

Bloomington did its part to support war effort in 1942

"Churches of Monroe County are to toll their bells Dec. 7, first anniversary of Pearl Harbor — that is those churches which have bell left to toll." The Dec. 7, 1942, editorial in the Bloomington *Evening World* found it regrettable that "Many churches have foolishly disposed of their bells."

One year after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Monroe County and Bloomington looked very much like they were part of a country at war. On Dec. 4, the Bloomington *Star* exhorted its readers to avenge Pearl Harbor by investing in an extra war bond. It also reported that the county ranked sixth among the 92 Indiana counties in getting workers to sign up for devoting 10 percent of their earnings in bonds.

Some 304 other Monroe Countians found a different way to show their patriotism. Mrs. Ross Barr, local Red Cross blood bank chairman, was happy to announce that the county had earlier in the week



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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exceeded its 300-pint quota by four pints.

On the more serious side, the *Star* announced that the "staggered" 20-day registration of 18 and 19-year olds would begin within the week. Board No. 1 had announced that nearly half of the 110-man quota for the county was being filled with married men.

According to the *Evening World*, Monroe Countians who were planning to send Christmas presents through the mail, were urged to shop and mail early. The reason given was that some 25,000 of the U.S. postal employees had been drafted.

Happily the *Evening World* —

kind of life-goes-on despite the war mood — reported that one local physician delivered three babies in one hour. Said the newspaper, "Latest additions to the City's infant army were born last night and early this morning to Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Thrasher and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Weaver."

On Dec. 8, it was reported by the *World* that the Bloomington Junior-Senior High School had remembered Pearl Harbor by purchasing war stamps totaling \$218.25. The splendid effort had been sponsored by the Student Council, and half of the home rooms were 100 percenters.

It was the *Evening World* that conducted its own little local survey about the war. Reported the newspaper, many local citizens thought the war wasn't being taken "seriously enough." Perhaps that reaction came from ads seen in the papers at that time. For example, Monroe Countians were invited to

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