as head football coach. Coach Garner quickly felt the hardships the athletic program was to suffer as a result of the war. In September of 1942, he was pessimistic about his team's chances for success due to his inability to have all players present at a single practice session before the season opener. Many of his players were involved in war programs in St. Louis, Missouri and Peoria, Illinois and this kept them away from afternoon practice sessions. This, along with the various injuries sustained by members of the football team, compounded the problems for Coach Garner.[25]

Football was not Coach Garner's only problem during the 1942-43 school year. In the spring, Garner coached baseball and found considerable difficulties in scheduling games for his squad. He was only able to schedule eight ball games for that season because many school discontinued their athletic programs. In March of 1943, WISTC's athletic program was fur-

ther limited when twenty-four men who had participated in athletics were called to active duty.[26]

The athletic program did continue, however, and the following fall thirty men reported for the season's first football practice. The quality of the program suffered though due to the inexperience of young players and the absence of returning lettermen. The only school not suffering these problems was Normal State Teachers College located in Normal, Illinois. Normal State was using navy personnel stationed there on its athletic teams to bolster its program. This policy could have been instituted at WISTC, according to Coach Garner, who at that time replaced navy-bound Ralph Barclay as the athletic director. The men stationed at Camp Ellis would have made an excellent contribution to WISTC's athletic program, in his opinion. President Beu, however, would not allow the Ellis GI's to participate in Western's athletic events. Beu and Garner disagreed on this matter, but the President's viewpoint prevailed.[27]

Coach Garner's football squad suffered a severe setback in 1943 when only seventeen men reported for that season's first practice session, the smallest turnout in WISTC's history. This figure included only one returning letterman and six men who lacked high school football experience.[28] This low turnout prompted Coach Garner to use the Courier to reach all the men on campus and explain to them that it was their duty to report for football practice whether they were experienced or not. The team needed men in order to hold scrimmages in pre-

paration for scheduled ball games and seventeen players was not enough.[29]

Wartime attrition to the staff placed a heavy burden on Coach Garner. In 1943-44 he was not only football coach and athletic director, but also head baseball and basketball coach. Garner left WISTC in the fall of 1944 to continue his studies in physical education. He was replaced by Robert Barnwell.

Although the success of WISTC's athletic program was limited during the war years, it did continue with the help of men like Garner, Barclay, and Barnwell. In a year such as 1943 when there was a scarcity of men on campus it is remarkable that the program was able to continue. The work of these men did not go unnoticed. The Courier, in January of 1945, praised the work of all WISTC's coaches who were responsible for keeping the athletic program functioning despite the various shortages in manpower and equipment caused by war. Coach Hanson, who returned to WISTC after the war, thought highly of his colleagues during his absence, particularly Coaches Barclay and Garner for their efforts at continuing the program despite the hardships they endured.[30]

While the record of WISTC's men in the athletic program was excellent, the women students of WISTC also contributed to the war programs on campus and were responsible for keeping many campus activities functioning throughout the duration.

Due to the absence of men on campus the women of WISTC assumed the responsibility of managing and editing the Western

Courier. By May of 1943, WISTC's women occupied nine of the top eleven positions on the Courier staff and in May of 1944, occupied all these positions except that of sports editor. In the spring of 1944, Marie Thompson became editor in chief and Jean Chambliss worked with her as assistant editor.[31]

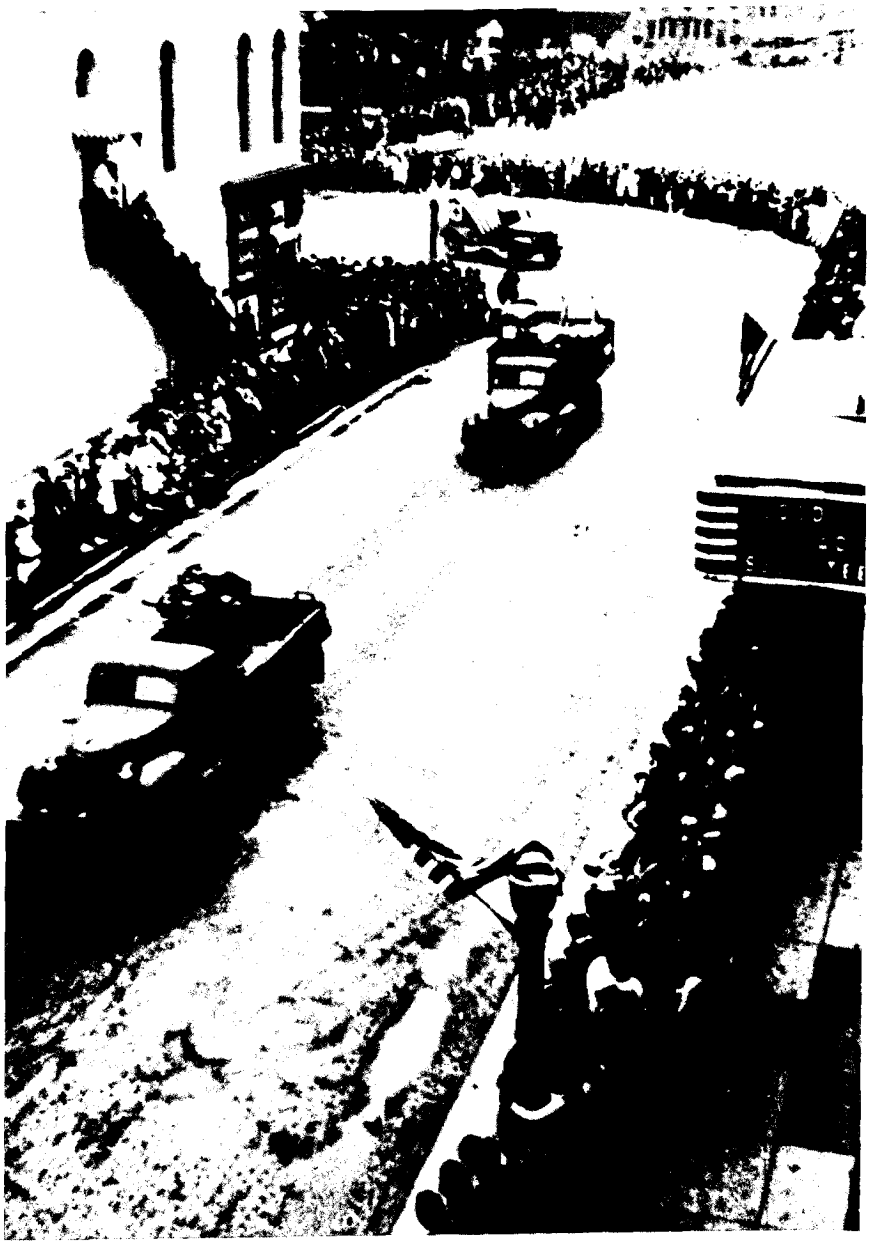
The work done by WISTC's sororities in organizing war stamp and bond drives should also be noted. These drives, along with the work done by women in nursing and first aid courses, provided additional proof of their willingness to become involved in Western's war effort. These courses were offered after regular class hours. The high enrollment figures in them demonstrates the attitude of Western's women in regard to the war. They were also aware of the seriousness of the war and the need for them to do whatever they could in WISTC's and the nation's war effort.[32]

The contribution made by the students and faculty of WISTC to the nation's war effort was remarkable. The work done by the WISTC community touched up several aspects of the nation's effort. The faculty at Western did an excellent job providing the students and the citizens of Macomb with a selection of classes that enabled them to prepare for their personal contributions to the country's war effort.

The athletic department also worked diligently in order to keep their programs alive while also preparing the men on campus for induction into the armed services with a rigorous physical education program.

The students of WISTC did indeed feel the burden of World War II but were able to overcome the rationing, shortages, and tensions of the war in order to continue their education or preparation for war in the best possible fashion. The faculty assisted the students in keeping their educational objectives in proper perspective regarding the war, for both were of equal importance to the WISTC community.

The WISTC students and faculty also overcame many hardships in order to keep its educational and extra-curricular programs alive while simultaneously operating a solid war program, one which involved all members of WISTC in a remarkable response to the country's needs and demands during the Second World War.

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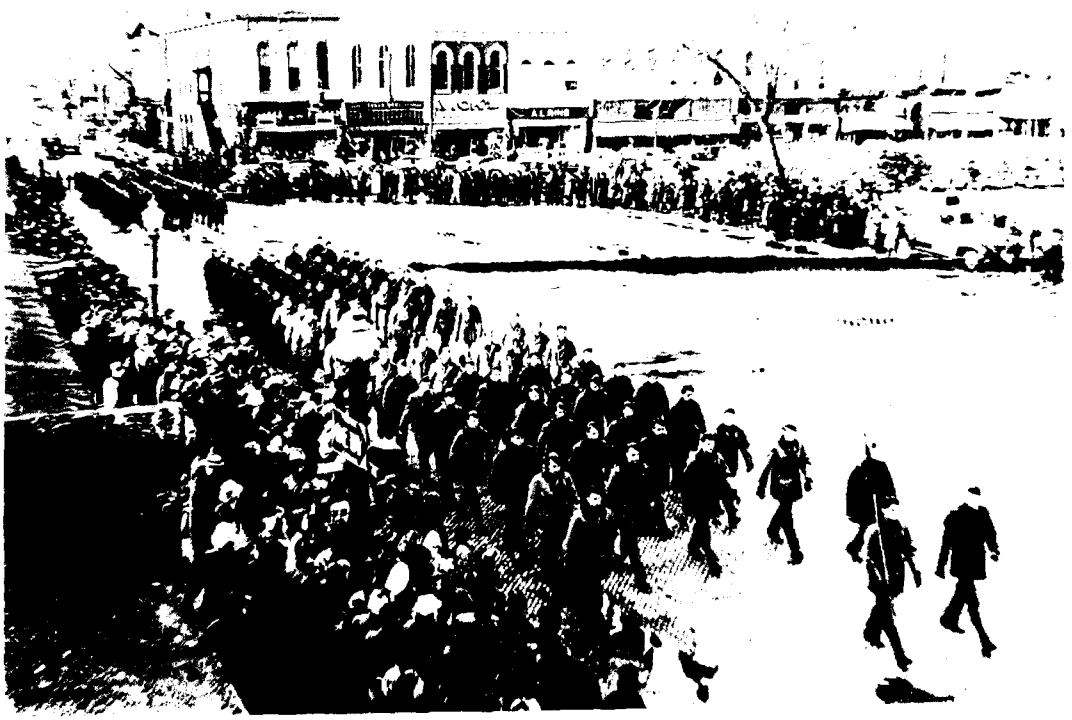

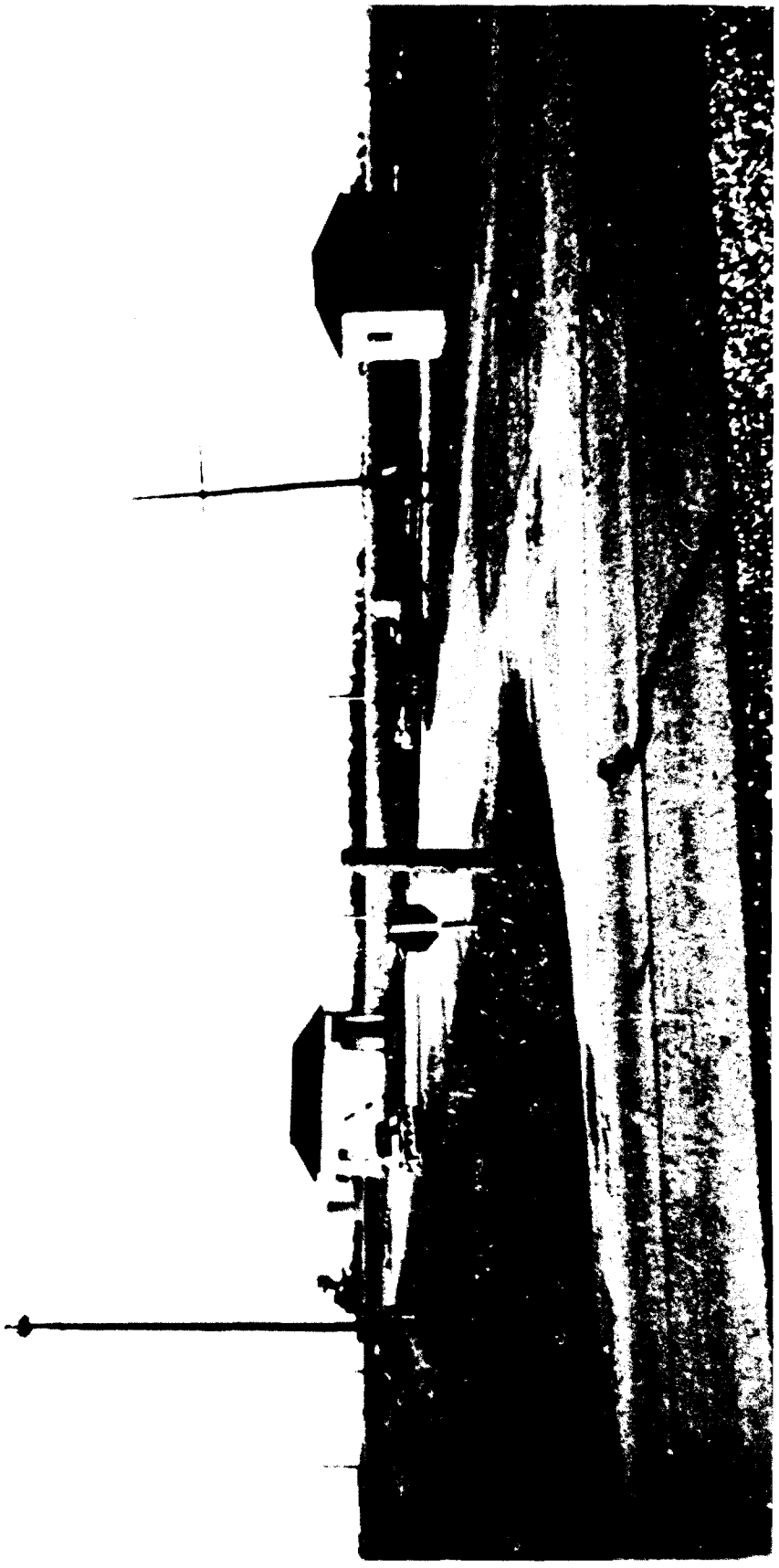

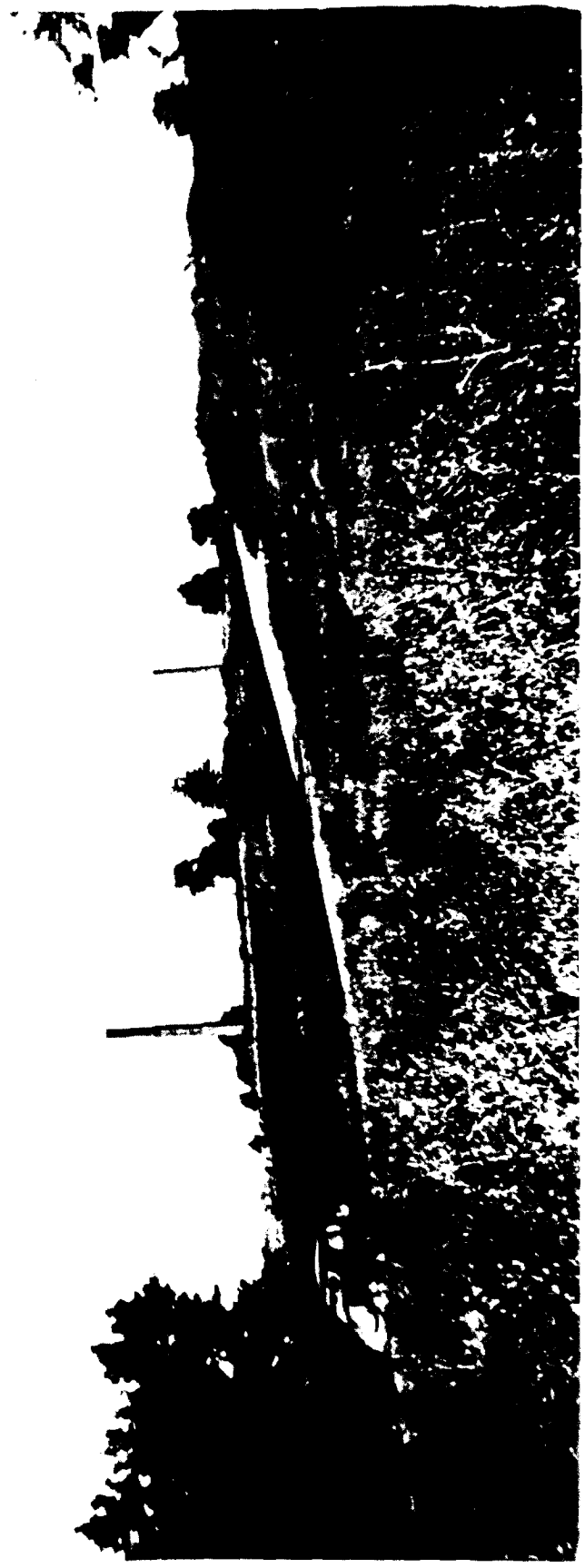

Chapter IV

The Tension of War--A Case Study

Although the campus of WISTC was without any major difficulties, it was not without controversy during World War II. The source of this controversy was the placement of two Japanese-American students at Western. The students and faculty of WISTC each responded to this controversy in the manner in which each believed was the best for WISTC.

This problem was not restricted to the campus of WISTC, whose problem was very minor in comparison to the problem concerning Japanese-Americans throughout the Western states. In 1942, as a result of the catastrophe at Pearl Harbor and the additional fear of further Japanese attacks and sabotage, Japanese-Americans were stripped of many of their rights and freedoms that they had previously enjoyed in the United States. The basic factor which caused Japanese-Americans these hardships was the decision to treat Japanese aliens differently than German and Italian aliens.

German and Italian-Americans were numerous, politically influential, and widely dispersed throughout the country making it unwise for the Roosevelt administration to take action against them. The Japanese-Americans, however, were particu-

larly vulnerable. They formed a relatively small group, were concentrated primarily on the west coast and could be easily singled out by their physical features and color. Moreover, they lacked political power because the foreign-born Japanese (Isei), who had migrated to the United States before 1924, were barred from citizenship and most of their children, although born in the United States and therefore citizens (Nisei), were too young to vote.[1]

In view of these facts it became the opinion of such men as General John DeWitt, head of the Western Defense Command, and Earl Warren, Attorney General of California, that racial bonds were more important than nationality. These men played key roles in the decision to assume that Japanese-Americans were not necessarily loyal to the United States.

Secretary of War Stimson, along with those mentioned above, combined with the pressure added by various groups on the west coast, prompted Roosevelt and the War Department to move not only for evacuation of Japanese-Americans from key areas but also for relocation in restricted internment camps. The internment resulted from the adverse reaction received from various states throughout the country who rejected the migration of people too dangerous to remain in San Francisco or Los Angeles. People from Denver, Colorado to Laramie, Wyoming objected strongly against serving as a dumping ground for enemy aliens.[2]

These events led to the formation of the War Relocation Authority (WRA) under the direction of Milton Eisenhower. The

WRA by June of 1942, had evacuated more than 100,000 persons, two-thirds of them American citizens, or Nisei. These evacuees, both Isei and Nisei, were forced to sacrifice their homes and businesses and were herded into relocation centers hastily constructed in barren, desolate spots.[3]

The WRA took the responsibility of erecting the camps which were located in seven states throughout the West. Each of the camps was equipped to house 10,000 to 12,000 Japanese-Americans. By September of 1942, these camps were filled with the Japanese-American evacuees. These camps did not provide the most comfortable living conditions. The wooden barracks located in these camps lacked personal privacy and provided for a communal type of living.[4]

In 1943, the WRA instituted a program which granted permanent leave to many of the Nisei located in relocation camps. In order to gain his freedom the Nisei had to prove to the WRA that he had employment or schooling arranged away from the west coast. He was also responsible for locating a community in which he would find acceptance and to demonstrate this point to the WRA. The Nisei was also requested to notify the WRA of any change in his address. The WRA, in 1943, issued 17,000 of these releases to Nisei members of Western relocation camps.[5]

One of these Nisei, Isamu Miyamoto, enrolled at Western Illinois State Teachers College in Macomb, Illinois. Arriving in October of 1943, Miyamoto, a student of agriculture, had been released two weeks earlier from the Colorado River War

Relocation Camp where he had been interned. His parents and sister remained interned at the Colorado camp.[6]

Miyamoto was sent to WISTC by the Japanese-American Student Relocation Council in Philadelphia. He was not accepted at Western, however, until he was cleared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. His parents were born in Japan but he was born in this country and attended California and Arizona high schools. Miyamoto joined another Japanese-American at WISTC by the name of Kayo Kamitaki. Kamitaki was born in Hawaii of Japanese parents. Before coming to Western he attended North Texas State Teachers College and was a junior in 1943.[7]

Kamitaki's arrival at WISTC came after problems arose in the community of Denton, Texas where citizens questioned his presence at North Texas State and why he was not in the service. Dean Harris of North Texas State received many complaints despite the fact that Kamitaki was classified 1-A by the selective service. He was not in the service at that time because United States Armed Forces were not yet using Nisei, except for those already in the service previous to the outbreak of the war.[8]

The reaction from the students of North Texas State was positive unlike the community of Denton which forced Dean Harris to contact Dean Ter Keurst of WISTC about Kamitaki's transfer. Dean Ter Keurst was responsible for opening the doors of WISTC to Kamitaki despite the unsure feelings he had concerning community acceptance of a Japanese-American in Macomb.[9]

There were problems awaiting Kayo in the Macomb community. The first indication came from Macomb Daily Journal editor Louis Randolph on October 7, 1943. Randolph was enraged by the decision of the War Relocation Authority and the Student Relocation Council to place two Japanese-Americans in the Macomb community. It was his belief that Macomb was already overcrowded with thousands of soldiers who visited Macomb regularly. These GI's could not be expected to have warm and cordial feelings towards two Japanese students. He belived it was unjust to ask these GI's to accept Kamitaki and Miyamoto who were preparing for careers while they prepared for war at nearby Camp Ellis.[10]

Randolph believed that it was not too much to ask these students and the Student Relocation Council to postpone their education or to reassign them elsewhere until after the war's conclusion. In his opinion friction was inevitable in the Macomb community. If possible, it should be avoided by removing Kamitaki and Miyamoto from WISTC.[11]

Editor Randolph revealed his attitude toward Japanese-Americans, both Isei and Nisei, in an editorial which appeared in the Macomb Daily Journal almost a year earlier in October of 1942. In this piece Randolph praised the administration of the University of Arizona for refusing extension courses, library books, and faculty lectures to Japanese-Americans in Arizona's relocation center. These services had been requested by the War Relocation Boards.

Randolph believed that American generosity customary in peacetime be withdrawn during the war when dealing with the Japanese-Americans in the internment camps. He pointed out that the Japanese were being treated well and housed and fed by the United States government, despite the fact that the country was involved in total war with their nation. Randolph believed the War Relocation Board's request was ridiculous in view of these facts.[12]

Strangely, there is a lack of further evidence of community resentment towards Miyamoto and Kamitaki. Many residents of Macomb at that time have little or no recollection of the presence of these two Japanese students. (All those persons interviewed by the author did not recall any serious problems). This was not the case, however, with the students and faculty at WISTC and the soldiers at Camp Ellis, where problems did occur.

President Beu began to receive complaints from alumni concerning the presence of Kamitaki and Miyamoto at WISTC in November, 1943. One example was a letter from Jeanette E. Utley, a former WISTC student and Illinois teacher for some thirty years. Miss Utley vehemently objected to the placement of the two Japanese-Americans at WISTC and pleaded with President Beu to remove them and save her further embarrassment in her home town of Tucson, Arizona. Utley found her information in the Macomb Daily Journal, but requested additional information about the placement and possible removal of Kamitaki and Miyamoto from President Beu.[13]

Evidently President Beu considered Miss Utley's opinion valuable enough to warrant a response because he answered her letter, providing her with the information she requested. President Beu reported that the federal government, not WISTC, placed the two Japanese students in Macomb. Beu explained that Kamitaki and Miyamoto were not thought of as Japanese natives but as natives of Hawaii and California, their respective birthplaces. He also reported to Miss Utley that he discouraged them from coming to Western and was working for their transfer after the fall quarter which ended on November 26, 1943. He closed by saying he would write her again at the end of the quarter to keep her informed of the situation.[14]

Near the close of the fall quarter, on November 23, 1943, there was a meeting held to discuss the possible transfer of Kamitaki and Miyamoto from WISTC. This meeting was attended by President Beu, Dean Ter Keurst, Kayo Kamitaki, and members of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity, Tom Ryan, Duane Anderson and Paul Ketner. Kayo did not belong to this organization.[15]

During this meeting the group discussed the problems concerning Kayo's presence in Macomb and possible solutions. President Beu mentioned the threats of violence directed towards Kayo as one of these problems along with the fact that if he played baseball interscholastically for Western many schools would not compete against them. Beu also stated at that time that he believed a transfer was in Kayo's best interest and that he thought it was a mistake for the fraternity to further embarrass Kayo with any additional publicity by urging that he remain at Western.

Apparently it was publicity that originally put Kayo in jeopardy because President Beu and the faculty at Western agreed to consider Kayo's family as being of Hawaiian instead of Japanese descent. A faculty leak, however, exposed his real ancestry. This news, along with the presence of the soldiers from Camp Ellis, combined to cause many problems for Kayo. It was no longer possible to find housing in Macomb for either Kamitaki or Miyamoto after this leak.

These anti-Japanese sentiments were not, however, to be found among the majority of the students at WISTC, in contrast to President Beu's opinion. The members of the Sigma Tau Gamma pleaded Kayo's case without his asking for their assistance. This demonstrates that a portion of Western's students were in favor of Kayo remaining in school despite the opinion of the Macomb Daily Journal and the soldiers at Camp Ellis.

As the meeting progressed it became obvious that President Beu, inspite of his statement that the decision was up to Kayo and the fraternity, wished Kamitaki and Miyamoto to transfer in order to avoid further difficulties. He suggested that Kayo could be transferred without any adverse publicity by using his major as a pre-medical student to cover up the actual reason for his leaving Western. WISTC did not offer certain courses in that curriculum and he could be said to have transferred to another institution to obtain these additional courses.

Beu continually stressed the importance of keeping the entire matter quiet to avoid further difficulties. He com-

pared the situation to the problems that arose in 1942 regarding a black student who wished to become a member of Western's English society and the fact that his activities and freedoms became more limited as publicity increased.

During this conference it was also mentioned that blacks were not allowed to enter Macomb's hotels and that the one black on campus who was an athlete posed problems for the athletic department when teams traveled to other schools. Apparently the prejudice directed toward Kamitaki and Miyamoto was even more intense because of the country's war with Japan.

Although President Beu made it clear that Kayo and Sam were not being dismissed from Western, the pressure for their transfer was obvious on his part. Paul Ketner, a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity present at the meeting and also a veteran of the war in the Pacific, perceived President Beu's desire for immediate transfer was the predominant factor governing the meeting.[16] He was of the opinion that Beu was taking the easy way out, but he was also aware that racial problems were real. They did exist at Western and other Illinois universities, especially at Southern Illinois University.[17] In Ketner's view most students at WISTC had feelings of astonishment and not hatred towards Kamitaki and Miyamoto. According to him, Western's student body accepted the polite and well-mannered Kamitaki. He does, however, recall incidents on campus when Kayo was threatened and occasions when physical violence occurred between Kayo and Camp Ellis soldiers in which members of the male student body would assist Kayo, who was

usually out-numbered. Ketner believed these were usually limited service GI's, soldiers with a physical handicap which kept them from combat duty, who were out to prove a point and impress the civilians and students in Macomb.[18] Overall, Ketner concluded that Kayo was treated unfairly by an administration and President who did not want to experience any unpleasantness on his behalf.[19]

Kamitaki and Miyamoto did transfer from WISTC after the fall quarter of 1943 in early December. Miyamoto was reported to have transferred to Brigham Young University in Utah although there is no record of his ever attending that institution.[20] Kamitaki left WISTC and moved to Chicago where he was employed by the Edgewater Beach Hotel as a busboy. He later attended Northern Illinois University through the winter quarter of 1944-45. In 1945 he entered the United States Army as an interpreter in Japan. In 1950 he returned to Northern and finished his degree with the help of the "GI Bill".[21]

There were several reasons for the transfer of Isamu Miyamoto and Kayo Kamitaki from WISTC. The fear of and hostility toward persons of Japanese descent in America after the attack of Pearl Harbor is the most obvious of these reasons. The pressure placed on President Beu by alumni can be seen in his correspondence with Jeanette Utley. Beu did contact Miss Utley after the two students left Western informing her of where Miyamoto and Kamitaki were to be transferred.[22] Miss Utley in turn wrote back to President Beu expressing her

happiness concerning the transfer and informing him that she could once more be proud of Western Illinois State Teachers College.[23]

The close proximity of the army training center, Camp Ellis, also increased tension and added pressure on WISTC's administration to remedy the situation. The encounters with soldiers that Kamitaki faced could not have been beneficial for any of the parties involved. For Kayo these skirmishes must have been very unpleasant. These scenes were also embarrassing for WISTC and only added to the problem while complicating the relationship between the college and Camp Ellis.

The influence exerted upon the community by the Macomb Daily Journal and its editor Louis Randolph cannot be disregarded. The fact that the Journal informed the citizens of Macomb of the presence of the Japanese-American students, coupled with Randolph's hostile editorial against them, did not help calm the situation. Indeed, it served to incite the community and the soldiers at Camp Ellis against Kamitaki and Miyamoto. No one, except perhaps fellow students, were willing to extend to the two Japanese students the rights guaranteed American citizens, to which they were entitled. These developments demonstrate that the wartime bias against Japanese-Americans was not restricted to the Western portion of the country where support for relocation and anti-Japanese prejudice was most obvious. People in the Midwest held the same prejudices as persons on the west coast, despite the lack of any major threat to its citizens or industry. The anti-Japanese

sentiments were intense among certain factions of the Macomb community, highlighted by the dominant anti-Japanese feelings at Camp Ellis which served to intensify existing bias and prejudice such as that expressed by editor Louis Randolph.

Chapter V

The War Ends

I

The students and faculty at WISTC began to anticipate V-E Day as early as October 20, 1944, though the plans made were cautious and with serious undertones. The WISTC community did not believe in riotous celebrations because of the suffering and hardship resulting from the war. For this reason it was decided that the celebration would be dedicated to those soldiers who suffered for the victory won by the United States.[1]

By February of 1945, when Germany's collapse seemed assured, WISTC's War Council began to consider the type of program desired for the students of WISTC to celebrate the victory. The Council consulted Dr. Beu regarding WISTC's involvement in the city of Macomb's celebration. Beu responded to Dr. Arthur Tillman, Chairman of the War Council, in a cooperative fashion. President Beu believed the program should be one of celebration but also of serious contemplation because the battle with Japan continued. Beu did agree, however, that WISTC's students should be dismissed

from classes if the celebration was planned for a regularly scheduled class day. He also stated that he believed Dr. Tillman should preside over any ceremony conducted on campus because of Tillman's work with the Council.[2]

President Beu did not take an active part, then, in the city's program but instead planned an on-campus activity for the following day.

It was at this time that plans were formulated for the construction of a memorial honoring those WISTC students killed in action. The walnut plaque designed for the commemoration was to provide space for one hundred names with costs expected to be around $200.[3] This program was originally initiated by the Western Courier, whose staff began to publish a section in the paper entitled, "Gold Stars on Service Flag," in December of 1944. This section acknowledged and honored those students who lost their lives serving their country.[4]

The allied victory in Europe on May 8 then brought a quiet celebration to the WISTC community. The students and faculty at Western were relieved about the defeat of the German forces in Europe but they were still aware of the struggle that continued with the Japanese forces in the Pacific. It was because of this that President Beu reminded students that rationing and other restrictions would continue until the defeat of Japan made victory complete.[5]

The Courier staff also took the V-E day celebration as an opportunity to remind students that the struggle with Japan was far from over and for this reason they should continue

their war work and purchasing of war bonds and stamps with continued fervor.[6] The Courier also reported that WISTC had been selected to be one of the United States Veteran Administrations Regional Offices. The objectives of this office were to advise and counsel returning veterans on the GI Bill, career objectives, and future employment.[7]

Interestingly, veterans already on campus believed some type of compulsory military training was necessary to insure future world peace. The most explicit viewpoint came from faculty member, Lieutenant Colonel M. N. Thisted, who believed that after final peace had been achieved a revised version of the National Defense Act would insure protection from future aggression and maintain world peace.[8]

The students at WISTC agreed with Lieutenant Colonel Thisted regarding compulsory military training and the benefits it would provide the country in the future.[9] It is evident, then, that despite the hardships brought on by World War II and the conscription that was necessary to fill and maintain the nation's armed forces, students and faculty who sacrificed during the war were also willing to sacrifice during peacetime. It is apparent, then, that a majority of the isolationist sentiments that prevailed before the outbreak of World War II had disappeared. This isolationism was replaced by a determination to prevent future war no matter what the expense.

The victory in Europe brought refreshing expansion to WISTC. The opening of the 1945-46 school year witnessed an increase in both freshman and overall enrollment. The fresh-

man class contained 200 students as compared to 138 students for the 1944-45 school year.[10] Also, for the first time in three years the enrollment at WISTC was over 500 students. According to President Beu, 518 students enrolled for fall classes, an eleven percent increase over the previous year.[11]

In January of 1946, the administration at Western obtained three barracks buildings from Camp Custer in Michigan to aid the housing shortages caused by the increased enrollment and returning veterans. This housing shortage was partially a result of the economic boom brought on by the construction of Camp Ellis. Many families who had been renting apartments and spare rooms during the Camp Ellis years no longer needed the additional income after the war.[12]

As a partial solution to the problem WISTC was granted twenty-five housing units for student war veterans by the Federal Public Housing Authority. President Beu applied for fifty units, but was granted only twenty-five by the housing authority.[13]

There were also other adjustments necessary upon the arrival of the World War II veterans. They had problems when they returned to civilian and campus life. The soldiers making the transition to student life were accustomed to a very hardy and rigorous existence while serving their country. The adjustment to an academic atmosphere caused some discipline problems, dealing primarily with matters of insubordination, for the administration and faculty. These problems were not overwhelming, and were usually dealt with on an individual

basis. The veterans were able to adjust, but the transition took time and patience from the faculty and administration.[14]

Despite the housing shortages and discipline problems, WISTC was on the road to a new period of expansion. In the fall of 1946, WISTC set an all time mark for enrollment when 1,189 students registered for classes, more than doubling enrollment figures from the previous year. This number included 500 veterans which resulted in a 60-40 ratio of men over women students.[15] The return of these World War II veterans and the 60-40 ratio accounted for one of the largest turnouts ever recorded in Western's football program to that date. Eighty candidates reported for the first football practice under head coach, Wix Garner and Ray Hanson, athletic director, also a returning World War II veteran, a distinct contrast from the situation facing Coach Garner in 1943 when only 17 men reported for practice, six of whom had no previous experience.[16]

The students and faculty of WISTC withstood the pressures and hardships of war while at the same time contributing an excellent academic program to the nation's war effort. This work enabled WISTC to continue to grow and set the stage for a period of rapid expansion after the war's conclusion.

Meanwhile at Camp Ellis, news of the D-Day invasion buzzed in every corner of the camp. A tense excitement prevailed as the soldiers stationed at Ellis expressed their thoughts about those GI's actually taking part in the invasion at Normandy. Many of the Ellis GI's wished they too could take part in the most important allied assault of the entire

war. Services were held throughout the camp to pray for both safety and victory during the invasion.[17]

Camp activities, however, continued as usual on D-Day and throughout the military advance that eventually brought victory in Europe. It was not until the Japanese had accepted the terms of the ultimatum from Potsdam, after the destruction at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, that plans were made for a celebration at the camp.

The officials at Camp Ellis planned the celebration around the formal surrender of Japan which took place on September 2. The celebration was a diverse one with church services and beer parties on the Wednesday and Thursday that were planned as leisure days for the festivities. The activities also included shows, concerts, dances, and ball games.[18]

There were few troops left to celebrate, however. Camp Ellis began deactivation as early as September of 1943 when the basic training section was terminated. Subsequently, the quartermaster group closed in December of 1944, and by January of 1945, the medical and emergency groups were evacuated. The camp was at that time then barren except for the fire department and maintenance crews.[19]

The camp was used sparingly from that point on until in 1948 when the Illinois National Guard used a portion of the camp for summer training. Following the removal of the National Guard troops the camp was primarily used as a supply depot under the direction of General Ernest Bauman, Administrative Officer.[20]

The camp was subsequently declared surplus property in 1949 and that October much of the supplies and equipment were moved to the Lincoln Ordinance Depot in Springfield, Illinois. Also, at this time, bids were accepted on the buildings and were sent to the Army Finance Office in Washington. General Bauman left the camp the same year.[21]

Two years later in April of 1951, the government announced that the land was to be cleared and leased back to farmers for agricultural purposes on a temporary basis. This meant that all buildings, including the air strip, were to be removed.

Then in 1955, for a brief period, it looked as if the boom that camp construction brought in 1942 would return when it was announced that the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) would build a $29,000,000 plant at the camp's location. But the following year the AEC changed its mind, erasing any hopes of another economic and social boom in the area.[22]

Following the disappointment of the AEC's cancellation the area farmers were given the opportunity to buy back the land they had lost in 1942 at government appraised prices. Approximately 11,000 acres were returned to private ownership, however, the approved prices in many instances were far greater than the original selling price. For example, one farm that sold for $39,000 when construction began was appraised at $69,000 and subsequently sold for $89,000 at an auction in January of 1955. The auction of approximately 7,000 acres brought over a million dollars.[23]

After the land had been sold back to private ownership for agricultural purposes, the town of Bernadotte as well as the Table-Grove and Ipava area returned to a quiet, rural atmosphere. In fact, the activities in Bernadotte came to a near standstill, for the excitement and boom years Camp Ellis brought were gone, leaving behind only memories and the few relics which can still be seen today.

II

The Second World War had various effects on the Macomb community. The war shook the community out of its sleepy provinciality. It was no longer possible for the citizens of Macomb to ignore the events of the war following the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor. The subsequent placement of Camp Ellis continually reminded the people of Macomb that there was a war being waged and they were a part of that war.

Macomb, as well as other communities in the Camp Ellis area, felt the strains of additions to their populations. While Ipava and Table-Grove populations doubled, Macomb increased by only half the expected 8,000 anticipated increase in population during the Camp Ellis era. Nevertheless, during the Camp Ellis years the community was at its capacity with new members.[24]

Socially the changes in Macomb were immense. The community was alive with Ellis GI's who came to Macomb for entertainment and companionship at Barney Maticka's USO facilities. The Ellis GI's were graciously accepted into the community by individuals and organizations alike. The soldiers from Ellis were taken in by the people of Macomb for friendship and a good home-cooked meal. The city's churches also opened their

doors to extend comfort and relaxation to these GI's.[25] Macomb adapted to the imposition of the nearby camp, possibly because of a natural inclination towards hospitality, but assuredly too from patriotic motives. Apparently some of these soldiers, such as Wilbur Hoff who was interviewed for this project, took a liking to the community because they married and made Macomb their home in the post war years.

Economically, the community prospered with nearly every local merchant working at his personal capacity. In 1940, there were 165 retail outlets in Macomb with a total of $4,885,000 in sales. By 1948, there was an increase of two outlets with a total of $16,688,000 in sales. This increase can be attributed to the placement of Camp Ellis and the post war expansion at WISTC. The WISTC community was indeed expanding academically, athletically, and socially. Enrollment at WISTC was continuing to expand during the post war years. The 1947-48 school year had 1,456 students enrolled, 1948-49 contained 1,504 and 1949-50 registered 1,562. This growth enabled the Macomb community to continue to prosper by compensating for the loss of the economic and social stimuli brought by Camp Ellis.

The Table-Grove and Ipava communities returned to a normal state of affairs after the evacuation of Camp Ellis. In many instances the land purchased by the government was sold back to original owners and all land was returned to

private ownership. The boom that existed in the area was short-lived and disappeared along with Camp Ellis. Table-Grove and Ipava returned once again to a quiet atmosphere which characterized the towns before the war.

In summary, the Macomb community's war record was excellent. The citizens of Macomb came out of their isolationist shell and responded with a superior war effort. The people of Macomb accepted and assisted in the work being performed at Camp Ellis. They worked hard to make their city comfortable for the soldiers at Ellis. The relationships established between the two was indeed both friendly, workable, and evidently uneffected by occasional law breaking by military personnel. The community also acted expeditiously to form its chapter of the Civilian Defense Corp with the help of men like Louis Randolph to provide air raid protection and bomb reconnaissance, as well as more pertinent information on conservation and nutrition. Opponents of intervention, then, quickly accepted their patriotic duties.

The community also withstood the migration of several new families and members to its population during the transition period. Unlike the town of Seneca, Illinois, where shipyards brought the largest influx of new members in the state, causing housing shortages within a 50-mile radius, the Macomb community was able to cope with the lack of living accommodations in a manner that provided prosperity for many citizens. In several instances individuals were able to rent

rooms and apartments that were vacant before the placement of Camp Ellis, compensating possibly for the wartime decline in WISTC's enrollment.[26]

The only blemish on the record of the community was the insensitive treatment of Kayo Kamitaki and Isamur Miyamoto. This problem was caused by a small minority of Macomb's citizens and Ellis GI's.[27] The episode demonstrates, however, that racial prejudice and antagonism, even if United States citizens, was not isolated to the West coast. This is especially apparent when one notes the contrasting friendly treatment given German POW's in the community. Overall, the people of Macomb contributed willingly and cheerfully to the nation's war effort, in a manner which compared favorably with the rest of the state and the entire country.

The record of the students and faculty at WISTC during World War II was equally remarkable. The WISTC community contributed to the nation's effort in many areas. The academic programs initiated by Western's administration and faculty were specifically designed to aid the war effort. The wartime curriculum offered at Western touched upon several of the nation's key war industries and military programs. Despite the emphasis on these war programs and curricula, the administration and faculty never lost sight of their educational objectives. They constantly reassured those students who remained in school that they too were aiding the nation's war effort by preparing themselves to fill the need for qualified teachers in the post war period.

The sororities and fraternities at WISTC did their part by initiating and subsequently supporting War Bond and Stamp Drives as well as WISTC's Red Cross Fund Drive. The campus newspaper, the Western Courier, served as WISTC's catalyst throughout the war years continually prompting students to do their share by matching the effort of those former students in military service.

WISTC's community was also fortunate to be able to keep many of their extra-curricular activities in action throughout the duration. The athletic program, with the help of men like Ralph Barclay and Wix Garner, kept interest in athletics alive, which in itself should be considered an achievement. The students at WISTC continued to enjoy many social activities despite the hardships of war while at the same time placing their priorities in proper relationship with the nation's war effort.

The students and faculty at WISTC, as well as the citizens of Macomb, can be said to have responded patriotically to the emergency of the war despite evident opposition to intervention. They also gracefully accepted the strains on the community brought about by the placement of Camp Ellis. When the war ended conditions soon returned to normal in the smaller communities of Table-Grove and Ipava. Meanwhile, Macomb and WISTC continued to be affected indirectly as veterans who had delayed or interrupted their educations returned to bring continued growth and prosperity to the campus and college community.

The only visible remnants of the era are the concrete rifle range, solitary chimneys, water towers, and a couple of block buildings used to store grain east of Table-Grove where thousands of GI's and POW's were once based.

Footnotes to Chapter I

[1]Donald F. Drummond, The Passing of American Neutrality (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1955), p. 207.

[2]Mary Watters, The Home Front: Illinois in the Second World War, 2 vols. (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Historical Library, 1951-52), pp. 41-43.

[3]"If Britain Yelled," Macomb Daily Journal, 4 January 1941, p. 6.

[4]"War and Social Reform," Macomb Daily Journal, 7 January 1941, p. 4, col. 1.

[5]"Authority Without Limit," Macomb Daily Journal, 11 January 1941, p. 4.

[6]"Lindbergh for Peace," Macomb Daily Journal, 24 January 1941, p. 4.

[7]"Know a Patriot--Wheeler an Appeaser," Macomb Daily Journal, 3 February 1941, p. 4.

[8]"Now's the Time," Macomb Daily Journal, 7 February 1941, p. 4.

[9]"Submarine Attack," Macomb Daily Journal, 5 September 1941, p. 4.

[10]Richard Flynn, "Student Opinion," Western Courier, 18 October 1941, vol. 40, no. 5, p. 4.

[11]"Incentive to College Men," Western Courier, 2 July 1941, vol. 30, no. 32, p. 2.

[12]"Club Budgets to be Reduced," Western Courier, 17 September 1941, vol. 39, no. 2, p. 1.

[13]Interview with Ray Hanson, athletic director emeritus, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois, 21 May 1976.

[14]"Macomb Men Are in War Danger Zone," Macomb Daily Journal 8 December 1941, p. 2.

[15]"The President's Message," Macomb Daily Journal, 10 December 1941, p. 4.

[16]Ibid.

[17]"Macomb Men Are in War Danger Zone," Macomb Daily Journal, 8 December 1941, p. 2.

[18]"Student Fliers Grounded," Western Courier, 10 December 1941, vol. 39, no. 11, p. 1.

[19]"Morgan Stresses the Need for Cool Thinking," Western Courier, 10 December 1941, vol. 39, no. 11, p. 1.

[20]Ibid.

[21]"Morgan Points Out the Educational Responsibilities that Fall on Educational Institutions Today," Western Courier, 17 December 1941, vol. 39, no. 12, p. 1.

[22]"What is Our Bit," Western Courier, 17 December 1941, vol. 39, no. 12, p. 4.

Footnotes to Chapter II

[1]"Army Camp is Authorized - Costs To Be In Excess of 5 Million Dollars," Macomb Daily Journal, 5 September 1942, p. 1.

[2]Ibid.

[3]Ibid.

[4]"Let Contract for Big Camp in Few Days," Macomb Daily Journal, 8 September 1942, p. 2.

[5]"Camp Area Corn Sold for $11,515," Macomb Daily Journal, 26 September 1942, p. 2, col. 1.

[6]"City Council Talks Camp," Macomb Daily Journal, 8 September 1942, p. 2.

[7]"Better Wake Up," Macomb Daily Journal, 10 September 1942, p. 2.

[8]"No Action," Macomb Daily Journal, 18 September 1942, p. 4.

[9]The Story of Camp Ellis (obtained from the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1945), p. 13. Camp Ellis had such drainage problems in its early stages that it was comically referred to as "Swamp Ellis."

[10]"Ellis Officers Are Guests," Macomb Daily Journal, 6 May 1943, p. 2.

[11]Interview with William Rudolph, editor of the Macomb Daily Journal, Macomb, Illinois, 11 May 1976.

[12]"Camp Ellis New Policy," Macomb Daily Journal, 16 October 1943, p. 4.

[13]Interview with Carroll Brown, construction surveyor at Camp Ellis, Macomb, Illinois, 15 April 1976.

[14]Interview with Ralph Ashcraft, Macomb merchant, Macomb, Illinois, 3 May 1976.

[15]Interview with Margaret Kipling, civilian PX employee at Camp Ellis, 4 April 1976.

[16]"Western's Problem," Macomb Daily Journal, 1 September 1943, p. 4.

[17]"Macomb USO Open Today," Camp Ellis News, 21 June 1943, p. 1.

[18]"Ellismen Have New Home in Macomb's USO," Camp Ellis News, 3 December 1943, p. 2.

[19]"Holland Clinic to be Macomb's USO Building," Camp Ellis News, 3 December 1943, p. 2.

[20]"Soldier Activities in Macomb," Macomb Daily Journal, 9 October 1943, p. 4.

[21]"Macomb Plans to Use City Hall for USO," Camp Ellis News, 23 July 1943, p. 2. The American Legion Hall was located on the second floor of Macomb's City Hall.

[22]Interview with William Rudolph, editor of the Macomb Daily Journal, Macomb, Illinois, 11 May 1976.

[23]Interview with Ralph Ashcraft, Macomb merchant, Macomb, Illinois, 3 May 1976.

[24]Interview with Vail Morgan, reporter for the Macomb Daily Journal, Macomb, Illinois, 6 May 1976.

[25]"Advice to Negro Soldiers," Macomb Daily Journal, 20 September 1943, p. 4.

[26]"Attack Case Solved," Macomb Daily Journal, 10 November 1943, p. 4.

[27]Interview with Olive Gamage, civilian PX employee at Camp Ellis, Macomb, Illinois, 15 June 1976.

[28]Interview with Margaret Kipling, civilian PX employee at Camp Ellis, Macomb, Illinois, 14 April 1976.

[29]Interview with Ralph Ashcraft, Macomb merchant, Macomb, Illinois, 3 May 1976.

[30]The Story of Camp Ellis, p. 39. Work done at the camp in connection with its maintenance was considered Class 1 labor for which no pay was received. Class 2 labor, all labor other than Class 1, had attached with it an $0.80 per day stipend.

[31]Interview with Carroll Brown, construction surveyor at Camp Ellis, Macomb, Illinois, 15 April 1976.

[32]Interview with Wilbert Hoff, a soldier stationed at Camp Ellis, Macomb, Illinois, 20 June 1976.

[33]"Two Soldiers Held on Car Theft," Macomb Daily Journal, 2 October 1943, p. 2.

[34]"Arrest Two Soldiers with Stolen Car," Macomb Daily Journal, 15 October 1943, p. 2.

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[20]The Office of Alumni Affairs, Brigham Young University to author, 29 April 1976, personal correspondence.

[21]Kayo Kamitaki to author, 5 October 1976, personal correspondence.

[22]President Frank A. Beu to Jeannette A. Utley, 23 November 1943, Frank A. Beu Personal Correspondence and Papers, Western Illinois University Archives, Memorial Library, Macomb, Illinois.

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"BY The NUMBERS"

A MUSICAL REVUE

WRITTEN, PRODUCED and ACTED
BY
THE SOLDIERS OF CAMP ELLIS

Major General Russell L. Maxwell, Commanding

ILLINOIS THEATRE
MACOMB, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 14, 1943 SEPTEMBER 15, 1943

8:00 O'CLOCK P. M.

CREDITS

STAGED: under the direction of Lt. John D. Gallagher, 27th Special Service Company

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS: Cpls. Frank Behrens, Philip Lebowitz, Merle Campbell

CHOREOGRAPHY: Pfc. Jules Scheer

CHORAL DIRECTOR: Cpl. Billy Sherman

MUSICAL DIRECTION: Sgt. Howard Baum

MUSIC: Cpls. Weldon Wallace, Seymour Roman, Merle Campbell, Pfc's Lee Kauderer, Al Parvin, Robert Atcher.

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS: Sgt. Howard Baum, Cpl. Abbott Hendry, Pfc. Charles Leibowitz, Pvt. Theodore Schulman

COSTUMES: The Army of the United States. Chorus and "Suzanna From Havana, Illinois" costumes—courtesy of Balaban and Katz, Chicago, Ill.

SCENERY: Sgt. Bernard Bernom; Pvts. John S. Braden, George Quinan; Mr. Claude Tischner (Eclipse Scenic Studios, Chicago, Ill.)

SOUND SYSTEM: supervised by Sgt. Walter Staniszewski, Cpl. Lewis Wallace.

LIGHTING: Sgt. Harry Schmale

PROPERTIES: Lt. Reginald Mylkes, Pfc. Robert Sheets

STAGE MANAGER: Lt. Robert N. Baumgartner

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT: Pvt. Robert Brooks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The members of the cast of "BY THE NUMBERS" and the officers and men of Camp Ellis acknowledge with grateful thanks the assistance and co-operation given by:

Mr. R. L. Cutler and the Associated Theatres Circuit for permitting the show the use of the Illinois Theatre.

Mr. William Rudolph and The Macomb Journal, for assisting in a very material way with tickets, advertising, and this program.

Mr. Nate Platt and Mr. Frank Pallester, Balaban and Katz Corporation, for procurement of scenery, costumes and properties.

"By The Numbers" is an all-soldier Camp Ellis production. The staff includes:

Camp Public Relations Office—Major W. Gould Jones

Camp Special Service Office—Major F. S. McCaw

27th Special Service Company—Captain Luther M. Kilgore

Publicity under the supervision of Lt. Alton D. Farber,
Assistant Public Relations Officer

Ralph Ashcraft - Macomb merchant (owner of Ashcraft Shoe Repair), West Jackson Street, Macomb, Illinois.

What was the general atmosphere in Macomb during the World War II period?

It was one of hustle-bustle - a very busy time. The soldiers from Camp Ellis brought heavy business to the city, to many merchants in Macomb.

Were the soldiers from Camp Ellis accepted by the people for other than economic reasons?

Yes, I believe they were. The people were apprehensive at first, but it didn't take them long to get over that.

How was your business during the period?

I did a tremendous business during that time. In fact, I had to stop it for a while, the doctors ordered it. I just got run down.

What were some of the problems with Camp Ellis and its soldiers?

The black group from Camp Ellis had problems here. They more or less stayed away from Macomb. They took most of their business and looked for their entertainment in Peoria, a larger city with more blacks.

How did the University and the City of Macomb get along?

Very well. There were never any problems, but there was more resentment than talk about men of draftable age being in school.

Do you remember two Japanese students, Kayo Kamitaki and Isamu Miyamoto who attended Western State?

I have very little recollection concerning that. No, I just don't recall hearing about those two.

How did the townspeople react to having German POW's in such a close proximity to the city?

There was resentment from people with sons who were killed in the war. They didn't like seeing enemy soldiers

being treated like guests. Other than that there was no strong reaction.

What was the general attitude towards Camp Ellis?

When the announcement of the Camp was first publicized the people were very apprehensive and skeptical but once construction was under way the attitude changed. The Chamber of Commerce, the churches, everyone accepted the Camp and wished to do their part in the war effort. The Camp did cause acute housing shortages in Macomb, due to the wives of servicemen who required housing. There wasn't any open bed to be found.

The people of Macomb really accepted the soldiers and the USO services were some of the best in the area. In fact, I believe they stayed open 24 hours a day, providing entertainment and so on.

Were there other shortages in Macomb?

Well, shortages and rationing were a way of life but acute shortages were more talk than hardships. Sugar was always to be had and people were more concerned about cashing in their ration coupons before they expired, than worrying about actual shortages.

Carroll Brown - Civilian construction worker - Camp Ellis.

Did Camp Ellis provide a sense of security in Table Grove?

No, not really. After all, it was a little, sleepy town. To have all those construction workers and soldiers come just upset their little world. They didn't resent it, the money was good.

What about German POW's here?

I never heard anyone express anything against that. They weren't German POW's, they were Austrians. A lot of these POW's were rented out. In fact, a friend of ours built a barbershop and hired some of the POW's.

In your small town, were there people who had sons in active duty who objected to these POW's enjoying an easy life while their sons were overseas?

Not that I ever heard about. Table Grove accepted it well. In fact, many of the people in the area had soldiers to their home for Sunday dinners and rented out their extra room for soldier's wives.

How about problems with the soldiers coming in on Saturday night for a good time?

There wasn't any place in Table Grove. They came to Macomb. On Fridays, there were lines of soldiers trying to get rides to Macomb because there was no bus service. Later, there was bus service but it wasn't enough.

While you were at Camp Ellis, did you have much interplay with soldiers?

We entertained quite often; we took soldiers in. About everyone in Table Grove did the same.

What was the attitude of the soldiers about being in this area?

They didn't like it. It was small and lacked certain facilities.

Did they ever mention anything to you about two Japanese students going to school in Macomb?

No, I never heard anything about that.

You never read about it in Table Grove?

No.

Did you spend much time in Macomb at all?

No, only to see the doctor.

I understand this was, however, a prosperous time in Macomb.

Yes, it was. They had some wild places in Macomb. It was a bigger city and most of the soldiers were used to larger places.

What was the main function of Camp Ellis?

Well, it was a training camp, but a lot of it was limited service. Many were illiterate. Some of them had physical disabilities. Also, some used only one hand or a game leg. They were draftees.

Tell me more about the POW's.

Well, they seemed delighted to be there and were English speaking. They were pleased to be out here and away from the service. Quite often, I would go over there to repair the refrigerator. Of course, they always sent two fellows. We never went over there alone. We would get in a conversation with them and they were nice fellows to talk to. They enjoyed talking to us.

Your job as surveyor--what did that entail?

When I started in, I was the 21st civilian to go to work. We surveyed the complete area, all the elevation from one end to the other.

What about the refrigeration units? Did you help put those in?

No, that was put in by contractors. After it was built, the surveying was done and I switched over to the refrigeration department for service.

How about when the Camp was being dismantled? What was your function then? Did you stay?

Yes, I stayed there until I don't think there were many soldiers left. I was the last man to leave the refrigeration area.

How serious was rationing in your area?

We never suffered. You just had to learn to do without. We never went hungry. You had to learn to make do.

Were gasoline and tires a problem?

No, not for me because I carried four or five workers with me to help pay for gas and I always had enough.

Did you ever have any close contacts with the Camp's brass?

No, civilian workers didn't have much to do with the brass.

I understand there was a Negro platoon at Ellis.

Yes, there was. That was kind of unusual for Table Grove. Table Grove didn't know what Negroes were, and at times, they did have trouble with them. That is, the whites resented having them there.

Were there any major incidents?

Not that I heard of. Just small incidents. I imagine they did take most of their business to Peoria.

There was a POW who escaped and turned himself in at Chicago years later.

Were the people of Table Grove apprehensive at first?

Yes, but later they took the soldiers to their hearts, providing USO activities in Table Grove to make the boys at home. It was open all the time.

You moved to Macomb in 1946. What was the situation at that time? Was it still an active, bustling period?

Not really after the camp had been disbanded. A year later they were going to put an atomic plant there. Everybody was up in arms about that, having an atomic plant that close to home.

Was public opinion responsible for dropping this plan?

No, I don't think I ever heard why they dropped the idea. A lack of power was partially responsible.

The town of Bernadotte was a resort type town. Only 30-40 people lived there. Summers or weekends were full of people swimming and fishing.

When the announcement of Camp Ellis first hit the news, the people couldn't believe it. Why Table Grove? Table Grove was put on the map.

Ipava was farther from Camp Ellis. It was 2-3 miles east.

Was there a housing shortage in Table Grove?

Oh yes. Everybody had their houses full. Most of the people treated the boys like they were their own. They took them in if they had any room at all. (The Browns took in soldiers and their wives throughout the period. Only Sergeant rating or higher lived off base).

Most of the people they took in were not used to the life in Table Grove--outdoor bathrooms, potbelly stoves, and wash tub baths, etc.

This must have been an interesting period.

Yes, it was, to see something like the camp go up and come down so quickly.

How long was it there?

About four years. I was there four years. Construction started in August of 1942, and they started to bring in troops in February or March of 1943. There weren't any roads or sidewalks, just mud. That's why it was called Swamp Ellis.

It sounds like you had a house full for the entire period.

Yes, we did.

Was that the situation throughout Table Grove?

Yes. Everybody who had an open room did their part. So many of the well-to-do put on dinners for the boys. Yes, everybody did their part. The Cassidy family in Table Grove put on dinners every Sunday.

Olive Gamage - Civilian employee in Camp Ellis PX. She ran the snack bar.

What was the atmosphere in Macomb at that time?

It was jammed. You couldn't get a place to eat or anything. The place just wasn't ready for all those people.

Was this a real prosperous time?

Yes, it did bring in a lot of money. I don't think anybody did as well as Table Grove. Ipava did real well also.

Were shortages a real problem?

Tires and gas were a problem for me because I had to travel to the Camp six days a week to work.

The Camp itself was very wasteful. It threw sugar, flour, and so on into the dumps.

Did you and Mrs. Kipling begin work at the camp around the same time?

Yes, but she got her own PX before I did. I stayed at the main PX because I worked on Sundays and opened up and stayed there all day.

What was the attitude of the people of Macomb concerning the Camp?

They didn't think it was necessary and a lot of people just didn't like it. And, of course, some didn't like the soldiers because they bothered the young girls quite a bit.

Did people object to the black company at Camp Ellis?

We didn't hear too many complaints. In fact, I thought most of the boys were rather nice, more pleasant than some of the whites.

How many years were you out at the Camp?

I was there seven years, the whole period. After the main camp was dismantled I was out there with the National Guard. I left the engineers' PX when they finally closed everything down.

How did the people at Camp Ellis feel about Western Illinois State Teachers College? Did anyone object to see men of draft age in school?

No, not that I know of. No, there was no resentments; there were no definite objections.

What was the situation in the city of Macomb following the war?

There was kind of a let down, but the school grew and it helped a lot.

Do you have any recollection of two Japanese students at Western in 1943?

No, I didn't know about them, and never heard about them at the Camp.

Do you know anything about the POW's at Ellis?

I got the biggest kick out of them. They were really sharp. They were just clever and intelligent.

Did people object to having the POW's there?

No, I don't think so because there was never anything out of the way with them. They did all the cleaning in the area, and a lot of them were called upon to do work in any and all areas.

They were also hired out and responsible to the one who employed them.

Most of them were very sharp and English speaking.

Tell me how did you first obtain your job at the Camp?

Well, I was working in a restaurant and I heard talk of job openings at the Camp. So I just went out there and applied because they were hiring in large numbers.

I understand the wages were good?

Yes, for the time they were very good. I made $1.25 an hour. Of course, you had to buy bonds but I never objected to that. Why not, if they needed it.

Was the money taken right out of your check?

Yes, they took a certain percentage every two weeks.

What was the city's reaction to the war at its outbreak?

Well, they didn't like it. So many people were crying around about the land they had to give up for the Camp. It was bad that people were kicked out. There was a lot of heartache.

Do you recall any major problem with the soldiers in the city?

There were always little difficulties, but nothing major.

What did you know of the Macomb USO's?

Well, let's see. That was where the city building is now. I didn't have much to do with them but I understand the facilities were quite good.

How bad were housing shortages in Macomb?

Really pretty bad. Many people took soldiers and their wives in. There was very little vacant space.

Were soldiers upset at being stationed in a small town environment?

Well, it was enough to upset anyone, the war and all its hardships.

Wix Garner - Coach and wartime athletic director - Western Illinois State Teachers College, 347 W. Chase, Macomb, Illinois

What was the situation on campus previous to the war, the general mood and atmosphere?

Well, the campus was quiet at that time. We had a very strict president, President Morgan. As far as the men were concerned, they were very restless. They were anxious and tense about the war.

What changes took place at the outbreak of the war?

Many of the men enlisted before they were drafted and soon there were very few men left on campus, which was a very different situation.

How did the war change your role at Western?

Well, after Ray Hanson left for military duty I became basketball coach immediately, football coach in the fall and continued to be baseball coach. I also assumed Coach Hanson's duties as athletic director, so I was very busy. There were times when I didn't get home much before 10:00 at night.

How did the war change the physical education program at Western?

With so few men we really had very little program at all. We did continue, however, to supply courses that those men who were on campus and who were physical education majors had registered for.

We also at that time required every man to enroll in five days of physical education or five hours per week and we put them through full military exercise training which was also required.

How did Camp Ellis affect Western, and what was the relationship between the two?

Athletically there was no relationship between the two because President Beu would not allow the soldiers to come over here. You see, every other college in the area allowed the servicemen to compete with them athletically. But President Beu on the other hand would not allow this, so we were forced to play games with much larger and stronger teams than we had.

Why, do you know that in one particular year, I believe it was 1944, we only had sixteen men report for fall football practice?

What was the relationship between the city of Macomb and Western Illinois State? Were there any problems?

The relationship between Western and the City of Macomb has always been a good one. It was then and to my knowledge it is today.

Tell me what you know about the situation involving the transfer of Kayo Kamitaki and Isamu Miyamoto, the two Japanese students enrolled at Western.

I don't recall ever hearing about those two students, nor do I remember. I might not have known them if they weren't physical education majors.

I understand that after his transfer Kayo played baseball for Northern State and received a warm welcome from Western's squad when Northern played here the next year. Do you recall that incident?

No, I don't remember that happening.

As a coach did you run into any difficulties or experience any problems with minority players when you traveled south, or even in the area for that matter?

Not really. You know, we didn't have many black people on campus and not many black athletes either. We had some minimum problems but nothing outstanding.

What was the campus like after the peace was signed? Was the University able to adjust?

Well, you know the college grew quickly after the war. The only problems we had were a lack of adequate facilities to cope with a large group of new students.

How bad was the problem in the post war period with housing and over-crowded areas?

Well, they brought barracks in from Camp Ellis and used the old Morgan gymnasium for the men, which helped, but you know we didn't have any dorm facilities at that time, so it was pretty rough.

Was discipline a problem with returning veterans who might have possibly wished to overthrow all discipline after experiencing it for so long?

No, it wasn't too bad, although vandalism was a problem. It just seemed to be happening an awful lot at that particular time.

What was the athletic program like during the immediate post-war period?

We had many more candidates for every team, so naturally our programs got better. But, I think the fact that the programs continued through the war period helped also.

Can you tell me a little about President Beu?

I was never really close to Dr. Beu. In fact, we never really got on too well, but he was not a very personable president.

The fact that I coached baseball did not help either, because his main interests were centered upon football, basketball and golf. He worked very hard at recruiting for these three sports, especially golf, which was a special sport to him. But that doesn't mean he didn't try to tell me how to coach baseball. I would get notes from him concerning what he thought I should have been doing. I kept them, but never paid much attention to them. I coached baseball my way.

Was sports one of the reasons he eventually left his position?

Well, I don't know about that. But, I do know that he would change a particular athlete's grade after it had left the instructor's hand if we wanted that athlete to play. This had the faculty up in arms and they eventually moved against him and urged his dismissal.

Ray Hanson - Athletic Director - Western Illinois State Teachers College, 1351 Parkview Drive, Macomb Illinois.

Hanson on Vail Morgan

He didn't have enough money to go to school. Most of them didn't. Most of them worked their way through school, and he was one of them. But then he got this job, a part-time job with the Macomb Daily Journal. And he still couldn't go to school, so finally he took a full-time job with the paper. His main assignment was sports. He became sports editor and did a great job, a better job than anybody else. In fact, the institution owes a lot to him because he put a lot of the information in the paper that really helped build interest over the years.

Could you tell me a little bit about the campus just before the war? How did the students feel about the war going on overseas?

I know nothing about the women but I do know about the boys or the men. Before the Japanese hit us, they wanted to get in, as soon as possible. They felt that they belonged in there and as a result there were quite a few men that volunteered and didn't wait for the draft. In fact, I feel very secure in stating that the great number of men enlisted long before the draft. At least 50% of the men had left before they were drafted. In fact, I knew that from sports more than anything else. When the Japanese hit, I was back in Massachusetts and listened to the whole thing in a little town outside of Springfield. As soon as we got home I knew I would have orders to go, and I did.

The Japanese attack increased the intensity concerning the attitude towards the war then?

Yes, it increased it, and I don't think very many of them that were eligible then waited for the draft.

Were there any men who believed they should stay in school?

No, I never heard of anything like that. Of course, there were some who stayed in school.

How did President Morgan feel about the war and the draft?

Well, Dr. Morgan didn't believe in war. But nevertheless he was enthusiastic enough not to discourage the students.

He seemed like the kind of man who wished people to continue and finish their education. Is that true?

Well, that was true. I think that was more or less the general attitude if they were pursuing a course that was important. Now I think another man could help you a lot. Dutch Dunbar. He was on the draft board.

I don't think there is any question about it, that the McDonough County area was enthusiastic about getting into the war. They were waiting for things to develop and when the Japanese hit that was it.

What about the relationship between the City of Macomb and the University?

It was a very good one. Couldn't have been better.

But then discipline was different then. Weren't both President Beu and President Morgan quite strict?

Sure, the rules they had up through Beu's administration were strict. Morgan was strict. He ran the school and he ran the students and that's the way it should have been. It couldn't have been any other way and made it. You couldn't smoke on campus, you couldn't swear on campus. To be frank with you, I think it was great and I still do.

Were you close with both these men?

Yes, very close to Morgan. He died of cancer and he fought it. He was for athletics but hand't become educated to it. I didn't think he was as much for athletics as he should have been. Now when you come to Beu, he was for athletics.

I understand he was strong on this issue, wasn't he?

No, I wouldn't say that. I wouldn't say he was strong. But it's either you are for it or you're against it, and athletics has had an awful battle especially in education. If there was anyway possible for education to keep athletics out, it would have been done, but it wasn't possible.

I understand that during the course of the war you came back a few times on leave. Can you tell about the changes you saw concerning the University and University life?

I was only back a very short time. It was between orders that I had. I didn't see Dr. Morgan, but I did see the university. What I noticed was the absence of men. We were back to where this university started, mostly all girls. In fact, they didn't have enough men for the football team.

Was the attitude different?

No, it was not different. People were solemn and concerned but still strong in their conviction towards the war.

What was the situation in 1946, upon your return?

Well, in 1946 most men were back by that time. The men were great as far as enthusiasm was concerned. They were tickled to death to be out and back in school. And you had good football, but they were hard to discipline. They had been in the service and were tired of discipline. President Beu had a very difficult job handling them. What could you punish them with? You couldn't kick them out of school. They had been through a war and had discipline to such an extent that they were tired of it and over with all discipline. Education was coming to them and as a result discipline was tough. In fact, in the old Morgan gymnasium Beu had fixed up sleeping quarters for them upstairs. That was all right. That was fine. Then they had Ellis barracks here and that was fine too. But they would break things, destroy property and what the devil could you do about it? You couldn't do anything.

Did you as a coach have problems?

Not as far as coaching was concerned. No, we didn't have problems. But when it came to some place to stay that was a problem. They had been accustomed to sleeping in barracks or in tents or out in the open, and they had led a very vigorous life. So these things were really something in regards to time needed for adjustment. They rebelled against discipline.

Now as far as studying and getting their grades, that was a different story. That was very simple for them. They were mature then and we had some great fellows on campus as far as education was concerned. I think the faculty had a harder time adjusting to them rather than their adjusting to the faculty. I'm sure that was the case. But as far as studies were concerned I'm sure that their grade point averages went up. They knew enough then to take their work seriously.

Do you feel that the University handled war programs adequately?

Yes, they did. Did a very good job.

How about the athletic department during the war?

They did a great job. It was all carried on which was fine. After all, they didn't have too many people on campus. Barclay and Garner were responsible for continuing the programs. The men that they had were very few but very good.

What kind of information were you given upon your return about the two Japanese students?

Just that they were here and that they were being watched. Coach Garner never mentioned it.

What would have been your feelings had you been here? You would have been directly involved because Kayo Kamitaki competed athletically.

I'm afraid my attitude would have been the same. You see, this Japanese situation was poor.

It seems strange, but people here seemed to have considered these two students a threat.

Well, sure, that's perfectly natural that they did and if it were to be done all over again it would have happened the same way. But we did have a lot of Japanese fighting and they made a great reputation for themselves.

Did you ever run into any Western Illinois State students while you were in the service?

Yes, I did and there was no question about the quality of their records. The war record of the Western students was very good.

Were you given a position that had anything to do with athletics?

No. Sure, I have some work providing athletic materials for the troops. But, I was what they call a morale officer.

Could you tell me a little bit about President Beu?

Now as far as athletics is concerned he had gone through a period at Eastern Illinois University before he had come here, and he had been quite an athletic official. He was a very fine man. He was for sports, which was without any question the main difference between him and Walter P. Morgan. Morgan was like everybody else in the country in the field of education. They didn't know what to do with sports.

I wouldn't say that at any time did Beu go overboard with athletics. He simply was in favor of it and this was a change between him and Morgan.

Beu was accused of being too lenient with sports but he wasn't.

Did this cause him problems?

Yes, I'll say there were problems between the faculty and Beu because the faculty was not for athletics. It was an underlying battle. The faculty had always felt that you shouldn't have any sports at all. Beu was for sports and he wasn't ashamed of it. He came out in favor of sports, which was something new for a president. He really followed sports and he went to a lot of the games which he shouldn't have done, because it wasn't complimentary to a president to attend games. It wasn't good public relations back then.

Do you have any recollection of Camp Ellis?

Well, I wasn't here so I don't know anything about Camp Ellis other than the fact that it was a big camp. It was tremendous and it should have been a big boom for Macomb. It was just like any other big army camp. It grew up overnight and when the war was over it was gone.

Do you ever remember anyone mentioning any problems between the University and Camp Ellis?

No, none whatsoever.

Did the University have a difficult time adjusting after the war?

Yes, it did. Housing was a real problem. It was tough. Facilities were inadequate. We didn't have any housing or any dormitories. In fact, the dormitories were the last things to come.

Margaret Kipling - Civilian employee - Camp Ellis.

What was your job?

I worked in the PX, later in the Service Club made application. Originally, I believed that I would be doing inventory on uniforms, etc.

Major Manual was in charge. He hired me. I worked in the first PX.

Originally, I intended to work for six months to pay off the mortgage on my home, but ended up working 30 months.

I understand things were quite messy in the first months.

They were during the training period, but we were trained. We worked for the government, and we had to be trained in exact figures and numbers. Everything we did had to work out right down to the penny.

(Her PX, #9, was one of the first established. She received intensive training and later managed the PX for nine months.

I imagine in your work as a manager of a PX you became acquainted with many of the soldiers at Ellis.

It was a nice group of boys. Of course, we wold the beer, but we had no trouble to speak of.

How did the soldiers feel about the city of Macomb?

They enjoyed coming into the Macomb USO, but I also think they enjoyed going to some of the smaller towns and their USO's.

Was the USO operated by a group of Macomb people?

After nine months they had two service clubs operated by Ellis officers.

Major Manual was later put in charge of service club cafeterias. Margaret Kipling then moved from the PX #9, to manage the cafeteria at Service Club #1.

Was this a big job?

Yes, it frightened me. It needed a lot of work. There was too much time lost. Officers who were previously in charge time for a while, but I remained there until the end of my stay at Ellis.

The boys would come from the mess halls to eat our food, for variety.

I understand there was a group of black soldiers at Ellis.

In the area where I was they moved in a whole group of them. At the same time they moved them in they priced beer down to a nickel. I think it was a bottle. Really, I was frightened, but I had a good crew of workers and we really never had any trouble with the Negro soldiers.

The colored fellows were just as good as any of the rest of them. Of course, you find a few in every bunch.

Were all the p-ople who worked with you civilian?

They were civilians, yes, they came from Vermont, Astoria and from towns all around. We formed a car pool. There were two shifts. We closed about 10:00 p.m.

How about the attitude of the people of the City of Macomb toward the colored soldiers coming in to do their business in town?

Now I can't answer that, but as far as I know they were glad to have any business. The camp made for good business.

Now, the soldiers would bring their wives, who made good money here also.

I understand this was a prosperous time in the city.

At that time rooms were needed for the soldiers' wives, so even the common folk prospered by boarding people.

At that time we stopped keeping students at our home because we couldn't serve meals due to the lack of food. And to look after girls! When Camp Ellis was out there, it wasn't easy, and I away so much of the time. Students were not supposed to be out there at certain times, but they were anyway.

At the service club they would have nights when they would have their dances and certain nights college students were allowed to go. But the girls went out any time.

We later took in a group of soldiers' wives from New York. They had a marvelous time. They were nice ladies. On weekends the boys would come and they would use our kitchen. And they enjoyed it and it helped us.

But as far as Macomb, I think it was pretty good for the merchants.

Do you have any recollections of two Japanese students going to school here?

No, I don't. I don't remember that.

Did you ever hear of any talk at Camp Ellis about this?

No, I didn't. No, I didn't hear anything about that at all.

How about the German POW's? Did that bother you?

No, it didn't. They had that area roped off.

How about any talk around town? Were people uncomfortable because these soldiers were present?

No, not that I heard of. They were pretty well guarded.

You were saying there were a lot of shortages in Macomb - food, coffee, sugar.

Yes, sugar. Of course, this wasn't Camp Ellis. We had everything we needed out there.

Anybody could go through our cafeteria lines. It was for the public and soldiers as well.

So people in the city suffered and had to go without and use coupons for things?

Yes, and Major Manual always instructed me to keep pretty close watch on our inventory.

So then the general attitude was a benevolent one towards the camp - good for business?

I think it was.

Did it provide a sense of security?

Well, I never had any feeling of fear.

I understand upon first announcement of camp construction people were a little apprehensive.

Well, getting all that land and everything and putting up the buildings - people were leary.

So you saw the camp being dismantled also.

Yes, by the time they closed the service clubs there were very few soldiers left.

How about your feelings and the feelings of the townspeople concerning the University, of having men of draft age, men who could have been serving in the armed forces still going to school? Were people talking about this?

We kept girls. There weren't many men around. We had one girl who enjoyed going to Camp Ellis. She received permission from my mother to spend the night out to study. But she was telling stories and I knew it was time to give up, and stop housing girls.

After the war we took boys into our home. But I don't know of any problem concerning the boys.

Did you know much about the USO people here in Macomb?

They were in where the city building is now. But me, being out at the Camp, I didn't get to know many of the USO people.

Did you have any trouble getting gasoline?

No, I don't remember that.

Well, the car pool must have helped.

Yes, it did. But I drove a good portion of the time.

Were there any major changes in the city after the camp was dismantled? Did business stay pretty lively?

When I came back, I needed to work. I never had worked in the stores downtown, but I got a job right away.

Where did you work?

Penney's.

So business was still good then?

Yes.

I understand University population soared after the war?

Oh, yes! My mother kept students since 1931 when the enrollment was low. After the war we kept boys. But they still came to us looking for housing which indicated the increase in university population which caused housing shortages.

Vail Morgan - Reporter, Macomb Daily Journal, R.R. 1, Macomb Illinois.

What was the general atmosphere in Macomb during this period?

It was a time of hustle-bustle and constant activity, but it was also a time of shortages. Stores sometimes did not have enough food and supplies. That was during rationing days. The business was good. Taverns, restaurants, pool halls and bowling alleys for the soldiers were also active even though there were also facilities at the camp.

A lot of soldiers' families stayed here. Many people opened up their homes to the wives of the soldiers.

What was the attitude of the townspeople towards the University's young men of draft age being in school?

I don't recall any problems or hostilities over that. That was different from the Viet Nam War. People were all patriotic and in favor of the war. There were bond rallys to sell bonds. Many women took jobs at Thermos making bomb parts because they felt it was their patriotic duty, not just because the money was good. Thermos was then Hemp's and they made bomb supports out of paper. They even had a branch factory in Tennessee. It was a boom for that factory. They ran night and day.

Was there a problem with acceptance of black soldiers from Ellis by the city people?

I don't recall anything special.

I understand they were not allowed in the city's hotels?

Yes, nor in the restaurants or barber shops--not in those days. They were like outcasts. Colored people had to stay out on the east end of town. I don't believe we had too many colored people. I think they took most of their business to Peoria where there were more Negroes. There were several cases of rape and people would blame it on them. Yes, I believe there was anti-colored feeling here.

Out in Beardstown they say the sun never sets on a Negroe's head; and to this day they don't let any Negroes in--even to visit.

Do you have any recollection of Japanese students at the University?

No, I don't.

What was the attitude of the town toward Camp Ellis?

Well, it helped business, but the common taxpayer resented it because it made him have higher taxes to pay for the added facilities. It also caused labor to go up in the construction business causing higher prices for construction in Macomb. Local employers had to pay higher wages and that didn't make them happy. It also robbed local employers of their employees.

Camp Ellis was credited with a big boost in the unions here which forced up wages. Then the camp left and wages stayed high. At one time, they announced that Camp Ellis was going to be turned into an atomic energy plant. That caused a boom.

From what I understand, people were very apprehensive of that.

Well, business was for it; business boomed. Some people went ahead and invested. I remember a man in Table Grove who invested thousands of dollars in a mobile home court.

Did the townspeople accept the soldiers for other than economic reasons?

I think so, yes. They took them into their homes and churches.

How about problems, violence?

Oh, yes, they had that all the time. I remember at the southeast corner of the square, next to the police station, one night there were a whole bunch of them fighting. I think they got liquored up a little. The M.P.'s were all over the place. I don't believe they had to hire any extra policemen.

Then the camp did do great things for the city economically?

Oh, yes, definitely.

Did this arise from soldiers as well as construction people or just soldiers?

Mostly from the soldiers. The construction people were already here. I don't think there were a lot of new construction people.

Do you remember the main function of Camp Ellis?

It was for training service units.

Were these soldiers in limited service? I understand some of them were illiterate or handicapped in some way.

No, I don't remember that so much. It was generally a special services camp. They trained them in fighting, though. I was there once during a mock war. They fired live ammunition (from those big cannons) over their heads and into the hillside behind. They taught them how to fight, though it was more of a special services camp.

One of the big names entertained there. Later, he starred at Nashville, and is still a well-known entertainer. I can't remember his name just now.

The show you were speaking of was supposed to have been quite successful.

It was By The Numbers, put on strictly by Camp Ellis personnel in the old Illinois Theatre. It ran for several nights. That was a real high-class show.

Their newspaper was supposed to have been a top-notch service paper.

Oh, yes, you can see from this that it was. I don't know how often it came out. I believe every Friday. Of course, they started out with a little mimeograph sheet about 6 x 8, then got into full size paper. April 15, 1943 would have something about the camp's opening.

Were you able to speak with Joe Louis when you were at the camp.

No, no.

Was there quite a crowd for Louis?

Yes, he drew a big crowd. They had special entertainment funds out there for programs that the townspeople were permitted to come to. They also had German prisoners of war out there.

I was going to ask about that. How did the people of Macomb feel about the POW's? Did they fear them?

No, they were inside the stockades.

Yes, I know, but I understand these POW's were let out on work assignments.

Well, they let them out on flood patrol duty to carry sand bags around the river.

Oh, by the way, the press didn't get in there often without a special permit. Once, one of the prisoners of war died. They always had a local funeral director take care of the embalming and burying on the east side of the grounds. Well, I could not come in and see it as a reporter, so I masqueraded as an assistant from Clugston Funeral Home and watched the proceedings. They let the prisoners of war out of the camp and marched to the cemetery. They conducted their service in German and when they were finished, everyone of those German prisoners of war picked up a handful of dirt and dropped it in the grave.

I was just wondering if having them in the city bothered the townspeople.

No, I don't think anyone worried about them getting out. Several of them died and their graves were there, but I think they shipped their bodies back after the war.

The USO activities were supposed to have been excellent here in Macomb. Was there more than one facility?

I think there were two USO's. One at the old armory, and one across from the Post Office. They operated from more than one building at a time. After the war was over and the soldiers were still stationed there, they used the City Council room for a USO. I think there might be some pictures, signs, or plaques on the City Council wall.

How often were you, as a reporter, sent out to Camp Ellis?

Oh, practically not at all. They had a publicity department. They operated on the theory that you handled the publicity they sent out. During the construction period, I was sent over there and I rode around the camp with a Commanding General. I remember that it was the only time a story was censored. He had to censor all I wrote before we put it in the Journal.

What key events of the period stand out in your mind? Did you cover local stories?

Oh, yes. From the Macomb police, we would get the facts of any incident which happened here or from the sheriff in Lewistown which is in Fulton County. I don't remember anything outstanding. The most excitement was when a soldier raped a girl at a farmhouse near Camp Ellis.

When I went to the camp to see Joe Louis, I went there to see entertainment. I went for pleasure, not for the paper as a reporter.

One July 4th (it may have been the first year they built the camp) they opened it up to the general public and let everyone see it. They gave a big parade with marching and band concerts.

The biggest impact was on Ipava and Table Grove, the towns on either side of the camp. The government paid the farmers for what they considered to be real poor land--rolling clay with no prairie land. It was probably selected for training because of rough ground. After the war, these farmers were given first option to buy back their own land at a higher price. They had a meeting to try to get the land back at the same price they were paid for it and finally succeeded. Today it is no doubt worth four or five times what they paid for it. The army gave them a good deal, I thought, but they didn't think so.

Does anything outstanding stick out in your mind about the relationship between the city of Macomb and the University? Was it a good one?

I don't recall anything in the way of problems. Students in those days were disciplined, something you don't know in your era. President Beu was the Commander in Chief out there and they would do what he said. Now they say anything they want about the president. In fact, it was worse a few years ago than it is today.

During the war, the sports program at Western suffered. They had a hard enough time getting enough football players out for scrimmage. Those were the days when they just had eleven players to play both ways. The players they had were no better than high school athletes. Most good strong athletes were off to war. They had some good strong athletes, though. There was one player, I won't mention his name, who had a trick knee and was rejected by the draft but he played football all the time.

I know that sports suffered, but that they continued on. Did you ever cover any sports features?

Yes, I was sports editor and official basketball scorer for almost 20 years. I saw all athletic events.

The coaching staff must have been a good one.

Well, yes, today you have 15-20 coaches out there. Then Ray Hanson was athletic director, head football coach, head basketball coach, and baseball coach. They had a man named Barclay for track.

Hanson had a big job in the service. He traveled over the Pacific area. He is a World War I veteran and was decorated then.

How old is he then?

About 70. I have about 25 letters he wrote me while he was in the service. He had a lot of contact with movie stars and athletes, getting them to perform in USO camps and things like that.

Did you know President Beu?

I remember interviewing him when he came to town when he was first named president. He was the worst person to whom I had ever talked, I thought.

You had to pump him for answers. He never said anything. You would have to ask every question and then he would give you an evasive answer or something. Later, after I got to know him pretty well I could talk to him freely.

They really fired him, in a way. He got involved with some of the faculty members and they didn't like him. He wanted to dictate everything. He was a tough dictatorial

type. The faculty finally got a petition to the school board and they made it so rough for him that he finally resigned--(retired).

He was a peculiar man. He didn't like dogs on campus, so he would carry his own pellet gun around to shoot dogs on the campus. One day, he missed a dog and hit, or almost hit, a kid. For a college president to be walking around shooting a gun, it was odd. But that's the way he was, odd.

He was the kind that would walk around and police the place instead of sitting around in the presidential box. He got involved. One of the reasons they ousted him was that he was strong for athletics and would go around to teachers and say, "Listen, we want this basketball player passed", even though he was flunking. I don't know if they changed grades but they gave grades to save the athletes. They brought that out against him in the hearing.

There also was a controversy over a brick problem with his house. He lived out on Franklin Street and he built a brand new house out of brick. The bricks were used bricks from a building they tore down at the college. They claimed he shouldn't have been using college-used brick to build his house. Although, if he hadn't, they would have hauled them off to a ditch somewhere.

Did you know President Morgan?

Yes, when I first came here. Now he was an old dictatorial type but everyone went as he said. Things became a little more modern when Dr. Beu was there. A lot of teachers would speak up against him. Now Morgan wouldn't even permit smoking on campus. Of course, there weren't many people who smoked then, but you just weren't permitted to smoke on campus--students or teachers.

Beu got a lot accomplished, especially in the athletic program.

He and Coach Hanson must have been close.

Yes, they were. Hanson was nationally known. He was president of Intercollegiate Athletic Association, NAIA president one year also.

So there really weren't any outstanding problems with the city, the University, and Camp Ellis.

No, other than the town having to take care of an influx of people.

Is it true that there wasn't any empty rooms to be found?

Everybody who wanted to rent a room could. The people were urged to do so.

William Rudolph - Publisher of the Macomb Daily Journal, 404 So. Edwards, Macomb, Illinois.

Do you recall the situation which involved two Japanese students at Western Illinois State, Kayo Kamitaki and Isamu Miyamoto?

I have no recollection of their presence in Macomb.

Do you recall the rather vindictive editorial which appeared in the Macomb Daily Journal concerning these two students?

No, I don't recall right off hand any editorial written concerning two Japanese students.

Do you remember any of the feelings towards the German POW's at Camp Ellis?

The people of Macomb objected very little to those soldiers. There were no major problems caused by their presence.

What was the reaction to Camp Ellis as a whole?

The camp was a very definite plus for the City of Macomb. It brought a big business boom and a major one in the economy of the city. The problems were small, usually minor incidents, involving drunk and disorderly soldiers. But the people, to a large degree, accepted the soldiers with open arms. The churches, the USO, the Elks Club, all played a definite role in helping the soldiers feel at home.

How did the people of Macomb feel about the Negro company at Ellis?

The people were apprehensive about the Negro soldiers probably because they didn't understand them. The people here were just not accustomed to having many Negroes around. The black soldier took his business to Peoria for the most part.

Camp Ellis then was accepted well with only minor problems.

Yes, the city was actively behind Camp Ellis. In fact, the Macomb Chamber of Commerce attempted and succeeded in getting the commander from Camp Ellis to reside in Macomb for

discipline purposes. Both Maxwell and Sullivan lived in Macomb and were given a $125.00 stipend for living expenses. I and a few of the area's businessmen put up an additional $100.00 for the commander's rent. Eventually, I moved into that very house, through this situation with the Ellis commanders.

I understand the Camp Ellis News was printed at the Journal office. How was this arranged?

Well, this turned out to be very beneficial to the Journal because by printing the Camp Ellis News we were able to obtain additional newsprint, which was at extreme shortages throughout the war. This enabled us to put out 8-page editions instead of 6-page and at times 10-page editions.

Camp Ellis also sent type setters and printers to the Journal and these people worked with our staff without pay, which was also to our advantage.

Economically, then, the camp did great things for the City of Macomb and its business people.

Yes, the Citizens Bank moved a branch out there and did a tremendous business. The telephone company also benefited with huge contracts as a result of Camp needs.

Was there a large drop in the city's economy after the war?

The decline was a slow one. It wasn't a major break in economic prosperity. The college grew very quickly after the war, which also aided the economic situation.

Can you tell me a little bit about the history of the paper itself?

Well, my father ran the paper before I did, so it's been kind of a family thing. It was formerly known as the Journal Printing Company. At that time we did a lot of assignment work: wedding invitations, flyers and so on.

We also printed the Western Courier for many years, until four or five years ago.

You know, we never had any trouble with college students during that period, a real contrast to today's situation.

You mean there were no problems with men of draft age being in school at that time?

No problems whatsoever. No feelings of hate or any animosity regarding those students.

Wilbert and Mary Hoff - Stationed at Camp Ellis, 1001 North Pearl, Macomb, Illinois

Can you tell me a little about Camp Ellis?

The reason I liked Camp Ellis was the fact that I had been stationed in Virginia at Camp Lee. It was a World War I camp, and had been there so many years that it overran the little towns in the area. The people just didn't like the soldiers at all. It was understandable, you'd be in a restaurant and the place was crowded with GI's and they couldn't get a seat and so on. So the attitude down there was very cool in comparison to Camp Ellis. I came down here in July of 1943, when the camp opened to bring soldiers in, and people here would welcome you like a long lost son because most of them had boys in the service and that was their way of helping to do more. The people invited GI's over to their houses for Sunday dinner. It was really nice when I was here. Now, I don't know know it got towards the end.

What was the city itself like? Did it prosper greatly?

(Mrs.) Yes, but a lot of things were rationed. Sugar was rationed. I think the attitude as a whole remained high throughout the war. My parents would come in to the USO on a Sunday and usually get two or three guys from a list for Sunday dinner. These guys would sign a list and then wait around for people to come with an invitation. The Elk's Club was a service club.

Then, soldiers at Ellis really enjoyed coming to Macomb?

I think they did. It was my opinion that they really did.

Was there some apprehension at first when the news broke about the camp being constructed?

(Mrs.) I think there was. I think they thought it would be the ruination of the town. Sure, there was a lot of unpleasant things but I did get in touch with many of them because I lived in the country and believe me wherever I went was pretty well chaperoned.

Is this where you two met?

(Mr.) Yes, but not at the USO. I am originally from Maryland, and we didn't meet at the USO club. We met out at

a ball game at the fairgrounds. When we met, Dizzy Dean was there playing ball. I wanted a chance to see him in person so I went out to the ball game and that's where we met.

Do you recall any problems with the soldiers in Macomb?

(Mr.) No, I don't.

There was a black company at Ellis. Do you recall that?

(Mrs.) There were quite a few blacks out there. I can't tell you how many and I don't know where they went on pass.

They didn't come here?

I don't think too many blacks came to Macomb, did they? (Mary - Yes, there were quite a few). They did have their own camp and were segregated at the bus stop at the main gate. They lined up in a different place. They didn't get on the same buses we did. I don't know if they would have gone to Springfield or Peoria or what.

Comments on the city of Macomb.

(Mr.) They kept everything in the city as clean as they could because of the college. You see at that time your town was setting an example for the college. In other words, they weren't going to get new buildings and so on at the college if the town was going down hill, so to speak. They wanted the town to look nice as well as the college. I think this was the reason they kept the town under control in those days.

(Mrs.) As far as problems with the blacks, I wasn't aware of it but then I wasn't aware of many things because I was only fifteen at the time.

As a soldier at the camp, did you resent the idea of having men of draft age in school at the university?

No, I never ran into that at all. The only thing that I ever heard about was around my home town where the guys my age got deferred, got farm deferments.

(Mrs.) This was something I heard in the way of resentment because I had two brothers. There were several boys in our neighborhood that were deferred to stay home and work on the farm and there were a couple of incidents where the fathers were in a position to buy more land, stock more cattle, get into a big way before the son reached his draftable age.

Wasn't it set up to give deferment on the basis of work produced by the individual or the amount of land or livestock under his care?

(Mrs.) Yes, it was, and finally it got so they were making farm deferments rougher and some got married to keep the deferment, and then children were necessary. And these guys were raking in the money.

My father had been in debt for years. He had gone way in to start farming because he had absolutely nothing. But during the war years prices were so good he was able to get out and this was the thing I heard discussed in the rural areas.

(Mrs.) When the fellows started coming back there was this guy set up on a farm doing great and here came back the veterans with very little and there was some resentment there.

Do you recall any resentment from the city or Camp Ellis concerning two Japanese students at Western?

(Mrs.) I never heard of that, but there were some new doctors in town and people didn't know just where they came from. One definitely was German and there were rumors about him. Another was a Jew and there were some rumors about him also. This kind of thing.

(Mr.) I can remember going over to Springfield on weekends. There were about 75 Japanese in a small company near Springfield. The Japanese who volunteered to go into the service (they had a choice) could sign up and pledge allegiance to the United States or else be put in a camp. We would see them at the USO and it was quite a fad for the girls to go with a short Japanese GI. It was just pretty much of a fad over there.

No, I don't remember of any hostilities here, though.

How about any problems with the POW's?

We didn't, or I didn't hear any opinions out there. My area was close to where the POW camp was. We'd go by there going out of camp, and they'd be out playing soccer and we'd think, "Boy, do they have it made. It's over for them. Here they are eating good with little work to do in this confine."

It seems to me that one escaped. Don't you remember that, Mary?

(Mrs.) Yes, he did. He lived in Chicago for years before he was found out.

(Mr.) They were treated well, though.

(Mrs.) There was a lot of apprehension. The people in town wondered. It was such a different thing back then. Sure, you were concerned, because here were your loved ones going off and you didn't know what was going to take place with them. We had no idea what was going on during the war, so your imagination took care of the lack of information. These were bad guys and they were bringing them right in here into our community, and there was apprehension about that.

Can you tell me a little bit more about Camp Ellis? What kind of Camp was it? What was its function and yours personally?

The nearest I can tell you about Camp Ellis was that Camp Ellis was a camp strictly for service of supply. It wasn't an infantry camp, and units here were not front line units. They were strictly supply units. I was in a truck company in Virginia before I came out here. I came out here into a bakery outfit which I hated. It was going to be a mobile bakery when we got overseas so that was the idea behind that. But they had laundry outfits, bakery companies, medical and hospital units, signal corps, anything that had to do with supply.

I understand there were a lot of limited service personnel at the camp.

Could be, because they would not qualify for front line duty. I got into an outfit in France in which all the fellows were limited service but myself.

You people were trained in combat, weren't you?

Yes, we had training. When I was first transferred to Camp Ellis the sidewalks were not in yet. The barracks had apparently been built that fall or summer because the hay had got up clear around the buildings, and for two weeks we mowed the grass with hand scythes until the rest of the outfits came in from Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, and Fort Warren, Wyoming. They were all green inductees and we had to take basic training over again with those guys. But I liked the camp here much better than the one in Virginia. Down there the heat and mosquitos were awful bad.

How long were you at Ellis?

Around seven months - from the first of July to the first of February.

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A.S.F. U.T.C.

CAMP ELLIS

ILLINOIS

OPEN HOUSE

JULY 4, 1943

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
ARMY SERVICE FORCES - UNIT TRAINING CENTER
Camp Ellis, Illinois

4 July 1943

I welcome you, our neighbors, to Camp Ellis. Today on the occasion of our great National Holiday and the dedication of this camp, you can see for yourselves some of the things your army is doing. Meet as many of the personnel of the camp today as time permits. Ask them questions and they will be more than delighted to answer.

By getting to know your army better and by permitting the army to know you better, the necessary teamwork which must be developed between the camp and the surrounding communities will become a reality. Pulling together this team can contribute much toward winning this war.

I hope that you will enjoy yourselves and that when you leave this evening, you will go away with an understanding of just what your army is doing here to train technical service teams which will provide the highest type of support to our combat forces in the far flung theaters of operation.

R. L. MAXWELL
Major General, U.S.A.
Commanding

ARMY EXCHANGES

An Army Exchange is a military organization, established as a part of the Army, which supplies merchandise and services to officers, enlisted personnel and authorized civilians living in the camp. Civilians who are regularly employed or serving at the camp may purchase for their own consumption on the camp, items of food, drink and tobacco products.

Exchanges are established to supply the persons to whom sales are authorized, at the lowest possible prices, articles of necessity and convenience not supplied by the government.

The Commanding General of Camp Ellis, General Russell L. Maxwell has complete jurisdiction over the Exchanges.

The Exchange Officer is in executive control of the Exchange; he is responsible for its management and accounting, the performance of duty of assistants and civilian employees and is the custodian of its property and funds.

Camp Ellis Exchange comprises sixteen Branches. Two of these Branches are departmentalized and include a clothing section, shoe section and general furnishings section.

The Exchange is staffed with civilian employees.

PLACE OF THE CHAPLAIN IN THE ARMY

The fundamental purpose of the Office of Chaplain may be briefly stated as follows: To provide facilities for public religious worship; to give spiritual ministration, moral counsel, and religious guidance. He promotes character building and morale. His work is of primary importance. Man is inherently religious. The Chaplain is primarily a minister and a servant of God for all men of the Command. Under the Commanding Officer he is responsible for public worship services, ministers unto the sick, the dying, bereaved, to all prisoners, and does general pastoral visitation. He officiates when requested in the burial of the dead and in the marriage of military personnel.

The beautiful chapels of Camp Ellis shall be used to the highest advantage by all religious groups. Places of quiet retreat for prayer meditation where men may come face to face with God and duty. The Chaplains shall continually strive for dignity, beauty, and genuine spirituality in the public worship services, and thus seek to fulfill their high and holy mission.

THE SPECIAL SERVICE BRANCH

The Special Service Branch is charged with assisting the Commanding General in his responsibility for maintaining the mental and physical stamina of his troops for combat by providing:

An Orientation program using film, radio, publications, and maps that inform the soldier of the background of the war, and stimulates his interest and understanding of his own part in it.

An Athletic and Recreational program organized to provide desired activity in off duty hours. This program includes supervised athletics, soldier theatricals, musical entertainment and supervised social activities at Service Clubs.

An Educational program for the Soldier who desires to advance in the Army or prepare himself by study to better resume his place in civilian life upon demobilization. Libraries are furnished for all types of reading and study.

Through cooperation with the U. S. O. and various other civilian agencies, supervised activities outside the Camp limits to keep the soldier mentally, morally and physically fit. These activities include dances, parties, club rooms, free entertainment and reduced rates for civilian activities.

DEDICATION DAY

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

9:00 to 11:00 A.M. OPEN HOUSE AND INSPECTION OF EXHIBITS (SEE MAP ON LAST PAGE)

Service Group Main Service Club, Post office, Headquarters branch post exchange, Clothing and subsistence warehouses, Guest house, Various type vehicles, Prisoner enclosures.

Quartermaster Group Mobile laundry, Mobile bakery, Fumigation and bath unit, Instructors guidance procedure, Utilities schools, Camouflage demonstrations.

Engineer Group Pontoon bridge, Assault boat races, Pneumatic bridge, Bailey bridge, Booby traps, Demolition equipment, Tank crossing mine field, Weapons firing on ranges, Infiltration firing.

Signal Group Pole climbing and first aid at top of pole, Hasty combat construction, Aerial tramway, Visual voice demonstration, Radio repair, Phone installations, Mobile field kitchen, Mobile repair truck, Model orderly room and supply room.

(This section of the program to be repeated between 1:00 and 4:00 P.M.)

9:45 A.M. Dedication of Chapel #1 (30th and S Streets)

11:00 to 12:15 P.M. FORMAL CAMP DEDICATION CEREMONY (Parade ground in front of flag pole.)

11:00 to 11:30 A.M. Band Concert

11:30 A.M. Invocation by 1st Lieutenant H. E. Millikan, Deputy Chief of Chaplains' Branch, Headquarters Sixth Service Command

Address by Major General R. L. Maxwell, Commanding General, Army Service Forces Unit Training Center, Camp Ellis, Illinois

Address by the Honorable Dwight H. Green, Governor of Illinois

Address by Mr. Michael Wright, British Embassy

Address by 1st Officer Roma Ann Scott, Chief WAAC Recruiting Officer, Headquarters Sixth Service Command

Unveiling of Sergeant Ellis Portrait

Unveiling of Sergeant Ellis Portrait.

Playing of Camp Ellis March, composed by Captain John T. Blossom, Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, 1624th Service Unit, Camp Ellis, Illinois.

Playing of Star Spangled Banner.

12:00 Noon — Forty eight gun salute to nation.

12:15 P.M. — Picnic lunches in areas designated on map on last page.

1:00 to 4:00 P.M. — Continuation of open house and exhibits.

1:30 P.M. — Opening baseball game between Camp Ellis Mud Hens and Butler Manufacturing Company of Galesburg. General Hartman will throw out the first ball of the season. (corner of R and 8th Streets)

3:00 P.M. — Dedication of Chapel #2 (43rd Street between R & S Streets)

4:00 to 4:50 P.M. — Special Service Show, building 703 and crowning of "Dedication Day Queen" (Corner R and 7th Street).

4:00 to 4:50 P.M. — Decoration ceremony (Parade ground in front of flag pole)

5:00 P.M. — Retreat Parade (Parade ground in front of flag pole)

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Recipients of Medals

Major W. Gould Jones, F. A., who is Public Relations Officer at Camp Ellis, will receive the Medal of the Order of the British Empire which was awarded to him in recognition of services performed in the Middle East during the period from November, 1941 to February, 1943. Mr. Michael Wright, personal representative of His Majesty King George VI of England will make the award.

Private Robert Winters will receive the Soldiers' Medal for valor displayed in rescuing three civilian motorists from drowning on May 16 when their car left the road near Creve Couer, Illinois and rolled into the Illinois River. The medal will be presented by Mr. William H. Tow, President of the village of Creve Couer, Illinois.

of the village of Creve Couer, Illinois.

Staff Sergeant Golden D. Proctor will receive the Soldiers' Medal for valor displayed in rescuing Technician, Fifth Grade, Charles L. Martin on May 24 on the Thompson Lake Levee when he (Martin) fell into the Illinois River while it was at flood stage and the current strong. The medal will be presented by State Representative Reed Cutler of Lewistown, Illinois.

Private, First Class, Robert L. Dosier will receive the Soldiers' Medal for valor displayed in rescuing Technician, Fifth Grade, Charles L. Martin on May 24 on the Thompson Lake Levee when he (Martin) fell into the Illinois River while it was at flood stage and the current strong. The medal will be presented by State Representative Reed Cutler of Lewistown, Illinois.

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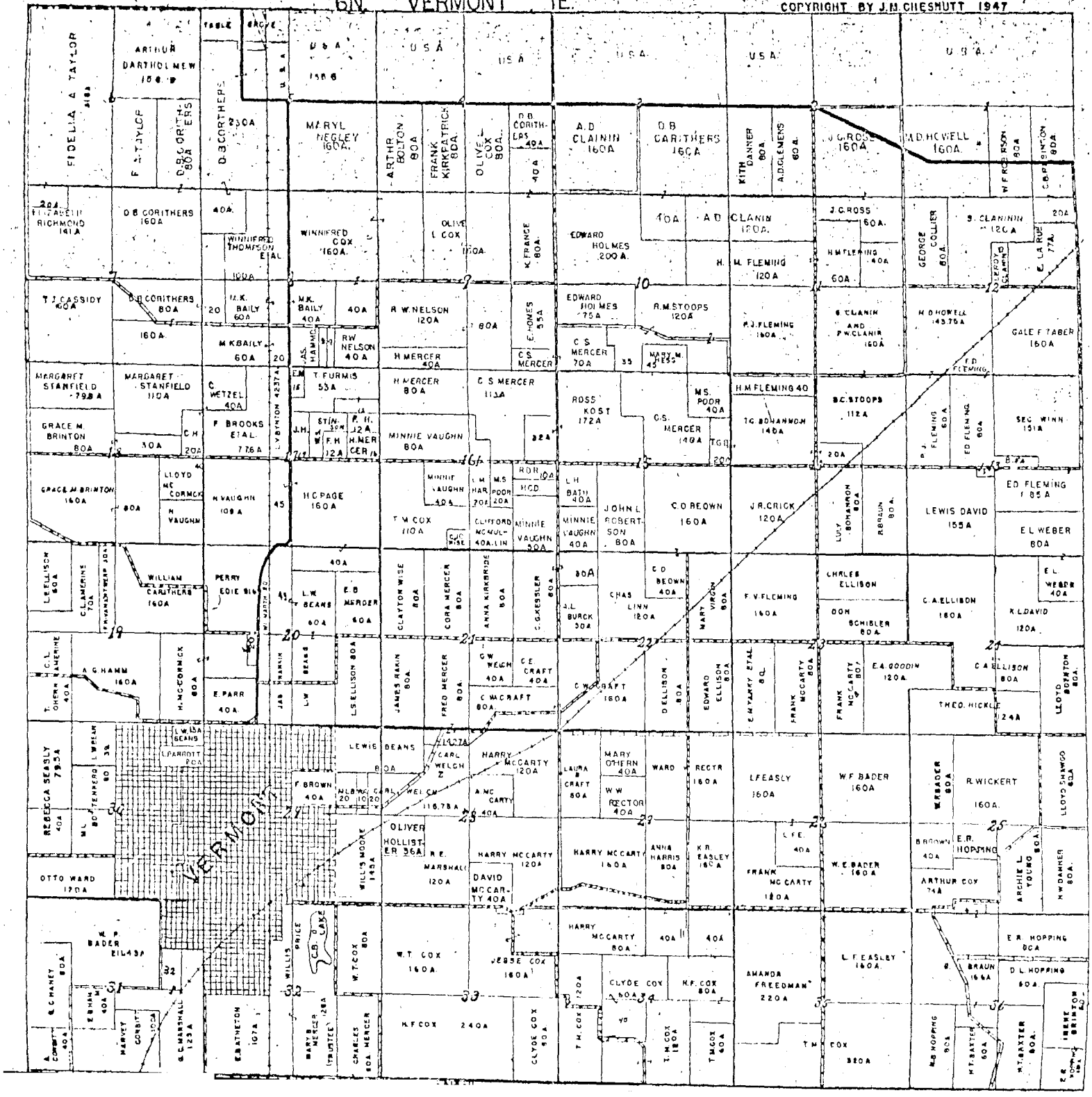
Note: For your convenience and comfort rest rooms and first aid stations are provided in each branch area.

-- Parking areas are designated throughout the camp. It is requested that cars be parked only in these specified places.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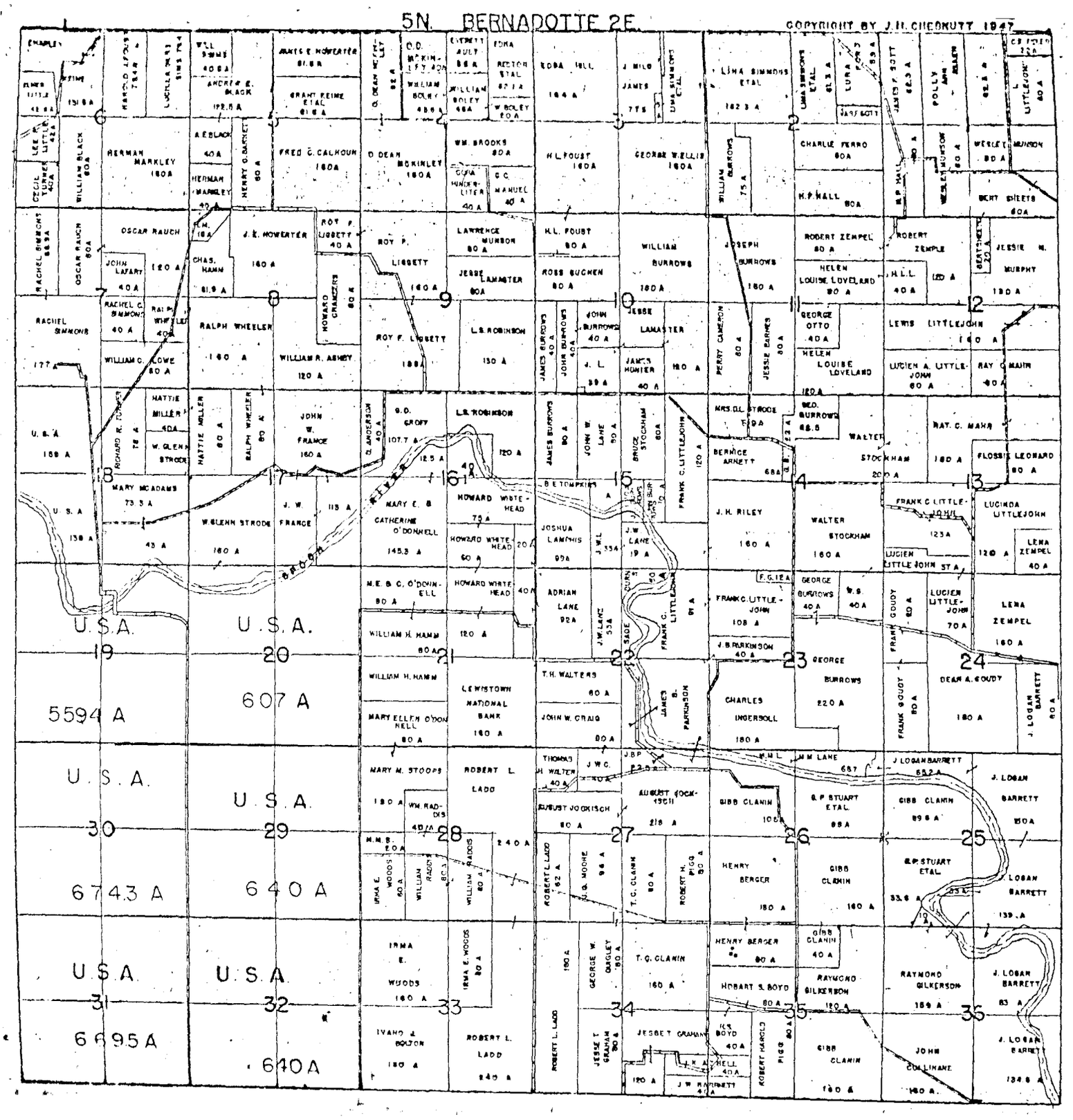
COPYRIGHT BY J.N. CIESMUTT 1947
VERNON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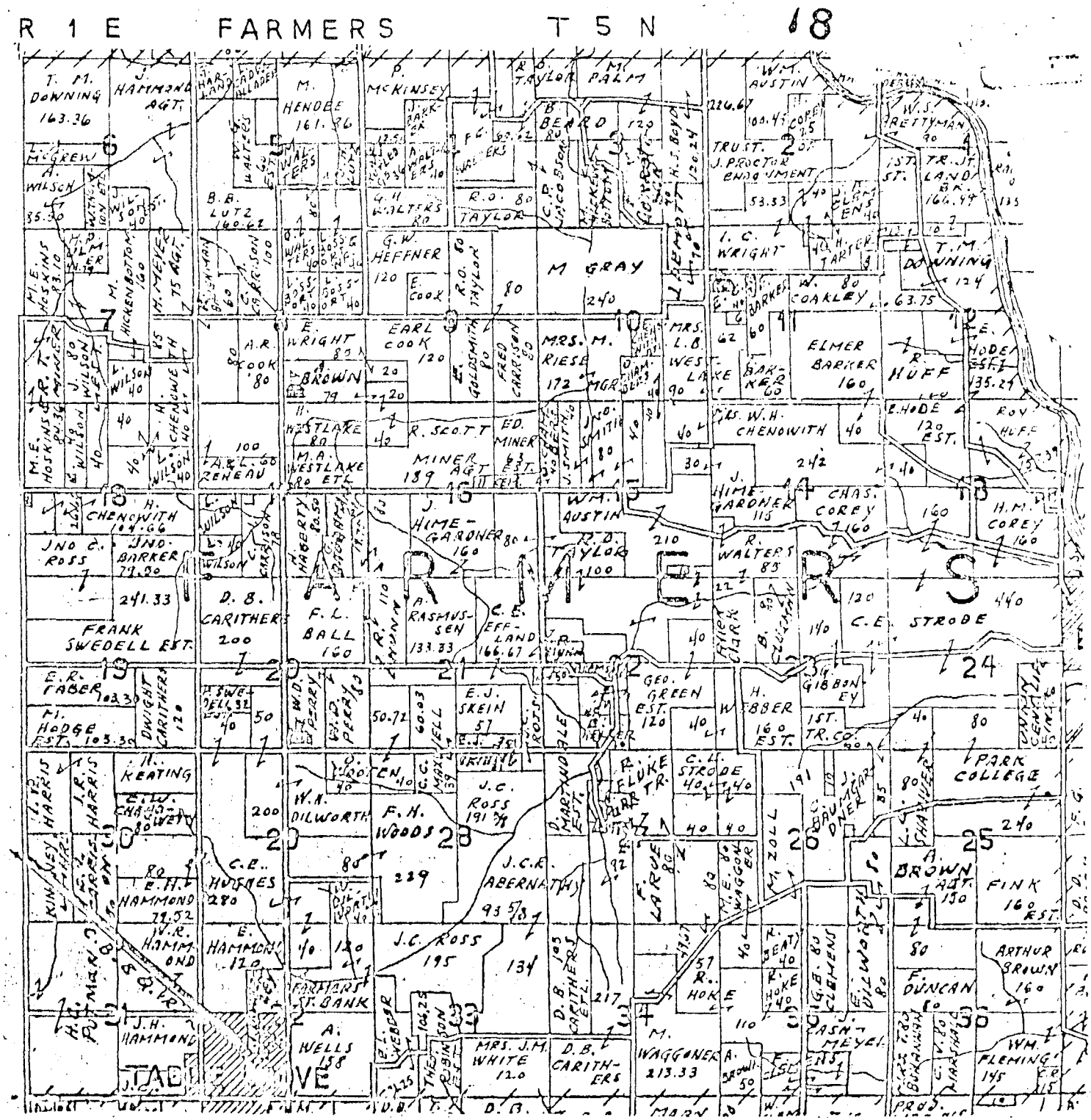
R 1 E
FARMERS
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18
T. M. DOWNING 163.36
J. HAMMOND AGT.
M. HENDEE 161.86
P. MCKINSEY
R. TAYLOR
M. PALM
B. BEARD
W.M. AUSTIN
W.S. PRETTYMAN
TRUST. J. PROCTOR ENDOWMENT
I. C. WRIGHT
T.M. DOWNING 124
ELMER BARKER 160
E. HODEGE 135.27
MRS. W.H. CHENOWITH
E. HODGE 120 EST.
G.W. HEFFNER 120
E. COOK
M GRAY 240
EARL COOK 120
MRS. M. RIESE 172 MGR
A.R. COOK 80
E. WRIGHT
BROWN
R. SCOTT
ED. MINER
MINER AGT 139
M.A. WESTLAKE RR ETL
J. HIME-GARDNER 160
WM. AUSTIN
CHAS. COREY 160
H.M. COREY 160
R. WALTERS 83
C.E. STRODE
JNO. BARKER 79.20
JNO C. ROSS
241.33
FRANK SWEDELL EST.
D. B. CARITHERS 200
F. L. BALL 160
A. RASMUSSEN 133.33
C.E. EFFLAND 166.67
E.R. FABER 93.30
M. HODGE EST. 103.30
DWIGHT CARITHERS
E.J. SKEIN 57
GEO. GREEN EST. 120
H. ABER 160 EST.
1ST. TR. CO.
PARK COLLEGE
J.C. ROSS 191 34
W.A. DILWORTH
F.H. WOODS 229
J.C.R. ABERNATHY
F. FLUKE
C.E. HUGHES 280
E.H. HAMMOND 79.52
J.C. ROSS 195
134
A. WELLS 158
MRS. J.M. WHITE 120
D.B. CARITHERS
M. WAGGONER 213.33
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ARTHUR BROWN 160
F. DUNCAN
WM. FLEMING 145
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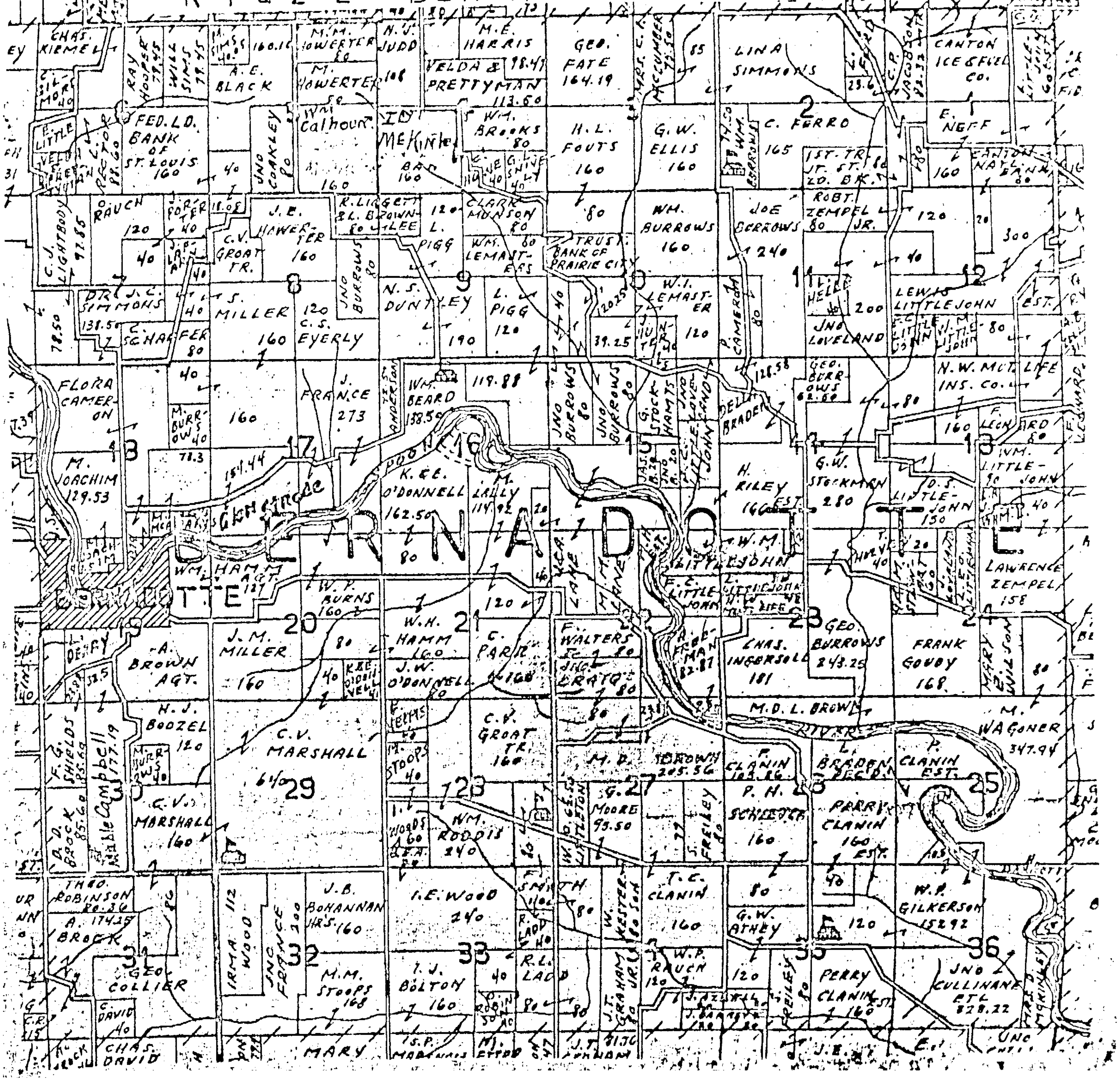
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RAY HOOPER
WILL SIMS
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LINA SIMMONS
CANTON ICE & FUEL CO.
A.E. BLACK
M. HOWERTER
VELDA & PRETTYMAN
FED. LD. BANK OF ST. LOUIS 160
JNO OAKLEY 80
WM. Calhoun
ID McKinley
WM. BROOKS 80
H.L. FOUTS 160
G.W. ELLIS 160
C. FERRO 165
E. NEFF
CANTON NAT'L BANK
C.J. LIGHTBODY
RAUCH
J.E. HAWERTER 160
R. LIGGETT & L. BROWNLEE
CLARK MUNSON 80
WM. BURROWS 160
JOE BURROWS 240
ROBT. ZEMPEL JR.
C.V. GROAT TR.
WM. LEMASTERS
TRUST BANK OF PRAIRIE CITY
DR. J.C. SIMMONS
S. MILLER 160
C.S. EYERLY
N.S. DUNTLEY 190
L. PIGG 120
W.I. LEMASTER 120
LEWIS LITTLEJOHN
JNO LOVELAND
C. SCHAFFER
FLORA CAMERON
J. FRANCE 273
WM. BEARD 138.50
N.W. MUT. LIFE INS. CO.
M. JOACHIM 129.53
K.E. O'DONNELL 162.50
M. LALLY 114.92
H. RILEY EST. 160
G.W. STOCKMAN 280
WM. LITTLEJOHN
BERNADOTTE
WM. HAMM AGT.
W.P. BURNS 160
LAWRENCE ZEMPEL 158
J.M. MILLER 160
W.H. HAMM 160
C. PARR
F. WALTERS
CHAS. INGERSOLL 181
GEO. BURROWS 243.25
FRANK GOUBY 168
A. BROWN AGT.
J.W. O'DONNELL
M.D.L. BROWN
M. WAGONER 347.94
H.J. BOOZEL 120
C.V. MARSHALL
C.V. GROAT TR. 160
M.D. BROWN 205.56
F.G. SHIELDS
Mable Campbell 177.19
P. CLANIN
L. BRADEN
P. CLANIN EST.
C.V. MARSHALL 160
WM. RODDIS 240
G. MOORE 95.50
P.H. SCHLEICH 160
PERRY CLANIN 160
THEO. ROBINSON
A. BROCK
J.B. BOHANNAN HRS. 160
I.E. WOOD 240
F. SMITH
T.C. CLANIN 160
G.W. ATHEY
W.P. GILKERSON 152.92
GEO. COLLIER
IRMA WOOD
JNO FRANCE
M.M. STOOPS 168
I.J. BOLTON 160
R.L. LADD
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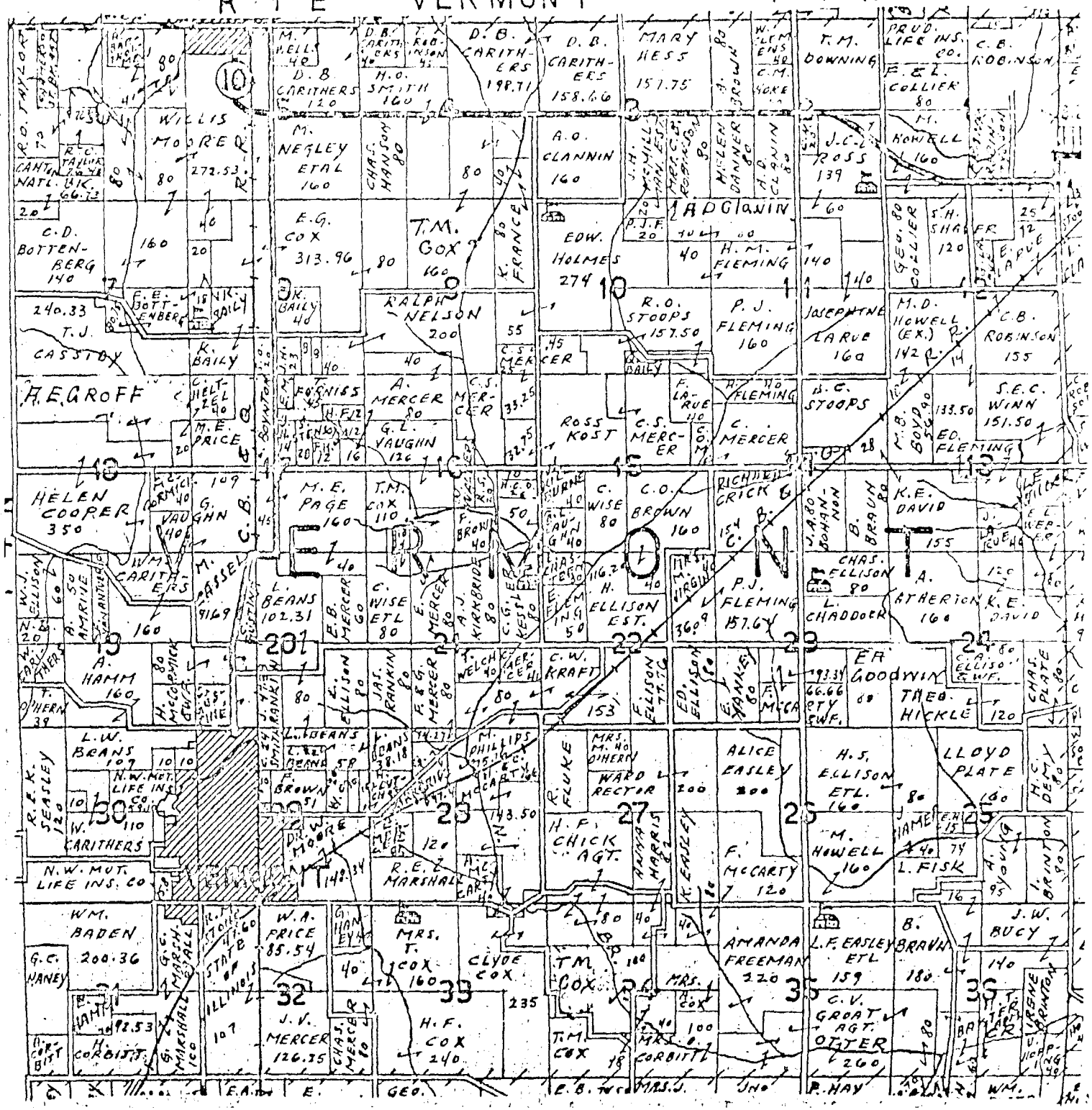
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T. M. DOWNING
PROV. LIFE INS. CO.
C. B. ROBINSON
E. L. COLLIER 80
M. HOWELL 160
J. C. L. ROSS 139
A. D. CLANNIN
A. O. CLANNIN 160
EDW. HOLMES 274
H. M. FLEMING
P. J. FLEMING 160
R. O. STOOPS 157.50
JOSEPHINE LARUE 160
M. D. HOWELL (EX.) 142
C. B. ROBINSON 155
S. E. C. WINN 151.50
E. D. FLEMING
W. C. STOOPS
A. E. GROFF
ROSS KOST
C. S. MERCER
C. MERCER
G. L. VAUGHN 126
A. MERCER 80
T. FONNISS
M. E. PRICE
HELEN COOPER 350
M. E. PAGE 160
T. M. COX 110
C. WISE 80
C. O. BROWN 160
RICHARD CRICK
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A. ATHERTON
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M. HOWELL 160
L. FISK
F. McCARTY 120
ALICE EASLEY 200
H. F. CHICK AGT.
WARD RECTOR
MRS. M. HOTHERN
R. FLUKE
C. W. KRAFT
WM. BADEN 200.36
G. C. HANEY
W. A. PRICE 85.54
J. V. MERCER 126.35
MRS. T. COX 160
H. F. COX 240
CLYDE COX
T. M. COX
AMANDA FREEMAN 220
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B. BRAUN 180
J. W. BUCY
C. V. GROAT AGT. OTTER 260
ILLINOIS STATE
G. C. MARSHALL 100
CORBITT
P. HAY
GEO.
E. B. TWEED
MRS. J. UNO
WM.