



American World War II
Heritage City

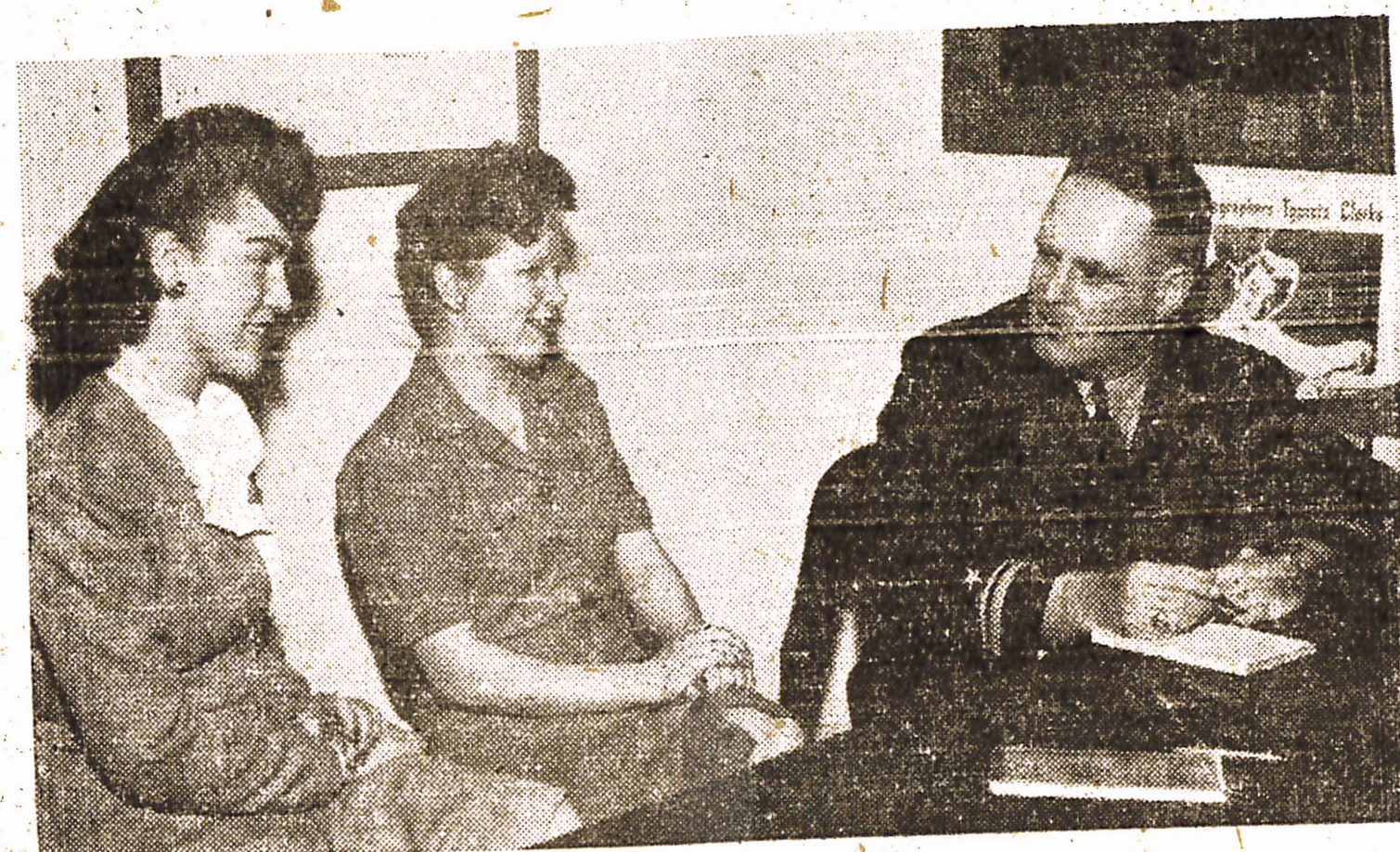
Valley City
North Dakota

Valley City State Teachers College (VCSU) and WWII



(Above) The United States Navy V-12 students attending class in Valley City August of 1943.
(Left) An article in the April 19, 1944 Valley City Times Record touts the success of two Valley City State Teachers College graduates who went on to serve the government in Washington D.C.

'Working In Washington Thrilling'



Above are Miss Rose Busche, left, and her sister, Miss Lucille, Valley City girls now navy civilian stenographers in Washington, D. C., being interviewed by Lt. (j.g.) James P. Delaney, Civilian Personnel officer for Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

"Living and working in the wartime capital of the world is a thrilling experience," says Miss Rose, elected Wheat Queen here last fall. Lt. Delaney invites more girls like Rose and Lucille to "come aboard! we need you here in Washington to perform a vital job in the war effort."

Miss Imogene Ellis and Mrs. Mar-

cella Wiseman, Navy Recruitment Representatives of Washington, D. C., will be in Valley City at the United States Employment Service Office until Friday, April 21st and will be happy to talk to you girls of 17½ and over who are out now in an essential industry using your highest skill. They would like to give you the standard civil examination for stenographer, typist or clerk and if you qualify, to provide you with a first class ticket to Washington, D. C. at Navys' expense.

Valley City College Hosts Women in Training

Valley City State Teachers College, like many colleges during WWII, was a hub for wartime activity. Many of its Alumni found themselves in service to our country or in a war-time job, and many students found themselves taking war jobs when they weren't in school. As for the women who joined the military, the college-educated women were attractive prospects and the target of recruiters.

The college found themselves as host to the Mercy Hospital Cadet Nurse students while they took science classes. Also, because of the ongoing V-12 program with

the Marines, women were recruited and trained as Naval Civilian stenographers. After training, they were sent to Washington D.C. to work with the Navy Department. Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services) were stationed at the college to take over clerk-typist duties. The school also hosted trainees for the Women's Army Corp (WACS), the women's branch of the Coast Guard (SPARS), Red Cross workers and 'Rosie the Riveters.'

There was a handful of servicewomen who attended Valley City State Teachers College on the GI Bill after the war.

Total Count of Valley City State Teachers College Grads/Attendees in wartime service:

24 WACS, 36 WAVES; 4 USMC Women's Reserves;
6 US Coast Guard SPARS; 6 Army Nurses;
7 American Red Cross Workers; 14 Cadet Nurses;
14 Government Girls; 62 Rosie the Riveters;
15 Home-front Miscellaneous (other war jobs);
2 USO Workers

The U.S. Navy Arrives for V-12 Training

The V-12 was a United States Navy program to train officers. Between July 1st, 1943, and June 30, 1946, more than 125,000 participants were enrolled in 131 colleges and universities in the U.S. To support the war effort, Valley City State Teachers College (now VCSU) contracted with the Navy to serve as a place to train Naval Officers. The first group of 233 men reported to duty on the VCSTC Campus the day the program began. After four months, recruits then transferred to Midshipman School or other advanced training. Recruits came from all over the nation. Over the next two years, 532 men went through the local program. The primary purpose of this program was to train men for deck officers. Here they were taught Seamanship and Damage Control.

ENLIST IN THE WAVES



WIN with the WAVES

ENLIST IN THE NORTH DAKOTA WAVES
UNIT DURING THE ELKS-NAVY WAVE
CAMPAIGN SEPTEMBER 11-30

- 75 Women to Comprise Wave Unit.
- Unit to leave for Hunter College, New York, October 31, 1944.
- Elks Wave Reception — A Special Navy Film will be shown September 19, 8 p. m., Elks Club Dining Room.

Information Without Obligation at Wave Headquarters
Rudolf Hotel Lobby — Hours 10 a. m. 9 p. m.

Statewide Campaign Sponsored by North Dakota
Elks Association

This Advertisement Contributed by
B. P. O. ELKS LODGE NO. 1110, VALLEY CITY



USE A MAN TO FIGHT AT SEA

"Granddaddy of the WAC"

Colonel Gilman Mudgett (left) was a native of Valley City. He was a cavalry officer with twenty years of experience in the regular army when in early 1942, he was called in for a special job in Washington D.C. From January to May of 1942, he was assigned as a pre-planner for the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. His role was to establish and guide the corps. When planning had slowed down, he was given strict orders "to build a fire under WAAC planning." He did not receive a medal or any award for his work, but he was given the honorary title of "Granddaddy of the WAC."



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.

