

# The 1940s: Through the War and Beyond

March 2 – May 7, 2016  
Lorenzo Cultural Center  
Macomb Community College

## EXHIBIT PANEL TEXT

### **New York World's Fair of 1939-1940**

Still in the throes of the Great Depression and with the threat of war looming, the organizers of the New York World's Fair sought to instill a sense of hope for the future. Indeed, the theme was the "World of Tomorrow," and as such, the fair promoted an "unqualified belief in science and technology as a means to economic prosperity and personal freedom." Particularly awe-inspiring among the fair's streamlined, modern buildings were the Trylon and Perisphere, enormous structures that were visibly discernible from miles away and which served as the fair's focal point.

The Perisphere housed an exhibit titled Democracy, featuring the model of a utopian town as envisioned 100 years in the future. The city depicted would actually become a reality known as a suburb in just a few short years. Other views of future life presented by General Motors and Ford included, not surprisingly, automobiles and express roadways as prominent features. The Westinghouse Electric Company showcased a smoking robot named Elektro and his mechanical dog, Sparko. Along with exhibits from 33 states and U.S. territories, the rest of the world was represented with 60 countries and international companies. The decade to follow, despite its struggles and losses, would play out against this forward-looking backdrop as strides were made to build the world envisioned so hopefully at the fair.

Sources: "Welcome to Tomorrow," <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~1930s/display/39wf/frame.htm>; "World's Fair: Enter the World of Tomorrow," <http://exhibitions.nypl.org/biblion/node/1617>; Yu, James, "Trylon and Perisphere," A Treasury of World's Fair Art and Architecture, <http://digital.lib.umd.edu/worldsfairs/record?pid=umd:1009>

### **At the Show: Movie Theaters in 1940s Detroit**

The 1940s dawned in Detroit with the local premiere of *Gone with the Wind* on January 25 at the United Artists Theater. By this time, a number of the theaters that had been built in the earlier part of the century had succumbed to the Great Depression and were either shuttered or devoted to burlesque shows. Other surviving theaters included the Michigan, the Adams, Broadway-Capitol, the Madison, and Palms-State. Two other movie theaters of the time, the Fox and the Fisher, later became performing arts venues that today continue to stage popular shows.

Some of the movies that would have been viewed at area theaters were produced by the Office of War Information in conjunction with Hollywood studios. Such propaganda films, designed to promote patriotism and bolster continued support for the war, include the now-classic documentary series *Why We Fight*, made by popular Hollywood director Frank Capra. In addition to movie features and propaganda films, theaters also showed newsreels. These short, filmed news reports preceded the feature film and were one of the prime sources for news items of all kinds, particularly those concerning the war. In some cases, theaters set aside small viewing rooms specifically for patrons to watch newsreels. With the advent of television, however, newsreels were no longer necessary and were eventually phased out of theaters.

Sources: Campbell, Bob. "A Bijou Flashback: The History of Movie Newsreels," <http://www.moviefanfare.com/the-history-of-movie-newsreels/>; Denby, David. "Hollywood at War," <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/03/17/hollywood-at-war>; "Detroit Movie Palaces," [http://detroitmoviepalaces.com/looking\\_back\\_194001.html#looking\\_back\\_0140](http://detroitmoviepalaces.com/looking_back_194001.html#looking_back_0140); "The History of Film: The 1940s," <http://www.filmsite.org/40sintro.html>;

### **Literature of the 1940s**

For four years beginning in 1943, U.S. publishers sold nearly 123 million books at bargain prices to the military, which then gave the books to enlisted men around the world at no charge. Some publishers feared that soldiers returning from service, who were used to receiving books for free, would be unwilling to pay regular price and thus the publishing industry would be ruined. Instead, the opposite turned out to be true; the practice ultimately drove sales of books far higher than expected by instilling in the servicemen a love of reading.

Surprisingly, one of the most popular books among the soldiers was *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (1943), a coming-of-age story about an adolescent girl in the early 1900s. Other notable books published in the 1940s include Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *Native Son* by Richard Wright (both 1940); *The Stranger* by Albert Camus and Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* (both 1942); *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck (1945); and Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* (1948). Playwrights Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller, each of whom won Pulitzer Prizes, produced classic stage dramas: Williams's *The Glass Menagerie* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which debuted on Broadway in 1945 and 1947, respectively; and Miller's 1949 play *Death of a Salesman*. Another classic, published in 1949, was George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, a dystopian view of the world's future.

Sources: Appelbaum, Yoni. "Publishers Gave Away 122,951,031 Books During World War II," *The Atlantic*, <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/09/publishers-gave-away-122951031-books-during-world-war-ii/379893/>; "Literature of the 1940s," [http://www.glencoeibraryhistory.org/index.php?title=Literature\\_of\\_the\\_1940s](http://www.glencoeibraryhistory.org/index.php?title=Literature_of_the_1940s)

## **1940s Hollywood**

Among the many popular 1940s movies with wartime themes was *Casablanca* (1942). Starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, the film is an enduring classic of romance, intrigue, and moral dilemmas. Another film from the era touches on issues of media coverage of news items; *Citizen Kane* (1941), a tour-de-force achievement by Orson Welles, is considered by many to be the best movie of all time. Yet another classic from the period, *It's a Wonderful Life*, which received only a lukewarm reception in 1946, has become an immensely popular holiday movie.

Perhaps as a cynical response to the dismal state of world affairs, the 1940s saw the dawn of a new genre in movies. Labeled film noir, such movies portrayed an edgy, gritty view of the world. Generally photographed in a darker, flatter style, the films explored a seedier side of life than did most Hollywood movies up to this time. Classic examples of the genre include *The Maltese Falcon* (1941), *Double Indemnity* and *Laura* (both 1944), and *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1946). For most of the decade, Hollywood continued to enjoy the “golden age” of film with often lavish productions made by a few powerful studios that kept actors under strict contracts. In the late 1940s, however, amidst concerns about anti-trust practices and the hunt for communist sympathizers, the system began to falter. By the early 1950s, the golden age had come to an end.

Sources: Douglas, Ann. “Day into Noir,” <http://www.vanityfair.com/news/2007/03/noirdouglas200703>; “The Golden Age of Hollywood: 1930s - 1940s,” <http://ils.unc.edu/dpr/path/goldenhollywood/>; “The History of Films: The 1940s,” <http://www.filmsite.org/40sintro.html>

## **Building for the Future**

In the early years of the decade, as supplies and manpower were being diverted to the war effort, building construction came to nearly a complete halt. Some structures were still rising, however, including barracks for soldiers, housing for defense workers, and factories to make war goods. Two of these factories, the Detroit Arsenal Tank Plant and the Willow Run Bomber Plant, were designed by renowned, Detroit-based architect Albert Kahn. Kahn was already well known for his factory designs when he conceived these buildings, and upon completion in 1941, Willow Run was thought to be the largest factory in the world under one roof. This factory, in particular, was the epitome of efficient minimalism, and the large open floor plan lent itself well to producing the massive planes.

After the war the building industry began booming, with suburban homes rising seemingly overnight. Large-scale projects were also being undertaken, and General Motors hired Eero Saarinen to design their Warren Technical Center. The building’s innovative, modern design established Saarinen, a Finnish immigrant who settled with his parents in Michigan, as a leading architect of the time. He went on to design the Gateway Arch in St. Louis (the world’s tallest

arch), the Trans World Airlines terminal in New York City's JFK airport as well as residences and furniture, including the iconic Womb Chair, pedestal-style table, and Tulip Chair.

Sources: <http://www.michiganmodern.org/designers/albert-kahn>;  
[http://www.eerosaarinen.net/eero\\_saarinen.shtml](http://www.eerosaarinen.net/eero_saarinen.shtml); <http://www.michiganmodern.org/designers/eero-saarinen>;

### **Rise of the Comic Book while Painting Goes “Splat”**

At one end of the art spectrum, the 1940s were the golden age of comic books, featuring the rise of the superhero, while at the other end painters began exploring non-representational forms in their work, leading to a sea change in the established art world. Despite these vastly different approaches, the art of this era was in many ways a reaction to the uncertainty of the times. The success of the character Superman, who debuted in a 1938 comic book, was followed by more superheroes, including Wonder Woman, Batman and Robin, and Green Lantern. While Superman stood for truth, justice, and the American way, Captain America rose up specifically to battle the Nazi threat. Other genres given the comic book treatment were sci-fi, detective stories, and westerns. The “Archie” comics also began in the 1940s.

Meanwhile, fine art painting was experiencing a radical shift in style. As a reflection of the uncertainty of the Great Depression and the turmoil of World War II, artists began experimenting with styles that appeared messy and chaotic or spare and minimal rather than representational. One of the leading practitioners of this style, dubbed “abstract expressionism,” was Jackson Pollock, whose working method involved splashing and splattering paint on a canvas lying on the floor.

Sources: “The Golden Age of Comics,” <http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/feature/the-golden-age-of-comics/>; [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/abex/hd\\_abex.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/abex/hd_abex.htm);

### **Sports**

Boxer Joe Louis's 1938 win against German Max Schmeling came to symbolize for Americans a defeat of the Nazi party and its philosophies. Further, as an African American, Louis, who lived much of his life in Detroit, served as a model for the efforts of blacks striving for equality. When the United States entered World War II, Louis enlisted in the army and became active in helping to recruit African Americans into the armed forces, while also working to combat racial inequality in the military.

As millions of men began enlisting, Philip K. Wrigley, owner of the Chicago Cubs, headed an effort to organize a women's baseball league that could help maintain interest in the sport until war's end. Formed in 1943, the All-American Girls Baseball League recruited women from across the United States and Canada. Sixty women were ultimately chosen from hundreds of

hopefuls to play on the four teams. The league lasted until 1954, peaking in 1948 with ten teams (including several in Michigan) and nearly a million spectators.

Another momentous event of the 1940s was the racial integration of major league baseball. On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play for a major league team, the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson helped lead the Dodgers to a pennant win that year and was chosen Rookie of the Year. His success, coupled with his grace under the pressure of continued racism, helped to further integrate the sport of baseball.

Sources: [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3480](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3480);  
<http://www.aagpbl.org/index.cfm/pages/league/12/league-history>; <http://baseballhall.org/hof/robinson-jackie>

### **Fashion in the 1940s: From Victory Rolls to the New Look**

Women's fashion during the 1940s ranged from rather severe styles with strong, padded shoulders that mimicked the military uniforms worn by World War II soldiers to the post-war emphasis on the waist with a more feminine, hourglass silhouette. By contrast, hairstyles generally went in the opposite direction, with longer, softer styles featuring face-framing curls or rolled sections (known as "victory rolls") in the early 1940s that began transitioning to shorter, cropped pixie cuts by 1950. The longer hemlines and bias-cut garments (with the extra material they required) that prevailed in the 1930s gave way to knee-length dresses with more conservative construction that spoke to the strict rationing that was underway during the war. Fashions also had to accommodate women's changing roles, and allow for ease of movement when working in factories or tending victory gardens. Trousers for women became much more prevalent during this period. By the war's end, however, women were looking forward to something new and different in fashion. French designer Christian Dior responded with the "New Look," a silhouette featuring a tight bodice, nipped-in waist, and a very full skirt—often referred to as a "circle" skirt—that called for copious amounts of fabric.

Sources: Bond, David. *The Guinness Guide to 20th Century Fashion*. Middlesex: Guinness Superlatives Limited, 1981. Carter, Ernestine. *The Changing World of Fashion: 1900 to the Present*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1977.

### **Big Bands, Crooners, and Bebop**

Early in the 1940s, "big bands" of 12 to 25 musicians and a singer were performing the music of choice at that time, and bandleaders were considered popular celebrities. Part of the swing era of the jazz movement, bands led by such luminaries as Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, and Glenn Miller played tunes with rhythms that inspired fans to dance and "swing."

With the entry of the United States into World War II, however, the bands began to break up as members joined the service. Those who remained on the home front found it difficult to

maintain momentum given the shortages and rationing that made travel difficult as well as the curfews and amusement tax that shuttered many nightclubs. Singers began to strike out on their own, giving rise to the careers of such celebrated crooners as Frank Sinatra, Doris Day, Perry Como, and Peggy Lee.

With the end of the war a new era in jazz began; bebop took jazz out of the mainstream with a style of music that was meant to be closely listened to. Indeed, the rhythmically complex nature of bebop, which was performed by small ensembles, did not lend itself to dancing. It did, however, encourage experiments in improvisation, and some of the best bebop jazz artists included Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker and Thelonius Monk.

Sources: "Bebop," <http://www.jazzinamerica.org/jazzresources/stylesheets/10>; "Jazz in the 1940s," <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/jazz/history3.html>; "The Swing Era," <http://www.jazzinamerica.org/jazzresources/stylesheets/9>

### **Television Is Up-and-Coming but Radio Rules**

Radio provided a major form of entertainment during the 1940s, given that 90 percent of American households owned radios. In fact, many people learned of the attack on Pearl Harbor while listening to Sunday afternoon radio broadcasts. In addition to popular music shows, comedies, dramas, and variety shows, listeners could hear sermons as well as President Roosevelt's "Fireside Chats." News broadcasts provided much of the coverage of World War II and offered a greater sense of immediacy to what was happening overseas.

Although television technology was already established (a color transmission was even made in 1945), during much of the 1940s television was considered a passing fad. As attention shifted to the war, further development of the technology lagged. One early broadcast on the NBC (National Broadcasting Company) television station was the opening of the New York World's Fair in 1939. The ceremonies included an address by President Roosevelt, which marked the first appearance of a U.S. president on television. Television programming took off after the war, and 1947 witnessed the debut of a number of shows, including the *Ed Sullivan Show*, *Candid Camera*, and *Meet the Press*. The longest-running television show in history, *Meet the Press* is a news program that is still being aired today. Probably the most popular show of the time, however, was *Texaco Star Theatre*, hosted by Milton Berle, who became the first major television star.

Sources: Archive of American Television, "A Brief History of Television," <http://www.emmytvlegends.org/resources/tv-history>; "The Development of Radio," <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rescue/sfeature/radio.html>; <http://time.com/vault/issue/1945-10-22/page/94/#vault/issue/1945-10-22/page/94/>; Ruben, Marina Koestler. "Radio Activity: The 100th Anniversary of

Public Broadcasting,” <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/radio-activity-the-100th-anniversary-of-public-broadcasting-6555594/?page=2&no-ist;>

### **Pin-Up Girls and the Feminine Ideal**

While illustrations and photographs of attractive young women in calendars and advertisements that could be “pinned up” had been popular since the late 1800s, the heyday of the provocative images of female beauty began with World War II. At that time, such mainstream men’s magazines as *Esquire* had begun including the work of pin-up artists like Alberto Vargas, and servicemen around the world frequently had these pictures posted in their personal spaces. As further evidence of their popularity, bomber pilots sometimes adorned their planes with the images, painting the depictions on the nose cones of the aircraft, where they served as symbols of patriotism and talismans of good luck.

Vargas, the foremost illustrator of the female form at the time, generally depicted anonymous women who could be viewed as the “all-American girl-next-door,” although actresses also served as popular pin-ups. The poses, while at times risqué, were rarely overtly sexual. A popular pin-up of the time is a photograph of star Betty Grable, who was especially admired for her legs, wearing a one-piece swimsuit and high heels. Other actresses who appeared as pin-ups include Rita Hayworth, Jane Russell, and Lana Turner. One of the most iconic pin-up girls, Bettie Page, who began her career in the late 1940s, would go on to become the epitome of female sexuality in the next decade.

Sources: Frank, Priscilla. “The History of the Pin-Up Girl, from the 1800s to the Present,” [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/31/pin-up-girl-history\\_n\\_6077082.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/31/pin-up-girl-history_n_6077082.html)

### **A Population on the Move**

During World War II, as industries ramped-up production of wartime goods, people from rural areas and the southern states in search of good-paying jobs moved north and west to urban centers. The war years witnessed an average annual migration of nearly a million people. Metropolitan Detroit, the heart of the Arsenal of Democracy, was among those areas that experienced a surge in population growth. To offset the shortage of white males to fill positions in factories, the government actively recruited women and minorities for defense-related jobs, using targeted poster campaigns. Thus, Detroit’s population grew by approximately 200,000 people, a nearly 10 percent increase. However, Detroit and other areas experiencing such rapid growth were not prepared for the influx of people and the government was slow to mobilize assistance and construction efforts. Those relocating were generally faced with few options for housing, and frequently found themselves living in hastily manufactured shacks, trailers, or even tents. Newcomers were often met with suspicion and prejudice that not only prevented

them from getting local assistance, but at times sparked open hostility, as evidenced by the 1943 riots that took place in Detroit.

Sources: Dunbar, Willis F. and George S. May. Michigan: A History of the Wolverine State. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995. Print; Lingeman, Richard R. Don't You Know There's a War On? The American Home Front, 1941-1945. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1970. Print.

### **The Baby Boom Begins**

In 1946, the year after World War II ended, the nation experienced a huge surge in the number of births. This trend continued for nearly twenty years, through 1964, by which time the children born during the “baby boom” totaled nearly 40 percent of the population. The timing was right, then, for the 1946 publication of *The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*. Written by forward-thinking pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock, the book offered caring and practical advice for raising children and became an international bestseller.

One explanation for the jump in birthrate was that people delayed getting married and having children during the Great Depression and World War II, hoping for more stable economic and social times. In many ways, the post-war years offered those opportune conditions. Wages and employment rates were high and people frequently had more disposable income than in the past. In addition, provisions in the GI Bill made homeownership an easier option than ever before. In response to these major social shifts was a corresponding shift in residence. Housing developments located on the outskirts of urban areas, called suburbs, began springing up across the country. The first of these “planned communities” (named Levittown for the building firm that developed the area, Levitt and Sons) was started in 1947 on Long Island in New York. Another Levittown was built in Pennsylvania, which was soon followed by a third in New Jersey. Levittown thus became the model for many of the suburban communities that came after.

Sources: <http://www.history.com/topics/baby-boomers>; Pace, Eric. “Benjamin Spock, World’s Pediatrician, Dies at 94,” <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/bday/0502.html>; <http://statemuseumpa.org/levittown/one/default.html>;

### **The 1943 Riot in Detroit**

As thousands of people poured into the city hoping to find work in the burgeoning defense industry, blacks and whites often found themselves vying for dwindling resources and good-paying jobs. Housing was particularly scarce and, in one instance, fighting broke out in February of 1942, when black families began moving into a federal housing project located in a white neighborhood. Named for the African American abolitionist Sojourner Truth, the project had initially been intended to house white workers.

Further adding to the discord during this time, as unions gained ground in the manufacturing industries, their policies of equality often provoked white laborers, many of whom had come from southern states where segregation was the norm. On June 20, 1943, the tensions that had been building for months between African Americans and whites in Detroit erupted into violence on Belle Isle. Although police were able to subdue the more than 200 people involved, tempers flared in other areas of the city as racially-charged rumors circulated among the two groups. The fighting escalated throughout the following day, until Mayor Edward Jeffries decided that outside assistance was necessary. He appealed to President Roosevelt, who sent in 6,000 national troops armed with high-powered weapons and tanks. By the time order was restored, 25 African Americans and nine whites had died; another estimated 700 people were injured and the city sustained damages totaling \$2 million.

Sources: The 1943 Detroit Race Riot, <http://reuther.wayne.edu/node/8738>; "Riots of 1943," Encyclopedia of Detroit. <http://detroithistorical.org/learn/encyclopedia-of-detroit/riots-1943>

### **Michigan Farmers Help Feed the Allies**

Along with defense production, Michigan contributed to the war effort in another very vital way: agriculture. The United States fed not only our own country and military but supplied foodstuffs to Allied countries that were cut off from their usual supply routes by Axis blockades. Michigan farmers consistently ranked among the top ten producers of various crops through the early 1940s.

As did other industries at this time, farmers experienced a lack of workers during the war. Although a federal draft deferral for farm workers was passed, farms were still struggling to get the work done. To alleviate the labor shortage, farmers hired migrant laborers to work in the fields. In 1942, a formal agreement between the United States and Mexico allowed for Mexican laborers to enter the country in order to work agricultural jobs. In 1944, approximately 2,000 braceros (Spanish for "strong arms") assisted with Michigan harvests.

One surprising source of labor came from prisoners of war (POWs). More than 4,000 POWs worked in Michigan's agricultural industry between 1944 and 1945. The main camp was located at Fort Custer in Battle Creek, but there were more than 20 camps in rural communities around the state. Initially there was resistance to the camps, but the POWs were diligent in their work and their contribution outweighed any negative impact that might have been perceived.

Sources: Clive, Alan. "The Michigan Farmer in World War II," *Michigan History*, vol. 60, nos. 3-4, 1977, Print; Rosentreter, Roger L. *Michigan: A History of Explorers, Entrepreneurs, and Everyday People*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2014, Print; Rubenstein, Bruce A. and Lawrence E. Ziewacz. *Michigan: A History of the Great Lakes State*, Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, 2002, Print.

## **The World Goes to War Once More**

Most of the world faced hardships in the 1930s as a result of the Great Depression. In some countries, including Germany, Italy, and Japan (the Axis powers), many people became convinced that policies of extreme nationalism and territorial expansion would solve their problems. Based on these beliefs, Adolf Hitler was able to rise to power in Germany virtually unchecked and began building an enormous military. Coupled with the use of intimidation and force to expand Germany's boundaries, Hitler also enacted a plan to systematically eliminate European Jews, whom many believed were responsible for their country's economic difficulties.

The United States tried to avoid entering the war, which officially began in Europe on September 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, against the objections of other countries in the region. Two years later, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii; describing it as a "date that will live in infamy," President Roosevelt declared the country was at war. Germany finally surrendered in May of 1945, but the war did not end until the bombing of two Japanese cities forced the surrender of Japan in August of that year. Eighty million people (approximately the current population of Germany itself), lost their lives as a result of World War II, including nearly six million Jews killed in the Holocaust.

Source: <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/overview.html>

## **Doug Harvey (April 24, 1924—) U.S. Army, 1943-46**

In September of 1942, Doug Harvey, a Utica High School graduate, entered Michigan State in order to study mechanical engineering. He had registered for the draft earlier that year, but young men attending college were being encouraged to enlist. Believing his entry into the military was inevitable, Harvey enlisted in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).

Harvey was called up for active duty in March of 1943 and was eventually assigned to the 84<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In October of the following year, he arrived at Omaha Beach (which had been cleared on D-Day) and began serving as an ammunition bearer in an antitank unit. This unit was responsible for destroying enemy tanks and armored vehicles, and Harvey received the Bronze Star for his part in the Battle of the Bulge that took place in December of 1944.

After the war, Harvey continued his education at Michigan State on the GI Bill, ultimately earning a PhD in metallurgical engineering. It was during his years at MSU that Harvey met his wife, a fellow student, on a blind date. He and Dorothy (with whom he has three children) moved to Sterling Heights, where Harvey grew up, when he took a job at the General Motors Research Laboratories. He remained at GM for 34 years before serving as a consultant for 13 years in the research lab at the Saturn Corporation. Harvey has remained a longtime, active resident of Sterling Heights.

**Richard Jackman (February 3, 1922 – March 2, 1988) U.S. Air Force (originally Army), 1942-45**

A 1940 graduate of Cass Technical High School, Richard Jackman was working for Detroit Edison as a journeyman electrician when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Two months later, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he served in the Signal Corps, which was later absorbed into the Air Force. Jackman's life became particularly exciting when he was stationed in Montana; there he met Nina Weldele on a blind date in April of 1944.

Five months later, on a three-day pass, Jackman became Catholic, he and Nina were married, and they conceived their first child. Shortly thereafter, he was shipped overseas, and when their son was born, Nina sent a telegram with the news. However, the next day she learned that Jackman had moved, prompting a second telegram, which led the new father to mistakenly conclude they'd had twins! Ultimately, though, they would have 16 children.

Jackman's military duties included setting up and maintaining telephone communication systems. Overseas, in such places as Africa, Italy, and France, he would establish a system in areas where fighting was expected (though Signal Corps members were not allowed to carry weapons), then take it down after fighting had ceased.

Upon his return from the war, Jackman and his family moved to Detroit and he resumed working for Detroit Edison, remaining there until he retired. Using the GI Bill, the Jackmans were able to purchase a home in East Detroit (now Eastpointe), where they stayed until moving in 1957 to Romeo, where Nina still resides.

**Sam Petitto (September 24, 1922—) U.S. Navy, 1943-1945**

After graduating from Detroit's Miller High School in 1940, Sam Petitto went to work at the family grocery store while attending Wayne State University. In 1943, Petitto was drafted into the Navy and sent to Navy Pier in Chicago for basic training. Although he was trained to work on diesel engines, Petitto didn't care for the job and instead was sent to Annapolis to be a deck hand on a submarine chaser. These small, fast vessels were designed to detect and destroy enemy submarines.

Petitto was stationed for a time in the Caribbean before being sent to the Pacific Ocean Theater. Once there, the sub chaser served as a landing craft communication ship, dodging Japanese kamikaze pilots in order to shuttle supplies to units fighting on the island of Iwo Jima and in Okinawa, Japan. As the war drew to a close, the vessel was slated to be converted to a mine chaser, but by Christmas of 1945, with the war over, the craft was instead decommissioned. Petitto was discharged and headed home.

Despite some nightmares, civilian life was good for Petitto. He met his wife, Thelma, at a dance and they eventually had three children. Petitto also returned to college, earning a degree in commerce and finance from the University of Detroit in 1952. He had a long career at Chrysler before becoming a Macomb County Commissioner representing the Warren area. Petitto currently resides in Florida.

### **Frank Torre, Sr. (October 27, 1925—) U.S. Marine Corps, 1943-46**

In 1943, while attending Detroit's Southeastern High School, Frank Torre decided to enlist. There was a Marine recruitment center near the Book-Cadillac Hotel, where he worked as a bellhop, but because he was just 17 years-old, he needed parental permission to join. Torre assured his father that he would be safe and received the okay.

Torre became one of Carlson's Raiders, who were trained for nighttime rubber-boat landings in enemy-occupied territory. Torre participated in the taking of Emirau Island, a Japanese stronghold in the Pacific, though he did not see combat because Japanese forces had already abandoned the island.

Improvements to landing equipment led the Raiders to be disbanded and assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. With this regiment, Torre was involved in operations on both Guam and Okinawa, where critical battles took place. After Japan's unofficial surrender, he was one of two soldiers chosen to accompany General Clement on August 30, 1945, as representatives of the American occupational forces that were arriving on Yokosuka Island in Tokyo Bay.

When he came home, Torre returned to the Book-Cadillac but soon went to work making motors at Chrysler's Jefferson plant. Eventually he took a job at Detroit Edison, where he worked for 43 years. Torre has been married even longer; he met his wife, Fran, at Detroit's Vanity Ballroom and they married in 1952. They have three children together.

### **Detroit Becomes the World's Arsenal of Democracy**

On December 29, 1940, President Roosevelt broadcast a "fireside chat" on the radio in which he challenged the nation to "arm and support" the embattled countries of Europe by becoming an "arsenal of democracy," producing weapons and military vehicles that would be sent overseas. This became an even more vital task when the United States later entered the war. No other city in the country was more crucial to this effort than Detroit. Given the manufacturing prowess of the automobile industry, the government looked to automakers to lead the way in converting their factories to wartime production. In addition, new facilities (including the Willow Run Bomber Plant and the Detroit Arsenal Tank Plant) were built to capitalize on Henry Ford's innovative assembly line model. By the end of the war, Detroit had become synonymous with the phrase "Arsenal of Democracy," having contributed 35 percent of the nation's entire output during this time.

Among the war goods manufactured in the city and its environs were more than 20 percent of all the B-24 "Liberator" bomber aircraft produced for the war, one-quarter of the total U.S. production of tanks, and more than 20 million steel helmets (nearly the entire wartime

amount). Other items included anti-aircraft guns, trucks and Jeeps, and landing craft such as those used in the invasion of Normandy.

Sources: "Arsenal of Democracy," Encyclopedia of Detroit. <http://detroithistorical.org/learn/encyclopedia-of-detroit/arsenal-democracy>. Capeci, Dominic J., Jr., Ed. Detroit and the "Good War": The World War II Letters of Mayor Edward Jeffries and Friends. Lexington, KY: Univ. Press of Kentucky, 1996. Print. Detroit: The "Arsenal of Democracy" Overview of Six Products, <https://detroithistorical.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/War%20Productsv2.pdf>

### **"Rosie the Riveter"**

As men were being shipped away to war, a huge labor shortage developed, particularly in the male-dominated manufacturing industries that were vital to supplying the war effort. Faced with the need to find workers to fill these open jobs, the government began campaigns to spur those on the home front—especially women—to step into these positions. Other industries and media outlets were encouraged by the government to add to these recruitment efforts.

A 1942 song titled "Rosie the Riveter" lauded wartime working women and became a popular tune. Norman Rockwell's cover for the May 29, 1943 issue of *The Saturday Evening Post* depicted a muscled woman in overalls eating her lunch with a rivet gun in her lap and the name Rosie on her lunchbox. This cemented Rosie's place in history! Between 1940 and 1945, the number of women in the workforce grew by approximately 50 percent. Three million of those women had never before worked outside the home. While employers, and oftentimes the women themselves, expected that female workers would be replaced by men after the war ended, their wartime labors proved to women that they were capable of far more than they had traditionally received credit for. This newfound sense of ability thus paved the way for greater independence and, later, for the feminist movement.

Sources: Harper, Marilyn M. World War II & the American Home Front: A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study, <http://www.nps.gov/nhl/learn/themes/WWIIHomeFront.pdf>; Young, William H., and Nancy K. Young. World War II and the Postwar Years in America: A Historical and Cultural Encyclopedia, vol. 1. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2010. Print.

### **Rolling Off the Assembly Line and into War**

In 1940, the government approached K.T. Keller, president of Chrysler Corporation, to discuss the production of armored vehicles, specifically tanks. The country's European allies had been promised defense equipment to help them in their fight against the Germans, and they were in desperate need of tanks. By the following year, the Detroit Arsenal Tank Plant, the first American factory dedicated solely to the production of tanks, was up and running. Designed by famed architect Albert Kahn and built on farmland in what is now the city of Warren, the plant was run by Chrysler but owned by the government.

The first tank rolled off the assembly line even before the construction of the building was complete. By the time the war ended the plant had built more than 22,000 M3 and M4 tanks, one-quarter of the country's total production. As a testament to the work being accomplished at the factory, President Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor visited the facility in 1942, making it their first stop on a nation-wide tour of the wartime defense industry. The plant continued to build tanks even after World War II, supplying vehicles for subsequent wars, but eventually closed down in 1996, at which point the city of Warren took ownership.

Sources: Local Legacies, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/legacies/loc.afc.afc-legacies.200003172/>;  
<http://www.motorcities.org/Story/The+Detroit+Arsenal+Tank+Plant-182.html>

### **A Bomber an Hour**

On a patch of farmland owned by Henry Ford just outside of Ann Arbor, construction began in the spring of 1941 on what was at the time the world's largest factory under one roof. Unlike other auto plants that were retooled to switch from producing cars to making war materials, the Willow Run Bomber Plant was constructed specifically to make the B-24 Liberator bomber aircraft.

Henry Ford's son, Edsel, and longtime Ford employee, Charlie Sorensen, decided that they could vastly improve on the rate at which the original manufacturer was assembling the planes. Though they estimated the plant could produce a bomber every hour, the factory got off to a slow start, struggling to find enough workers to keep the 3.5 million square-foot plant running. With an influx of people from the South looking for higher-paying defense work and the recruitment of women to fill jobs ordinarily held by men, Willow Run began making strides toward its production goal. By 1944, with more than 42,000 workers, the plant achieved its aim, eventually even cutting assembly time down to 55 minutes per bomber. Altogether, Willow Run produced almost 9,000 planes by the end of the war, accounting for almost one-quarter of the wartime total.

Sources: Baime, A.J. *The Arsenal of Democracy: FDR, Detroit, and an Epic Quest to Arm an America at War*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, 2014. Print. Elliot, Michael, "Willow Run: An Obituary for GM's Most Famous Plant," <http://content.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1902325,00.html>; This Day in History, <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/land-cleared-for-fords-willow-run-plant>

### **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

In 1940, Roosevelt, who had already been president for seven years, was elected to an unprecedented third term. In addition to dealing further with the effects of the Great Depression, Roosevelt hoped to keep the United States from entering the war that had begun

in Europe as a result of conflicts with the German Nazi Party. He pledged funds and other assistance—but not military intervention—to countries in need of aid. As the United States took on the role of “Arsenal of Democracy” in order to supply European countries with vehicles and munitions, the Depression began to wane. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan, (one of three Axis powers with Germany and Italy) on December 7, 1941, Roosevelt was forced to lead the country into World War II.

The booming wartime economy effectively put an end to the Depression. In response to the formation of the Axis powers, Roosevelt sought to establish an organization of countries—a “united nations”—dedicated to ensuring and maintaining peace. By early 1945, the beginning of his fourth term in office, victory in Europe had been cemented. However, Roosevelt would not live to see the war’s end, succumbing to a massive stroke on April 12. His term would be served out by Vice President Harry S. Truman, who later in the year presided over the founding of the United Nations.

Sources: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/presidents/franklindroosevelt>;  
[http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/education/resources/bio\\_fdr.html](http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/education/resources/bio_fdr.html)

### **Harry S. Truman**

In April of 1945 Harry S. Truman had been vice president for just a few months when suddenly, upon the death of President Roosevelt, he found himself the leader of a nation at war. Truman had little relevant experience, yet he shouldered the responsibility of making some strategic decisions that would have profound consequences. Among these decisions was the dropping of atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945, which led to the end of World War II. President Truman then became increasingly concerned about the communist expansion efforts of Soviet Russia and sought to enact counter-measures—including the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). These measures put a halt to what he felt was a threat, and helped set the stage for the subsequent Cold War.

President Truman also endeavored to implement domestic policies to further the social changes that had begun during Roosevelt’s administration, particularly in the area of civil rights. In 1948 he signed executive orders that ended segregation in the military and disallowed discrimination in the hiring of federal employees. Despite reports made to the contrary and largely through the popularity generated by his “whistle-stop” campaign—his first visit was to Michigan—President Truman was elected to a term of his own and served through 1952.

Sources: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/presidents/harrystruman>; <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hst-bio.htm>

## **The Manhattan Project, Fat Man, and Little Boy**

The secret government plan that became the Manhattan Project began cautiously after President Roosevelt received a letter from Albert Einstein in 1939. Fearing that Nazi scientists were well on their way to developing an atomic weapon, Einstein outlined the recent research into nuclear fission and its possible military applications. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Manhattan Project became a full-scale effort to construct an atomic bomb that employed 130,000 people at its height and cost a total of \$2.2 billion by war's end.

Under the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Manhattan Project experimented with processes utilizing both uranium and plutonium at several sites around the country, including Los Alamos, New Mexico. Among the scientists working on the project were leading physicists Enrico Fermi and J. Robert Oppenheimer. To test the reliability of the plutonium-based bomb, nicknamed Fat Man, a prototype was detonated at Alamogordo, a desert site in southern New Mexico. The blast produced the largest man-made explosion ever recorded. Three weeks later, on August 6, 1945, the uranium-based bomb, known as Little Boy, was dropped from the Enola Gay, a B-29 bomber, on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. On August 9, a second Japanese city, Nagasaki, was bombed with the plutonium-based device. Japan surrendered five days later, bringing World War II to an end.

Sources: [http://airandspace.si.edu/collections/artifact.cfm?object=nasm\\_A19500100000](http://airandspace.si.edu/collections/artifact.cfm?object=nasm_A19500100000); Fehner, Terrence R., and F.G. Gosling. The Manhattan Project, <http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/The%20Manhattan%20Project.pdf>

## **To Keep Peace Throughout the World**

The United Nations is rooted in the vision of a group of national leaders—foremost among them, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill—who believed a global peacekeeping organization was necessary given the devastating effects of World War II. A first step toward this goal was the August 1941 signing by Roosevelt and Churchill of the Atlantic Charter, which outlined eight principles—almost all based upon “collaboration between all nations”—that both countries agreed to uphold throughout the war and after. Later, more than twenty additional countries also at war with the Axis powers pledged to operate according to these principles.

In 1944, meetings were held near Washington, D.C., to formulate the strategies by which an organization of “united nations”—a term coined by President Roosevelt—would achieve its goal of preventing future wars. One result of the meetings was the proposal of a Security Council, a group of major powers (including the United States) that would be responsible for responding militarily to threats against world peace. Final details were sorted out at the Yalta Conference in early 1945, and the United Nations Conference on International Organization

was held in San Francisco, where a charter was drawn up and approved. Though he did not live to see it, Roosevelt's vision became reality on October 24, 1945, when the United Nations charter was fully ratified.

Source: Rubin, Jacob A. Pictorial History of the United Nations. New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1962. Print.

### **Eleanor Roosevelt**

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, niece to President Theodore Roosevelt, was a civic-minded woman long before she married her fifth cousin, Franklin D. Roosevelt. She cared deeply about those less fortunate and was not afraid to stand up to injustice. For example, Eleanor resigned her membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution in protest of the organization's decision to bar African American singer Marion Anderson from performing in their auditorium.

In the 1940s Eleanor shifted her focus to global matters, beginning with World War II, during which she traveled overseas to promote good will among other Allied countries and to boost the morale of American troops. These international efforts helped prepare Eleanor for her next endeavor. Following the death of her husband, President Truman appointed Eleanor to the United States Delegation to the United Nations, where she was instrumental in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the U.N. in 1948. She continued to serve the United Nations in various capacities as well as being appointed by President Kennedy to the National Advisory Committee of the Peace Corps and as chair of the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Eleanor Roosevelt worked tirelessly in these important roles until her death in November of 1962.

Source: [http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/education/resources/bio\\_er.html](http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/education/resources/bio_er.html)

### **“Use It Up, Wear It Out, Make It Do or Do Without”**

Upon entering World War II, the United States government quickly realized that rationing would be necessary to ensure that both the country and the war effort were adequately supplied. Among the goods that were in limited supply were gasoline and tires; foodstuffs such as sugar, butter, meat, canned items, and coffee; and shoes. The government distributed a series of ration books containing stamps for specific items that could not be purchased without providing a stamp. Careful planning was necessary to avoid running out of something before the next ration book was available.

Other items often became scarce or underwent unwelcome changes. For example, though clothing was not rationed, fabric was scarce and certain styles and design elements were restricted. Thus hemlines went up, men's suits came with just one pair of pants and no vest, and women's bathing suits became two pieces. Other consumer goods, including cars, were not

produced at all during the war. Rationing often prompted people to become creative. Some women drew faux stocking seams on their bare legs when silk and nylon hose became unavailable. Keeping a “victory garden” became a popular way for those on the home front to contribute to the war effort by growing their own vegetables. Despite a thriving black market charging inflated prices for rationed goods, rationing overall achieved its goal of a well-fed, well-equipped military.

Source: Harper, Marilyn M. World War II & the American Home Front: A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study, <http://www.nps.gov/nhl/learn/themes/WWIIHomeFront.pdf>;  
<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/take-a-closer-look/ration-books.html>

### **The GI Bill**

The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, known as the GI Bill, was conceived in order to help avoid the hardships endured by veterans of the World War I, who received little support from the government as they struggled to adjust to life back home. To minimize these effects on the vast numbers of servicemen returning from World War II, the legislation sought to provide certain benefits: funding for education and training, guaranteed loans for homes or businesses, and unemployment benefits if they were unable to secure a job. These measures were further designed to minimize the potential for social and economic crises, including another depression stemming from millions of veterans flooding the job market.

The bill was not without controversy. Many believed that educational opportunities should be reserved for only the most privileged in society, while others felt that offering unemployment pay would prevent veterans from actively pursuing jobs. Ultimately very little of the money set aside for unemployment was ever used, but large numbers of veterans took advantage of educational funding. In 1947, they accounted for nearly half of all college admissions. In addition, the government backed more than 2 million home loans from 1944 to 1952, aiding in the growth of the new suburban communities.

Source: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/history.asp>; <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-states/gdp-growth>

### **U.S.-Soviet Relations Turn Chilly**

Although the Soviet Union was an Allied country during World War II, the United States government was suspicious of Soviet motives and post-war plans. With our involvement in World War II and the subsequent formation of the United Nations, the United States became one of the leading peacekeeping forces in the world. As such, the government sought to instill and uphold democratic ideals. The communist regime and expansionist policies of the Soviet

Union were in direct opposition to those ideals, and the U.S. government believed they posed a threat to the American way of life. Thus, at the end of World War II, the United States entered into a type of war with the Soviet Union.

Essentially a clash of ideologies rather than armies, the Cold War would be bitterly fought for more than 40 years. During this time, the nuclear capabilities of the two superpowers led to tension around the world for fear that an all-out nuclear war would ensue. However, the United States battled the Soviet Union and the spread of communism by supporting anti-communist forces in countries facing political turmoil and by using its significant status and power to exert economic and political pressure. By the early 1990s, many communist regimes had collapsed, including the Soviet Union's, and the country became known as Russia once again.

Sources: <http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/theme/cold-war-history>; <http://www.ushistory.org/us/52a.asp>

### **House Un-American Activities Committee**

The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was a congressional group authorized in 1938 to investigate citizens and organizations at all levels of society in order to uncover possible ties to communist activities. Such involvement was considered, at best, disloyal, and, at worst, subversive, although prior to World War II, the HUAC had little public approval. This changed, however, after the Cold War with the Soviet Union began and the public started to experience the "Red Scare." This fear felt by Americans at the perceived threat of a takeover by communist sympathizers, known as "Reds" in reference to the color in the Soviet flag, led to widespread support for the HUAC.

Based on the assumption that movies were the perfect vehicle to promote anti-American propaganda, one of the first places the HUAC concentrated its efforts was in Hollywood. Many film industry members were called before the HUAC and rigorously interrogated; some of them felt forced to name others with potential communist involvement. In 1947, however, the "Hollywood Ten," a group of directors and screenwriters, refused to testify, stating their civil rights were being violated. In response, they were sentenced to a year in prison and subsequently barred from working in the industry. Such tactics began wearing thin, and by the late 1950s the HUAC had lost much of its support and was eventually dissolved.

Sources: "Hollywood Ten," <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/hollywood-ten>; "House Un-American Activities Committee," <https://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/glossary/huac.cfm>; "HUAC," <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/huac>; "Red Scare," <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/red-scare>

## **NATO**

Created as an extension of the treaty signed April 4, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) sought to accomplish several tasks then considered vital: establish a presence of North American countries in Europe, halt the spread of the Soviet nation and its doctrines, and ensure a constructive coexistence among European countries. While the Marshall Plan served to create economic stability in the region, NATO engendered a sense of security through logistical support of formalized “military cooperation” among European countries and North American allies. As stated in the treaty: “an armed attack against one or more of them... shall be considered an attack against them all.”

Source: <http://www.nato.int/history/nato-history.html>

## **The Marshall Plan**

George C. Marshall became President Truman’s Secretary of State in 1947 and was faced with helping the nations of Europe overcome the devastation wrought by the war. Believing that economic uncertainty in these countries made them more vulnerable to political unrest and undue influence from outside forces (particularly communism) Marshall devised the European Recovery Program (ERP). More commonly known as the Marshall Plan, the ERP supplied sixteen countries (including Germany) with economic aid. When funding ended in 1951, the United States had provided a total of \$13 billion in aid, resulting in the dramatic growth of those European economies.

Source: <http://marshallfoundation.org/marshall/the-marshall-plan/>

## **From Defender to Disenfranchised**

During the war, the government actively encouraged women and minority populations to seek work in the defense industries and to fill other jobs left open by men who had gone into the service. These workers were hailed for their contributions to the war effort; however, at the close of World War II, when servicemen began returning in droves, employers were only too willing to open these jobs to former soldiers.

Housing was another area in which certain groups of people were precluded from participating. Segregation was tacitly sanctioned by the Federal Housing Administration, which frequently refused to grant low-interest loans to non-white homebuyers. Such practices had a direct effect on growing civil rights movements for underrepresented citizens.

Further, as the country was building up the Arsenal of Democracy, the government received concessions from both sides of the labor equation. Companies would pay workers a good wage, while labor unions agreed not to go on strike for the duration of the war. After the war,

however, tensions rose yet again and unions across the country began to strike, believing that workers had not benefited from the booming wartime economy nearly as much as had business owners. Four and half million laborers walked picket lines in 1946; in turn, in 1947 the government passed the Taft-Hartley Act, which strictly limited unions' ability to strike.

Sources: Barbash, Jack, "Unions and Rights in the Space Age," <http://www.dol.gov/dol/aboutdol/history/chapter6.htm>; "The Postwar United States, 1945-1968," <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/postwar/index.html>; "Society: 1945-1950s: Post-War Economic Boom and Racial Discrimination," [http://www.understandingrace.org/history/society/post\\_war\\_economic\\_boom.html](http://www.understandingrace.org/history/society/post_war_economic_boom.html); "U.S. Labor Unions in the 1940s," <http://www.crosscurrents.hawaii.edu/content.aspx?lang=eng&site=us&theme=work&subtheme=UNION&unit=USWORK010>

## **Advertising**

During World War II, advertising adapted by supporting and promoting the war effort, and promising the delivery of consumers goods when the war was over. "Lucky Strike Green Has Gone to War" explained a packaging color change due to scarcity of the materials used to make dye. "There's a Ford in Your Future" offered a shiny new car for delivery after the factories reverted to producing consumer goods. Advertisements during wartime focused on maintaining consumer interest and loyalty even though it was often impossible to satisfy consumer needs and desires.

After the war, pent-up demand and short supply caused consumers to buy any and all varieties of automobile and other consumer goods. Competition heated up! Late 1940s and early 1950s automobile advertising reflects that competition. Advertisements tried to create market niches for various vehicles, and sold the postwar car as a symbol of whatever variant of the American dream took your fancy. Advertisers were also aware that 80 percent or more of consumer purchases — except for big ticket items like appliances, automobiles, and homes — were made by women. Most key employees of advertising agencies until about 1950 were (white, protestant) men while women held jobs like receptionists and secretaries. Today, more than half the employees in American advertising agencies are women.

Source: [http://amhistory.si.edu/onthemove/collection/object\\_615.html](http://amhistory.si.edu/onthemove/collection/object_615.html);  
[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/advertising\\_and\\_society\\_review/v006/6.3unit02.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/advertising_and_society_review/v006/6.3unit02.html);  
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era//politics-reform/essays/motor-city-story-detroit>

## **Drive-Ins**

During World War II people drove their cars as little as possible due to rationing. Car manufacturing had stopped. There were only a few drive-ins around until after the war when

families piled into cars again. America's love affair with drive-ins truly began at the end of the 1940s. You could get a hamburger at one drive-in and watch a movie at another. A few of the more successful drive-ins include:

- Dairy Queen: At the start of World War II there were fewer than ten in America. By 1950, there were 1,446 Dairy Queen stores.
- A&W: The soft drink business struggled during the war because its key ingredient – sugar – was rationed. But the post-war years saw A&W outlets tripled as GI loans gave many young men a start in business.
- McDonald's: Dick and Maurice McDonald opened their first drive-in restaurant in San Bernardino, CA, in 1940. But the business didn't take off until the early 1950s when Ray Kroc teamed up with them, eventually buying them out. Today, there are McDonald's restaurants in 120 countries.
- Drive-in theaters: The first drive-in theater opened in 1933 in Camden, New Jersey, but few were built during World War II. The number jumped from 155 drive-ins in 1946 to 820 in 1948. Most drive-in theaters are now closed.

Sources: [http://www.aboutmcdonalds.com/mcd/our\\_company/mcdonalds-history.html](http://www.aboutmcdonalds.com/mcd/our_company/mcdonalds-history.html);  
<http://www.dairyqueen.com/us-en/Company/About-Us/?localechange=1&>;  
[http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe40s/life\\_25.html](http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe40s/life_25.html)

## **Ralph Bunche**

Born in 1904 to working-class parents in Detroit, Ralph Bunche achieved much during his life, culminating in his win of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize for his diplomatic work in Palestine. As a young man, Bunche received an athletic scholarship to the University of California at Los Angeles, where he majored in international relations and graduated with honors as valedictorian of his class. He eventually earned a doctorate from Harvard University while also teaching at Howard University.

As an African American, Bunche worked in a variety of ways to elevate the status of minorities in the United States, but he garnered wide acclaim via his efforts in the international arena. After moving up the ranks within the Department of State, Bunche was handpicked by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to head the Department of Trusteeship. From 1947 to 1949, Bunche was given a new assignment: to assist with easing relations between Arabs and Israelis at odds over the leadership of Palestine. As tension mounted, the mediator appointed by the United Nations was assassinated and Bunche was called upon to step in. For nearly a year he worked tirelessly to find a compromise that could be agreed upon by both sides of the conflict, ultimately securing a signed armistice and becoming a hero both at home and abroad.

Source: [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/1950/bunche-bio.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1950/bunche-bio.html)

## **The Tucker and the Demise of Small Auto Manufacturers**

After World War II, America's biggest appetite was for cars. They were the keystone of the emerging suburban culture, but production had stopped entirely between 1942 and 1945, as automobile factories cranked out bomber engines and other wartime goods. But the first new vehicles produced in 1946 featured tired, prewar designs. Preston Tucker was a Prohibition-era policeman known for chasing down bootleggers in Lincoln Park, Michigan. He eventually left the police force and went on to try to outdo the old car designs being sold after the war.

Although the car was never mass produced, the 1946 Tucker was considered to be very forward thinking in its design, featuring a third, centered headlight, which swiveled to light the way around corners; fenders that pivoted when the car turned; disc brakes; a pop-out windshield; a rear engine; and a padded dashboard. But while his designs and safety innovations were pioneering, Tucker's business model lagged.

Car manufacturing had contracted during the Great Depression; by the late '40s, only a handful of companies remained, rooted in a culture that valued corporate prudence over individual genius. By the mid-1950s, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler manufactured 95 percent of American cars. Nearly 40 years later, Francis Ford Coppola (whose father had lost a \$5,000 investment in the ill-fated car) directed a film about the auto called *Tucker: The Man and His Dream*.

Source: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-tucker-was-the-1940s-car-of-the-future-135008742/?no-ist>

## **Medical 'Firsts' of the 1940s**

- Discovery of the RH Factor (1940) – These substances on red blood cell surfaces have a strong antigenic response, and most commonly react in pregnant women or during a blood transfusion.
- Cardiac Catheterization (1941) - A catheter is inserted into a vessel of the heart used to diagnose problems.
- The Field of Anesthesia (1942) – Putting people “to sleep,” or into a state of unconsciousness, helps patients undergo medical procedures without feeling pain.
- Discovery of Cholesterol (1943) – A compound found in most body tissue, high concentrations of cholesterol in the blood are thought to promote arteriosclerosis.
- Streptomycin (1943) - The first antibiotic remedy for tuberculosis.
- Kidney Dialysis Machine (1944) – Helps patients who have lost the use of their kidneys.
- Penicillin (1945) – The most common antibiotic drug used in the United States, it has had a positive effect on treating illness throughout the world.

- Defibrillation (1947) - Now one of the most recognizable pieces of medical equipment, it works by shocking the heart back from an abnormal rhythm to the correct pace.
- Chloromycetin (1947) – An antibiotic discovered at Parke-Davis in Michigan.
- Cortisone (1949) - A drug commonly used to relieve pain and itching, now common in households.

Sources: <http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/mma/timeline/>  
<http://lesliebyars.hubpages.com/hub/Top-Medical-Inventions-of-The-1940s>  
<http://listverse.com/2013/05/11/10-important-firsts-of-modern-medicine/>