



# 1940s



## Highlights from 1940 - 1949

**1940:** The Otsego County recreation map was produced. “This was the first attempt in Michigan to assemble service information on a map on a county basis.”

Land Use pamphlet was published.

**1941 – 1945:** World War II

**“Our farmers here in Otsego County are proving that they are willing to contribute their money, their sweat, and even their blood to preserve our country. But let us remember that the first job for any farmer is to produce food.”** Extension article in the November 19, 1942 issue of the Herald Times

Arthur Glidden, County Agricultural Agent, acted as liaison officer between the county council of defense and the USDA War Boards. Results of the coordinated efforts:

- Victory Garden Program
- Rural Fire Prevention Campaign Pledge Drive for War Bonds and Stamps
- Salvage Collection Activities which brought in 2266 tons of scrap metal

**1943:** There were 45 War Club members in Otsego County



**1942-44:** Milkweed floss was used as a substitute for kapok in life jackets for Navy Aviators. A collection campaign was conducted in Otsego County under the direction of Claude

Wilson of the War Hemp Industries in Petoskey. 4-H participated in this effort.

**1942:** Only one farmer had cattle testing positive for Bovine Tuberculosis.

The Michigan State College Ram Truck made stops in Hillman and Gaylord. Fourteen rams were sold – 3 Southdown, 3 Oxfords, and the rest were Hampshire.

**1943:** Kiwanis 4-H Club Fair held in September at Gaylord 4-H Club Camp. Exhibits for the one day event were limited to livestock, canning, gardening, and flowers.

Changes in the income tax law made the Farm Account Book a “best seller”.

First mention of a secretary being hired for the Extension Office. Wages were \$661.50 a year.

**1944:** Soil Conservation District organized in Otsego County. Extension played a key role in getting this new agency established. Labor shortage during potato harvesting caused a 3 week recess at Gaylord Community and St. Mary Schools.

**1945:** Otsego County potato growers declared war on Bacterial Ring Rot. Special Potato Committee and County Potato Development Association were formed.

**1946:** Northern Michigan Beef Breeders Association was formed representing 14 counties. C.S. McReynolds was president and Arthur Glidden was secretary – treasurer.

**1946:** The first Tourist & Resort Workshop conducted by Extension’s Conservation Institute was in Gaylord with Robert McIntosh, Clare Gunn, and Faith McCauley.



**1947:** Ray McMullen became the 7<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Extension agent to serve Otsego County.

**1948:** The Extension office moved to the Chamber of Commerce’s log building next to the courthouse

**1949:** Assisted Bagley Township Improvement Association in organizing a Farmer’s Market.

Plans for building and remodeling 68 farm buildings were made by the Extension office.

Assisted C. S. McReynolds and his wife with their first production sale of registered Hereford breeding cattle at Elmac Hills Ranch. Their 3000 acre ranch is located 14 miles northeast of Gaylord.

Winners of the Tractor Derby at the 4-H Fair (1<sup>st</sup> time event) were Don Leinerth, Melvin Welsh, and Virgil Vinicki.

“The potato industry in Otsego County is decreasing slightly each year. Acreages have been reduced but yields have been increased through use of better seed, approved practices and use of spray and dusting materials.”