

**Homefront SD**

**Kenneth Kinkler**

(Interviewed by Vanessa Kinkler of Agar-Blunt-Onida School District)

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**What were you doing on December 7, 1941?**

On December 7<sup>th</sup> of 1941 I was at the Tower Theater at Lubbock, Texas at a Movie when they announced they bombed Pearl Harbor.

**What was your reaction to that?**

I was 11 years old so I guess I remembered it from then on. I guess it was shock more than anything.

**Since you were so young, what was school like because that happened?**

During the war we had scrap iron drives for the war effort; they needed all the iron they could get. Of course there was a lot of articles rationed gas, sugar, and tires for your car.

**So how did you get around since gas was rationed?**

Well gas rationing, they had stickers you could get and to qualify. If you had a non-essential job, you only got an 'A' sticker. For a minimal amount of gas per month. And if you had a war effort needed job you'd get a 'B' sticker for more. Gas was the least of our problems because my dad was a cotton gin owner/operator. So we got an A, B, and C sticker for our cars, so we had more gas than we needed. But for some reason tires were hard for anybody to get.

**How did you feel about your family and friends being in the war?**

Well there's always concern when they're in the war and there's not much you can do about it so you just hope they get back!

**Do you remember stuff that was on the radio or in the newspapers that you kept track of during the war?**

Well, yes. The magazine of choice was Life magazine because they had such good photographers that covered all the areas of the war in the Pacific and Europe and they had great pictures in their magazine whenever it came out either weekly or bi-weekly. They really covered the war well as far as pictures and articles.

**So the war turned into be a big part of your life as it went on?**

Oh we were all affected. You could not buy a new car, a new truck, I don't know if you could buy a new tractor for your farm during the war. I don't know if there were any made. There were a lot of things you could not get. No one did with out food as far as things like that go. Everyone was well fed.

**What was your home town like then and how did it change throughout the war?**

Before the war started we still had WPA. I don't know—WPA and CCC—CCC was Civilian Conservation Corp. WPA was Workers Administration something or other. At that time when there was a lot of unemployment during the war. People would go to work using picks and shovels to make water lines and sewer lines in town. They didn't use ditching machines like we do now because they wanted to employ all these people that were unemployed. So that's how a lot of public works was done with picks and shovels. During the war of course factory demand and aircraft plants and ship yards I suppose anybody that wanted a job had one there so WPA and CCC disappeared.

**And did that benefit?**

It benefited very well! That's the way we got our water and sewer.

**Were there any other major benefits to the war?**

That was not a benefit to the war as such it was precious to the war. The servicemen went in and then after the war started everyone had jobs anyway and the economy was pretty good other than the fact there was shortages of certain items like rubber, like steel, new cars.

**How did someone's death effect you?**

We never had anyone from our family die in the war. In fact, I had no one in the family that was even wounded in the war so I guess we were fortunate there. Very fortunate.

**How did you and the rest of your family take in the returning of the soldiers?**

Oh everyone as far as I know was thrilled to death unlike what happened after Vietnam and that kind of thing. I don't believe that ever happened after WWII. Practically all the people were for getting rid of Hitler and Mussolini and Huito in Japan.

**As you got older and started understanding what the war was about did you think that it was the right thing or not? What was your opinion on it?**

I certainly thought it was the right thing because of the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese and I guess I think it was the right thing for the Germans because Hitler's object was to take over the world as far as he was concerned. So yes, it was the right thing to do in both cases.

**Well thank you for sharing all the helpful information with me.**

You are welcome.

**I guess we are done.**

Thank you.