

# Activities at home flourished with end of war in sight

Every student of the history of World War II knows that by midsummer of 1945, the war had already been won in the European Theater and was headed toward a conclusion in the Pacific area. Even so, there was no noticeable slowing down of the war effort in Bloomington.

On July 19, readers of the *World Telephone* opened it to find a photo of a liberty ship named the "Victory Bloomington." The ship, built by the California Shipbuilding Corporation of Wilmington near Los Angeles, was to be launched at a ceremony that included Bloomington-native and Paramount motion picture actress, Catherine Craig. Mayor Loba Jack Bruner was also supposed to be present at the launching.

Not all of the homefront news was good. The casualty lists were still coming in, and a Bloomington veteran restaurateur was put out of business by the Office of Price Administration in Indianapolis. On June 28 the newspaper reported that Emmett Kelly was forced to close his cafe half a block south of the square because he had "overdrawn his red ration account some 18,000 points."

Added the *World Telephone*, "The comments of those who read the letter can be boiled down to 'It's a shame.' All felt that



## LOOKING BACK

By Rose McIlveen

Bloomington was losing for an indefinite time a community service. Many said harsh things about the O.P.A. Everyone had a good word for Mr. Kelly." Three days later two more downtown cafes were also forced to close for the same reason.

In the same issue of the newspaper were articles about a labor dispute that halted city water line being constructed on the south side of town. The Indiana State Police had cleared up a series of burglaries by arresting two Bloomington juveniles. The teens were accused of breaking into the Gables Restaurant, Pennington Wood Products and Gibb's Restaurant.

A more significant article in the July 31 issue was an Associated Press article about the Air Force's dropping leaflets on Japanese cities. The leaflets, dropped on Mito, Hachioji, Maebashi, Toyama, Nagano, Fukuyama, Otsu Maizuru and all industrial and trans-

portation centers on Honshu Island. Citizens of the cities of Nagoka, Nishinomiya, Hakodate, Kurume and Koriyama had also been warned that they were "marked for destruction by American Superfortresses."

An Aug. 4 editorial called for 200 additional employees "to produce equipment vital to the Pacific theater of war. Said the front-page editorial, "War production scheduled for the prosecution of the Pacific war must be met. No American forces have gone or will go into battle stinted of equipment because of production failure."

RCA wasn't the only part of Bloomington feeling a pinch because of the war. On Aug. 6, another editorial appeared on the front page of the *World Telephone*. It explained that the university was short 500 rooms for coeds who had applied for admittance and been accepted.

Continued the editorial, "The IU trustees by formal resolution have called on the citizens of Bloomington 'to meet this crisis in the same fine way they have in the past by listing with the dean of women and men any available rooms reasonably adapted to student housing.' Bloomington has rallied to the aid of the university time after time for 125 years. Let this time of crisis be no exception, and the

benefits be felt by both the city and the university."

The dropping of the first atomic bomb — on Hiroshima — was the lead story in the *World Telephone* of Aug. 6. Mayor Bruner announced the appointment of a water committee to explore the idea of sinking some wells to relieve an anticipated water shortage.

By the next day, the newspaper had discovered that physicists at IU had played an important role in the development of the atomic bomb. Explained the *World Telephone*, "President Herman B Wells brought to the faculty as head of the department of physics Dr. Allan C.G. Mitchell, one of the country's foremost authorities on nuclear physics, and announced that the university would build a cyclotron or atom-smasher."

Continued the newspaper, "Professor Mitchell gathered together a staff of four men, all experts in the nuclear physics field. These included Lawrence M. Langer, who had been one of Dr. Mitchell's assistants at New York University, L. Jackson Laslett, from the celebrated Radiation Laboratory of the University of California, and Emil J. Konopinski, native of Michigan City, Ind., who has been a National Research Council Fellow at Cornell University." Next week: The War Ends

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