



American World War II
Heritage City

Valley City
North Dakota

The Fruits of Victory



Write for Free Book to
National War Garden Com
Washington, D.C.
Charles Lathrop Pack, President P.S. Ric



Want more information?

Visit the Barnes County Museum at
315 Central Ave North in Downtown Valley
City or scan the QR Code to connect to the
Barnes County Historical Society website.

Community Unites to Support War Efforts



Valley City Keeps the Home Front Going

When World War II broke out, the majority of the working force – men – were called to serve their country on the front lines or in defense industries. But Barnes County was in good shape to face the resulting work shortage as area women and children were already used to helping on the farm and in the community. That work ethic, along with volunteer efforts, helped fill the gaps and kept the Home Front intact for those serving elsewhere.

Patriotic posters released by the U.S. Office of War Information urged Americans to “Do with less – so they’ll have enough,” referring to U.S. troops. Rationing programs were established and families were issued stamps to buy an allotment of everything from meat, sugar, fat, butter, vegetables and fruit to gas, tires, clothing, and fuel oil.

Collection drives of scrap metal, cans, and rubber were held to be recycled for armaments. There were fund drives for the Red Cross, and

(Above left) These young local women are working on their Victory Garden, urged on by numerous nationwide posters.

(Left) Mrs. Nix and Mrs. Clark armed themselves with crowbars and salvaged 39 cannonballs weighing 50 lbs. each, set and in cement at the Woodbine Cemetery. The cannonballs were sold for scrap and the money collected was used in the war effort.

war bonds purchased to help pay for the high cost of war. Schools competed to collect the most scrap paper and metal for recycling. Women mobilized to sell war bonds to buy a ‘Barnes County Bomber’ while Hi-Liners participated in a ‘Barnes County Jeep’ campaign; both groups met their goals to send a bomber plane and three jeeps to the war front.

Victory Gardens were found in backyards, vacant lots, and public parks. Classes were held by Homemakers’ Clubs and schools on the art of canning, with recipes and tips exchanged on how to make the most of rationed goods. Sewing and knitting bees were held as well as clothing and book drives for the troops.

The Home Front effort required sacrifices and cooperation as people learned to live with price controls and shortages, dealt with blackouts and brownouts, and volunteered for jobs outside their experience. It was a matter of local pride to know Valley City and Barnes County could always be counted upon to “do its part and more.”

Valley City Cannons to Become Scrap Iron for Uncle Sam

Valley City Times-Record, July 18, 1942 - Valley City made an unusual contribution to the scrap iron effort by turning over its three historic cannons to the Barnes County salvage committee. Lined up in front of the Armory above are the three relics, along with (representatives

of) sponsoring organizations, the W. R. C. (Women’s Relief Corps), American Legion, city and park officials, Company F and the city band. A Spanish American gun is at the left, a Civil War cannon in the center and a captured German gun of the First World War at the right.



(Above) A ration book and a “Warsage” as seen at the BC Museum. “Warsages” were created by the local Auxiliary women and sold to raise funds for the troops.

