On Dec. 7, 1941, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, seventy six men from Fall City registered for service with the Civilian Defense, and immediately began organizing and providing security to the town and area. Along with them, women and children - including students of all ages - contributed to the war effort and safety of the region.

Some of the recollections of Fall City residents include saving empty toothpaste tubes to recycle their soft metals, and scouring the woods for abandoned farm equipment and railroad materials for scrap metal drives. Others recall that some class activities included cutting puzzles from the newspaper and gluing them to cardboard so they could be sent to local hospitals for wounded soldiers. Another project, organized by 5th grade teacher Clara Vinup, was weaving lap robes for wounded soldiers. A large loom was set up in the Brick School, and students learned to weave rag strips. The Boy Scouts were tasked with marking all 17 fire hydrants in town with red and white stakes, and were assigned messenger and errand duties for Civilian Defense work.

High school students had an additional volunteer opportunity by acting as plane spotters. All over the region, towers were manned 24 hours a day to spot, identify and report all aircraft to a headquarters in Seattle. During the school day, students could be excused from class to stand watch, 2 students per shift. They had been trained to recognize planes by type, and how to call in their reports with details of the plane and in what direction it was heading. The first tower was located on the roof of the school, and in Dec., 1942, a new tower was built on the school grounds.

The high school newspaper School Daze reported in one article that, in addition to being full time students, 90% of boys and 40% of girls were working full or part-time jobs, the majority in defense work. One high school student, Lester Ludwig, drew a map of the Fall City Zone, and spent his summer working in a shipyard.

An anecdote heard by Gene Stevens tells of the day a wildfire was spotted on west end of 42nd Street which prompted the school to close for the remainder of the day so some of the high school students could assist with the firefighting. There is no end to the ways our youth contribute to our community!
JOIN US TO CLEAN WWI VETERAN HEADSTONES

Saturday, March 25, 2023 10am

Continuing on the work we started last year with the headstones of Civil War Veterans, this month we will be cleaning headstones of WWI Veterans. You are welcome to meet us at the cemetery on Saturday March 25th at 10am. Please bring a bucket and soft brushes, and we will supply the safe and gentle cleaner, and some instructions.

If interested, please let us know you are coming by emailing our office at historylives@fallcity.org

MARCH MADNESS

The origins of the term 'March Madness' lie with high school basketball back in 1939. As an official with the Illinois High School Assoc., Henry V. Porter is credited with it's first use when he wrote in the organization's March 1939 magazine ".. a little March madness may complement and contribute to sanity and help keep society on an even keel..." Porter, also a former teacher and coach, was describing the way fans looked forward to the annual statewide high school basketball tournament.

Long before the term was coined, high school basketball competitions were a hot topic in the Valley. The Fall City Sharks won their share of championships, with games against North Bend always drawing large crowds.

Above: Early Fall City Girls' & Boys' basketball teams, likely about 1917.
Left: FC Basketball team May 1921, “S.V.I.A. Champs 1921”

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