

Farm Shelf

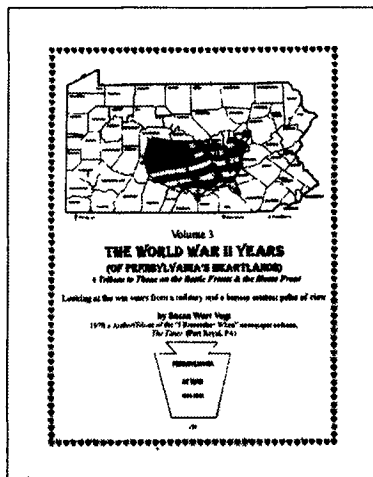
Books and magazines of interest to Lancaster Farming readers

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

PENNSYLVANIA'S HEARTLANDS VOL. 3: THE WORLD WAR II YEARS, by Susan Wert Vogt. Desktop Editing Co., 2003, 177 pp., \$33.00. ISBN 0-9708901-3-3

Last year I reviewed Vogt's first volume in the "Pennsylvania's Heartlands" series, the stories of rural people. Though I haven't seen volume 2, which Vogt calls "more stories about rural folks," there was a purpose to the latest volume, number three. Vogt, probably in response to what our nation went through following 9-11, put together the current volume with testimonials from central and south-central Pennsylvania residents who served during wartime.

A great deal of volume 3 relies on accounts from a book that Vogt was fond of as a child, "Pennsylvania At War: 1941-1945," from school. Vogt makes quick account of how organizations banded together, much like they did after 9-11, to "turn the tide of war." (As a history buff, I really enjoyed the World War II timeline she provided.)



One such group during the "war to end all wars" was the Civilian Conservation Corps, CCC. The CCC "helped turn 'boys into men' who would later serve their country during World War II," according to Vogt.

Importantly, Vogt points out that farming was a big contributor to the great victory. Even the Hershey Chocolate's Ration D bar kept a soldier from starvation, she notes. On page 34, Vogt notes: "Every type of business, in fact, made its contribution, direct

or indirect, to victory. Labor and management cooperated to push production to unheard-of heights. The war could scarcely have been won without this remarkable achievement. Pennsylvania could well be proud of the combat record of its industrial arm."

She quotes from the "Pennsylvania At War" booklet that "the miner's pick and the millman's drill were no more potent weapons than the farmer's plow." (Page 164). For the first time in anyone's memory, at the time, actual production acreage increased, from 6,097,116 acres in Pennsylvania in 1940 to 6,610,473 in 1945. The number of farms in the state increased from 169,027 to 173,267 in the same time (page 35). These figures came from the War booklet.

Annual milk production climbed from 546 million gallons in 1941 to a new high of 610 million gallons in 1945 (page 36). Pennsylvania agriculture was a half billion dollar a year industry back then (very, very substantial).

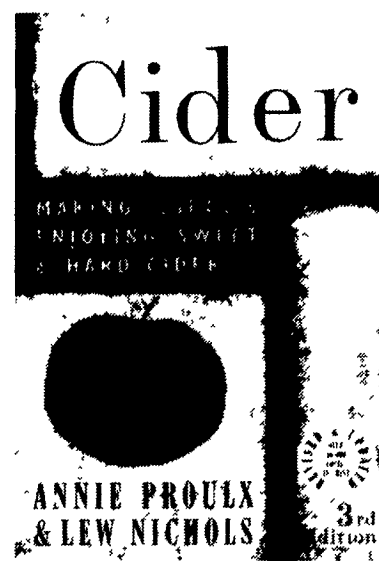
She also noted that at Pearl Harbor, about 3,000 were killed. Four from York County were among the dead.

Vogt covers a lot of accounts from people who served in the war in many capacities, including those who even served as staff bodyguards.

Vogt has put together a splendid book, with color photos, too!

Order from Desktop Editing, 1 Scout Lane, RR3, Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-5700, or from the Web at www.paheartlandsbooks.com.

CIDER: MAKING, USING,



AND ENJOYING SWEET AND HARD CIDER, 3rd Edition, by Annie Proulx and Lew Nichols. Storey Publishing, 2003, 221 pp., \$14.95. ISBN 1-58017-520-1

CIDER is dedicated to "cider apples and amateur cidemakers everywhere."

In the Introduction, the authors noted that "cider drinking has been an American tradition since the days of the Mayflower, whose passengers brought it with them from Europe. By 1638, barrels of cider could be found in the cellars of virtually every farmhouse and city home in New England."

The book is chockfull of apple varieties used in making cider, step-by-step guides to making varieties of cider, cider vinegar making, and lots of cider recipes. Page 90 includes "cider statistics," which tells us a lot: did you know a standard apple tree will produce about 10 bushels of apples, and a bushel of apples will yield two to three gallons of fresh cider?

Order from Storey Press, 210 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, MA 01247, (413) 346-2100, or on the Web at www.storey.com.

AN AMERICAN COUPLE'S WORKING SEASON IN THE OUTBACK, by Rebecca Long Chaney. Professional Press, 2002, 443 pp., \$14.99 (add 5 percent tax for Maryland residents, and \$5 for shipping cost), ISBN 1-57087-609-6

This book could be considered Long Chaney's "Epic Journey."

The author is a longtime Frederick News-Post writer. She and her dairyman husband, Lee, simply leave their jobs and take a year to travel the Outback.

It's an emotional, agonizing decision, but one they are both ready for. (Though I wish Long Chaney would explain exactly why they would do such a thing — it's never quite clear in the book, other than for some deep-rooted emotional need, or simply feeling fed up with their daily working lives.)

Long Chaney provides a great deal of detail into the joys and hazards of the long, involved journey. This was a spiritual test of their lives, and she makes it a lot of fun, and provides insights into cultures that are beyond the reasoning of people growing up in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

But her recollections of specific feelings and events, near-disasters and personal turmoil, personalities and love for the Australian Outback come through in a nice way. For lovers of the travelogue, for those who want a taste of farm and ranch life Down Under, the book is a treat.

Order from Professional Press, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4371.

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Organic dairy production will be a highlight of the Sept. 20 *Lancaster Farming Dairy Plus* booklet.

Scheduled: features on organic dairy farms and strategies for success in organic milk production from university. In addition, news and information from the breed associations and cooperatives.

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