

Way We Were
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Seeds of Victory
Lauren Miller, Program Coordinator
And Sarah Hill, Research Librarian

Seeds of Victory

It is 1942 and our country is beginning the fight for freedom. Your husbands, brothers, sons, and friends have shown their loyalty to this great Nation by answering the call of Uncle Sam. But we have not been left behind, for it is our time to aid our loved ones overseas and at home. Consider using what land you may have and farming it for the relief effort by planting a Victory Garden. Victory Gardens are not only a symbol of your support and devotion, but also produce sustenance which can be used as supplies for our men as well as our country. We can do it!

“The farmers of America are going to have a big job on their hands this year in producing the crops to feed approximately 225,000,000 people – Americans, Allies, and the starving populations of lands delivered from their invaders.”¹ Americans encouraged each other to do their part in assisting the war effort. Since many men were off fighting on the battlefield, women were left behind on the home front to do their part. According to the Park Record, one of the most important ways to aid the relief effort was to plant a garden and produce food. While Victory Gardens became popular among Parkites, that was not always the case. According to a survey in 1942 of Summit County, 95% of people had enough space for a garden, but only 38% had one.² By 1943, however, 54% of Americans said they intended to grow a Victory Garden, and of 18,000,000 only 6,000,000 intended to do so on farm land.³

Within Summit County limits everyone including businesses came together to do their part in aiding the war efforts. The Silver King Coalition Mining Company took to the Park Record in order to support and encourage Parkites to participate in a community Victory Garden. They furnished the ground and water for those employees that didn't have the means to grow on their own but still wanted to be a part of it. The Mining Company plowed and prepared the ground for planting and put in the necessary irrigation ditches while the employees seeded, planted, and harvested their crops. The Mining Company used the property known as the Ferry Ranch, and allocated 15-20 acres based on the community's interest.⁴

In order to celebrate and recognize the efforts of Parkites, Park City held a Victory Garden Show allowing gardeners to show off the fruits of their labors. Vegetable winners were given prizes based on size, color, and quality of their product. By acknowledging their endeavors the community fostered a sense of pride influencing the masses in years to come.

¹ Park Record, 4 May 1944, *Let's Plant a Victory Garden*

² Park Record, 4 June 1942, *Home Front Strengthened by Army of Rural Women*

³ Park Record, 4 March 1943, *V-Gardens on Home Front*

⁴ Park Record, 8 April 1943, *Mining Company Makes Victory Gardens Possible*



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Credit: Park City Historical Society & Museum, Bea Kummer Collection

Caption: Jenks and Lila Nelson in their home garden, date unknown.