

Way We Were
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World War I Centennial: Conclusion

Thank you for joining us for the conclusion of a four-part series detailing Parkites' roles in World War I.

Summit County always had a public contribution "quota" that was a portion of the state and national obligations. Official fundraisers would visit door-to-door and special events were held to ask for money. Even mine company managers were recruited to collect money from miners. Citizens were told it is "your patriotic duty, buy a liberty bond" and were incentivized by having their names listed as contributors in *The Record* and receiving cards to display in their windows at home. On the other hand, they were also warned that "every adult must... contribute and those who shirk their duty... are slackers and shall be listed as such"; for example, four business men did not contribute to the Red Cross and *The Record* noted they "must hate themselves as everybody else hates them for their unpatriotic smallness".

Parkites also conserved resources--wheat, flour, sugar, meat, and fuel—promised by the US for delivery to soldiers and civilians in Europe. Many items were restricted for purchase because of this and the US railway system was unable to handle all the troops and goods being transported across the country. To fill the gap at home, people were encouraged to replace some items for others, such as corn meal for flour and wood for coal. Unused or underutilized land was allocated for growing food for local use. Gas was rationed and people were asked to drive less to reduce consumption. Organizations that were created to support these efforts included the Committee on Food Conservation, Fuel Conservation Committee, Housewives' Vigilance League, and Women's Conservation Club. To emphasize individual commitment, the Food Administration required all "loyal" Utahns to post a Food Pledge Card in the window at home.

In addition to doing their traditional roles in their homes, women were needed to fill jobs emptied by men committed to the war. In November 1917, women were asked by the Women's Committee of the State Council of Defense to register to provide relief and service at home. Initially, jobs and training in nursing or typewriting, bookkeeping and anything else clerical were offered to them. In May 1918, a notice in *The Record* reiterated that the government needed women's help and opened up even more jobs, including some previously available only to men.

Summit County residents generally demonstrated their loyalty and patriotism by offering their time, resources and money to the country and its allies. The country's involvement in World War I was a cause that had much support and most Americans were happy to offer what they could to achieve victory.

We hope you have enjoyed this series of articles recognizing the 100th anniversary of World War I and highlighting the war-time sacrifices and experiences of Park City and Summit County residents. Thank you for reading them!

The Park City Historical Society & Museum is celebrating 30 years of preserving, protecting, and promoting Park City's history and heritage.



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Credit: Park City Historical Society & Museum

Caption: Red Cross nurses fundraising on Main Street during the 1918 Flag Day parade. People lining the street would toss money into the flag.