

smooth the welded seams on ship hulls. Eduardo met his wife, Kate Cruz, during this time and they were married for 53 years until she passed away in 1998.

The National Park Service is dedicated to telling the full variety of stories that make up the WWII home front, but it is not always easy to do so – official records from the era don't clearly identify those with Latino heritage. Luckily, the park has received biographies from individuals who have shared their stories as well as their cultural background. Among the many who migrated to Richmond from cities and towns of the Southwest, most came from Texas. I was tickled to see a few biographies of Mexican-Americans from my own hometown, El Paso. Eduardo's is one such story, as is that of Nellie Rojas, who worked as a riveter for Lockheed in Burbank, California, from 1942 to 1945.



NBC interviews Eduardo Carrasco at the Rosie Memorial in 2006. Photo: NPS

She, too, was hired at the age of 18, proud and excited to find work. She returned to Texas after the war to care for her mother.

It is a privilege to be able to share stories such as those of Nellie and Eduardo with local residents, many of whom are descended from shipyard migrants. On special occasions, home front workers like Eduardo come to

share their experiences personally with others at events and through the media. Recently he was interviewed by National Public Radio.

If you know someone with a home front story – particularly one that will help us present the wide diversity of experiences on the WWII home front – please let us know so the National Park Service can help make this important history known!

—Naomi Torres, NPS



Partnering for the Home Front



PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



News about National Park Service (NPS) Partnerships

SUMMER 2008

Victory Gardens: A History Lesson about Healthy Food

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GARDENS are flourishing here in Richmond. Teachers and community leaders are helping kids get hands-on experience growing and harvesting the healthy fruits of their labor. Just this spring, colorful berries and vines bearing crisp green peas cascaded down the sides of wooden planter boxes at Berryland on the Richmond Greenway – one of the more recent “offshoots” of this vibrant local garden culture, and part of an effort to create a west county “foodshed” movement that will grow five percent of all produce eaten locally.

What many – especially younger folks – may not know is that during World War II, communities across the nation grew in their own local gardens as much as 40% percent of the produce consumed nationally . The

federal government encouraged victory gardens and home canning to complement required rationing programs. These activities were intended to increase food reserves for soldiers and allies, and allow the country to focus production and transportation efforts on the war, according to Rose Hayden-Smith, a Kellogg Food and Society Policy fellow and home front historian with UC Cooperative Extension in Ventura County. Hayden-Smith visited Richmond at the end of May to

participate in a series of events about victory gardens and the local foodshed sponsored by the National Park Service, the 5% Local Coalition, and city of Richmond.

To promote the spread of victory gardens in World War II, the federal government institutionalized three major programs that had been initiated during the first World War – a “school garden army,” a national Victory Gardening Program (called “Liberty” gardens in World

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Garden coordinator Lyalode Kinney shows tour visitors the Peace Garden on Nevin and First Streets in Richmond. The site of an earlier homicide, the garden is now a verdant oasis that boasts rows of planter boxes overflowing with greenery. Photo: NPS

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ROSIE THE RIVETER / WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

1401 Marina Way South
Richmond, California 94804
Phone: 510-232-5050 Fax: 520-232-5504
www.nps.gov/rori/

Do you or a family member have a home front story? Submit it to the NPS collection! Call 510-307-8702.

Victory gardens, from p. 1

War I), and a Woman's Land Army (that trained and placed women in rural areas), according to Hayden-Smith. Ordinary citizens regularly wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt, who grew vegetables on the White House lawn, to ask her advice about gardening.

As part of Hayden-Smith's visit to Richmond, the National Park Service also co-hosted a tour of west county school and community gardens. A luncheon discussion (featuring 70% local food) was held with educators and local government, including Richmond mayor Gayle McLaughlin, at Verde Elementary school garden in Richmond.

Victory gardens were also the focus of Jr. Ranger Day held earlier in May as part of a community planting day at Berryland on the Richmond Greenway. The greenway is in the heart of Richmond's historic WWII home front community. Adults and kids alike got a hands-on lesson in urban agriculture while connecting with their victory garden past as they filled out Jr. Ranger booklets, made planter boxes and plant signs, learned about worm composting, and made the acquaintance of two unusual urban visitors – chickens!

Victory gardens constitute a powerful way for the park to transmit the rich and fertile legacy of the WWII home front, and leverage the past to address today's pressing issues such as food quality and access, the energy crisis, and global climate change. With its partners, NPS is dedicated to growing healthier, more sustainable communities by

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Victory...

...for Healthy Food!



(Upper L to R) Flowers, vegetables and fruit greet volunteers at Jr. Ranger Day on the Richmond Greenway; Learning about victory gardens at Jr. Ranger Day; Historian Rose Hayden-Smith talks to local educators, community leaders and Mayor Gayle McLaughlin about community gardens (2 photos). Student Jessie Alberto shows off Richmond High's school garden,



including a worm composting bin (2 photos). Photos: NPS



What is the **largest national park in America?** Wrangell – Saint Elias National Park, Alaska, at over 13 million acres.

The **largest park in the world?** Northeast Greenland National Park at 375,000 square miles.

What is the **smallest national park in America?** National Park – Hot Springs, Arkansas, at 5,550 acres. National Park unit - Thaddeus Kosciusko National Monument, PA,, at two-tenths of an acre.

What is the **highest mountain in the United States?** Mount McKinley (Denali) at 20,320 feet in Denali National Park, Alaska.

What is the **longest known cave system in the world?** 365 miles in Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky.

Which state has the **most National Park service units?** California, with 23.



What is the **highest waterfall in the United States?** Yosemite Falls in Yosemite National Park is 2425 feet high.

What is the **deepest lake in the United States?** Crater Lake is 1943 feet deep in Crater Lake National Park, Oregon.

Where is the **lowest elevation in the United States?** Badwater Basin is 282 feet below sea level in Death Valley National Park, California.



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS IN RICHMOND! Join the Red Oak Victory crew this fall!
Experience history hands-on in your own backyard - and get paid - in new National Park Service program.
Crew and project leaders over the age of 21 are also needed.

Contact Bettina Mok, Student Conservation Association, at 510-832-1966 x306 or bmok@thesecca.org.

Cinco de Mayo, from p. 5

nity events to help connect local residents with their rich history. The event, sponsored by The Cinco de Mayo Committee and 23rd Street merchants, drew crowds to the vibrant 23rd Street commercial corridor with its many Latino-owned and -operated commercial enterprises.

Eduardo worked as a driller and a chipper in the shipyard from 1942 to the end of the war in 1945. A driller prepared holes for riveting together the plates of massive ships, and a chipper used a chisel to

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Sakai Tour, from p. 3

lived in segregated housing (also called "checkerboard housing") that had been built for shipyard workers.

Charlotte Sakai wrote that seniors enjoyed the outing, especially the shipyard area, and that the tour "brought back long-forgotten memories to our seniors."

—Donna Graves

Victory Gardens, from p. 2

linking Richmond, and the nation, to its home front history. You can get a victory garden workbook by contacting Carla Koop at Carla_koop@nps.gov.

—Carla Koop, NPS



UPCOMING EVENTS

July - October

PARK RANGER PROGRAMS

Rosie the Riveter Memorial Marina Bay Park

11 AM - 12:30 PM*

Walk the Line & Connect to the Home Front (walk the line of history or the keel of a victory ship!) Meet park ranger at memorial by main parking lot. 45 min. program followed by optional 45 min. Bay Trail stroll. Free.

Historic Shipyard No. 3

2 - 3 PM

All Hands on Deck – Building the Ships that Kept Democracy Afloat! Shipyard tour. Meet park ranger by Whirley Crane (park outside SS Red Oak Victory gate). Free.

Self-guided ship tour: 11 am—3 pm, T, Th, Sat., Sun. \$5 fee to Richmond Museum. Info. and directions to shipyard: 510-237-2933, www.ssredoakvictory.com/contact.htm.

PROGRAM DATES

JULY - SEPT., 2ND & 4TH SATURDAYS: 7/12, 7/26, 8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23, 8/30, 9/13, 9/27

JULY - AUG., TUESDAYS: 7/1, 7/5, 7/22, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12

AUG. - SEPT., FRIDAYS: 8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26

COMMUNITY EVENTS

JULY 3RD - Independence Day Celebrations in Richmond

BBQ sponsored by SS Red Oak Victory, Shipyard No. 3. Information about event & fees: 510-222-9200, www.ssredoakvictory.com/calendar.htm. City of Richmond celebration, Marina Bay Park. Free. 5 pm - 10 pm. Info: 510-620-6793.

JULY 19TH – Pt. Chicago Anniversary

Concord, CA. NPS honors those who lost their lives. Visit www.nps.gov/poch for more information. Reservations: 925-228-3396 x23 or poch_interpretation@nps.gov.

OCTOBER 4 - 5, 2008

Celebrate the legacy of the WWII home front at the annual

Home Front Festival by the Bay Richmond, CA

Opening Ceremony

SATURDAY, OCT. 4, 2008

11 AM - 12 PM
Lucretia Edwards Park



Home Front Reunion

SUNDAY, OCT. 5, 11 AM - 3 PM

Ford Assembly Building
Meet the people who made home front history!

More info. about festival fun & events at: www.homefrontfestival.com.

For more info. about ranger programs or directions, call 510-232-5050 or visit www.nps.gov/rori/.

VOLUNTEER

Join the National Park Service "crew"!

Contact NPS Volunteer Coordinator at: 510-232-5050

Cut here and save!

Launching a Museum Collection

A PRIMARY MISSION FOR Rosie the Riveter/ WWII Home Front National Historical Park is to develop a collection representing the nation's home front efforts during World War II, including oral histories and artifacts that help tell both Richmond's and the country's story. The museum collection is available as a research and educational resource for park staff, students, researchers, and the public. In the future, the collection will be displayed in exhibits at the park's visitor center in the Ford Assembly Building. It is increasingly apparent that the Rosie the Riveter museum collection will fill a unique role no other national museum has undertaken—a center for home front history.

So, how are we doing? In the past four years, thanks to the efforts of National Park Service staff, archivists, graduate student interns, and volunteers, over 11,000 items have been catalogued, preserved, and stored. So far, early community efforts and ongoing park initiatives together have added about 4,500 first-person written and recorded accounts of the experiences of home front participants to the collection. The stories range from hilari-



Launching the S.S. Robert S. Abbott (named for the publisher of *The Chicago Defender*) from the Richmond shipyards. Donated by Betty Reid Soskin. Catalog no. RORI 686.

ous to heart-breaking – with a wide range of experiences in between. Reflecting back after 60 years or more, individuals tend to distill their experiences to the most memorable and profound.

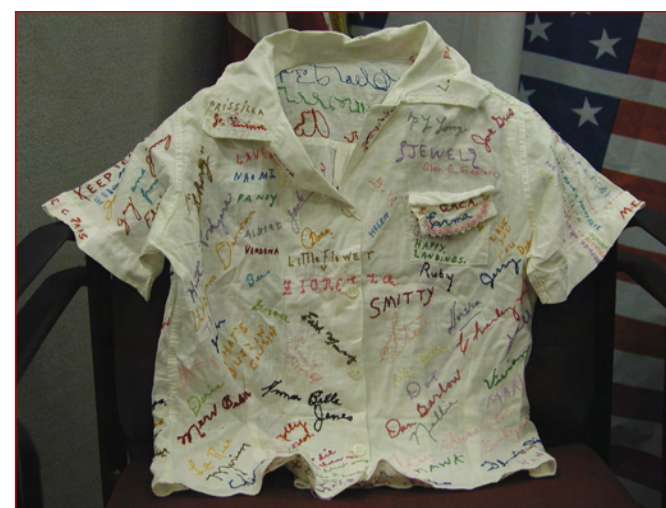
Additionally, the collection holds thousands of photographs showing men, women, and children at work, play, and

home during the war era. Donated memorabilia include scrapbooks, publications, vintage posters, brochures, ship-launch programs, letters, menus, ration books, war bond stamps, and USO and Civil Service materials. Work-related items include corporate ID badges and cards; operator permits; training materials and manuals; corporate achievement pins; insignia; clothing; welding, riveting, and drafting tools; helmets; hand-crafted jewelry; and personal mementos.

These artifacts come alive when accompanied by their owners' memories of the war years – including migration from other states; acquisition of new job skills; and experiencing love and loss, hardship and sacrifice, and the tidal waves of emotion by which ordinary people were pulled apart and brought together during the nation's great war.

The museum collection is a unique repository of memories and a vehicle for sharing them. To launch our "ship of memories," the park is planning exhibits for the visitor center at the Ford Assembly Building, developing educational tools, and envisioning a dedicated museum collection and research facility. If you know someone with a story or memorabilia to share, please visit our website for a donor packet at www.nps.gov/rori.

—Carola DeRooy, NPS



Shirt embroidered by Cleo Pearl Nixon Denton. Donated by Ray Wilson. Catalog no. RORI 692.

Sakura Kai Seniors Remember Old-Time Richmond

WHAT WAS RICHMOND LIKE during World War II? To find out, 55 Sakura Kai Senior Center members went on a bus tour hosted by National Park Service staff and myself, Donna Graves, a Richmond historian. Sakura Kai, located in El Cerrito, is composed of Japanese-speaking seniors who live in the Richmond area. The tour, organized by Charlotte Sakai, Marjorie Fujioka, and Amy Shinseko, gave seniors the opportunity to sightsee and share memories of old-time Richmond.

This special bus tour included historic sites featured on the park's community bus tours and several places important to Japanese-American history in Richmond. After visiting Shipyard No. 3 and Atchison Village, tour participants were taken along Macdonald Avenue past the former locations of a Japanese-owned fish market, a grocery store, and a shoe repair shop. Several people on the tour remembered the Katayanagi family, owners of Park Florist up until World



NPS ranger Lucy Lawliss displays a helmet donated by Tom Oishi, a welder in the Kaiser shipyards during WWII. His family owned a nursery featured on the group's bus tour. Photo: Donna Graves

War II. The tour also stopped at the Sakai and Oishi nurseries, located on South 47th Street, the last of Richmond's flower nurseries that still hold extensive historic resources.

Tom Oishi, one of the Oishi



Tom Oishi displays the helmet he wore while working at the Kaiser shipyards. Photo: NPS

and Sakai clan, contributed his extensive oral history to the National Park Service. In 2002-03, I interviewed Tom as part of a collaborative project with the National Park Service, Regional Oral History Office of UC Berkeley, and city of Richmond. Tom worked as a welder at the Richmond shipyards, and his family was interned during World War II. After the war the Oishis were able to regain their nursery business and restart their lives. Starting around 1905, Richmond had a small but thriving community of Japanese Americans who worked primarily in the cut-flower business. The impact of

World War II on Japanese communities was unique. All people of Japanese descent, regardless of U.S. citizenship status, were forcibly removed from their homes on the west coast and incarcerated in "relocation camps." In May of 1942 Richmond's families were sent to Tanforan Assembly Center and later transferred to Topaz Relocation Center in the Utah desert. Some tour participants remembered returning after the war to Richmond, where their families

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Richmond Celebrates Historic Preservation Month with Awards

ON A LOVELY MAY EVENING during National Historic Preservation month, the city of Richmond's Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC) and the National Park Service (NPS) hosted an awards event at the Richmond Museum of History. The event recognized the people, places, and programs that preserve and promote the city's unique history. The 2008 winners are: Donna Roselius, founder of the Point Richmond History Association; the Point Richmond Gateway Foundation for rehabilitation of the Santa Fe Reading Room; the Richmond Convention and Visitors Bureau for its Point Richmond Walking Tour brochure; the 2007 Home Front Festival-by-the-Bay committee for its six historic ads; and the Richmond city council for its support of historic preservation. In addition, NPS presented a Home Front Award to Donna Graves, historian and community preservationist, for her projects that have promoted the recognition and understanding of Richmond's World War II home front story. Donna was



Lucy Lawliss presents historian and community preservationist Donna Graves with the first NPS Home Front award. Photo: Ellen Gailing

also instrumental in helping to create the national park. Much of Richmond's incredible history might have been lost were it not for these and other dedicated citizens and projects. The year 2008 inaugurated the NPS Home Front Award and reestablished the city's historic preservation awards, last given in 2001. HPAC and the NPS expect the awards program to become an annual event.

—Lucy Lawliss, NPS

From Texas to Richmond: Latino-American Home Front Stories

AT THE AGE OF 18, EDUARDO CARRASCO left El Paso for California and found work in the Kaiser shipyards in Richmond. He was one of many Latino-Americans who migrated from Texas and other parts of the country to find work and contribute to the war effort in towns and cities across the nation.

The National Park Service was pleased to be able to present the unique home front story of Eduardo and other individuals of Latino heritage at Richmond's Cinco de Mayo festival on May 3-4, 2008. Park staff participate in commu-

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Posing as Rosie the Riveter at the National Park Service booth at the Cinco de Mayo festival. Photo: NPS

EMMANUEL F. JOSEPH COLLECTION



Careth Bomar Reid; Electra Kimble Price, a Latter Day Saints Family History Project instructor; and park ranger Betty Reid Soskin identify the subjects of over 10,000 negatives of historic photographs by prolific photographer Emmanuel F. Joseph. The collection, owned by Careth Bomar Reid, documents African-American life in the Bay Area from the 1930s through the '70s. Included are photos of the World War II home front experience, with its dramatic black migration stories, that brought workers from the deep south to the west coast to participate in the war effort—experiences that unalterably changed the state and heralded the beginnings of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.