

I chose to compile these facts and write this text for this booklet because I wanted to let people know and to remind them just what sacrifices were made by the so called "average American" in the small community during a very important decade in history. I have tried to depict what it was like on the homefront and battlefield in World War II, and the transition in our lives after the war.

Belleville is a town of many heroes, both decorated and unsung. People, who were children, but have since become adults will remember these things. To them, these may be happy times. There are those still living, who were adults then and may have a different view on the subject at hand. None-the-less it is a time that was and we hope will never happen again.

I saw the community through the eyes of the RECORDER editor, Herbert Adams. Mr. Adam's death was untimely since he did not live to see the end of the war or the post war boom. The newspapers of the community published during his time as editor leave a very vivid picture in my mind of the home, community and friends that he was so proud of! He seemed to have a deep sense of patriotism and personal responsibility to his community through his paper. In putting it in print each week, he has to some degree become a historian.

From reading the reports of the fellows in service, I learned a great deal. They never lost hope, were happy to have a hometown to back them and shared their feelings with their neighbors through letters to the editor. Even though, sometimes there was an ocean between them.

If I learned anything at all from my research, it was the community spirit by which people pulled together. There were scrap drives, rationing and war loans. There was also the school proms, free movies and summer band concerts. There was a pride in the fire department, home talent baseball teams and local athletics; all the things that make up a community.

After digesting all of this, I hope that you who take the time to read this will arrive at the same conclusion I did.

"HOME is not just a place, it is a very special feeling."

... The number of that period is reported to be about 100,000.

1940

According to the census, Belleville's population in 1940 was 294. This was a gain of five percent over the previous census. School enrollment that September was the largest ever, there were one hundred in the high school as compared to the eighty-five

"What the future holds for the citizenry of the United States no one can predict. Come what may, it is the duty of each and everyone to keep up his own morale, to have faith in his government, and to keep up his courage. Thus everyone can contribute to the ultimate victory that can come from a united people. This is not the time for despair, but for dynamic effort, courage, vision, and strength to face the problem of winning a war."

Herbert Adams, Editor  
Belleville Recorder  
December 1941

... The war in Europe seemed far away. The United States was hoping they would not become a direct part of it. One of the most important things on the mind of the people of Belleville was the radio show 'The Big Game'. It was quoted in the Belleville Recorder as, 'the show that kept people home waiting for their phone to ring.' It was a radio tab that consisted of spinning