

## Gail Peck Historic Pictures

Gail Gutzmer-Peck of Manchester lent us this wonderful set of pictures – her mom’s graduation in 1941, Civil Defense during WWII and pictures “of Downtown and Mary Cheney’s gardens in the 1940’s – I believe ‘the girls’ took these pictures to send to the servicemen to remind them of home. There are also some pictures with servicemen,” perhaps visiting town on leave.

The photos are from albums created by Gail’s mother Elena (Helen) Accornero Gutzmer, 1922-2013. Helen graduated eighth-grade valedictorian from St. James School in 1937, and from Manchester High School in 1941. Helen was a lifelong resident of Manchester. She worked for Cheney brothers during high school and volunteered with the Civil Defense Force, Ambulance Unit during World War II. She and Walter Gutzmer married in 1946. They had three children. Gail described the unusual way that they met: “My mom ‘met’ my dad first from writing to him during the War and then they married when he came home – he said any girl who would write to a soldier all that time had to be a good catch!”



Graduation day, 1941. Helen’s friend Alice Darling in front of Manchester High School. Helen’s arrow points to “Mr. Bailey and Mr. Illing on landing.” The high school, now Bennet Apartments, is located at 1146 Main Street.



Paul Stowell, Alice Darling, Jimmie McCooe in back of the high school, June 10, 1941



Helen with motto of Class of 1941: “He conquers who conquers himself.”



Bob Gabbey, June 10, 1941.



Class picnic, May 29, 1941 at Ted Hilton Resort in Moodus, Connecticut. Back row: Peg, Helen Arconero Gutzmer. Front row: Mary Chipps, Jean Auerill, Ida Annulli. Many of the high school classes had their class picnics at the Ted Hilton resort.



1942, Educational Square, looking at Franklin Building. These and the school building across the street were used for both junior high and high school at that time.

Center Street, Main Street, the Armory. Helen and her friends attended events at the armory – dances and shows.



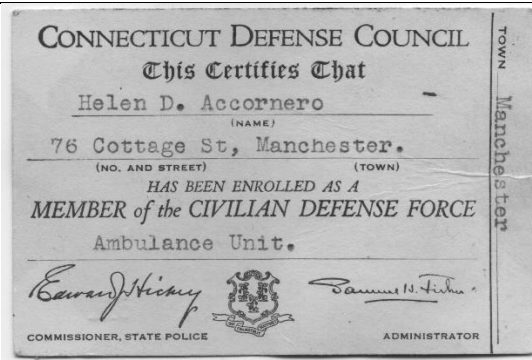
On Center Street near the Cheney railroad overpass, looking east toward the center of Manchester. Joan Fontana, Amelia "Toni" Antonio, Helen Accornero, Dorothy "Alice" Darling. October 26, 1941.



*Ken Porter + Assistant on Armory Roof*  
Ken Porter and assistant on the roof of the Armory, April 1942. 330 Main St.



In front of Armory, Sgt Cecil and Maureen Hicks 1942. 330 Main St.



Front and back of Helen Accornero's Connecticut Civil Defense Council card. She was a member of the Ambulance Unit.



Helen in her Civil Defense uniform, Memorial Day, 1943. Note Odd Fellows building in background right.



Other members of the Civil Defense Council, 1943.

Highland Park section of Manchester; Center Park, and Mary Cheney's gardens



Highland Park, note A. Wells Case mansion in background. Joan Fontana and Arthur Strohmoger, January 25, 1942



Highland Park. Helen, George Bonsal, Joan Fontana, January 25, 1942. They are sitting on a stone wall above Case Pond, near the intersection of Glen Road and Spring Street, in the area now known as the Case Brothers National Historic District, encompassing acres of forest and paths owned by the Town of Manchester. In 1942, the Case brothers still owned the property, and allowed the public free access.



Harold "Gum" Bornheim + Joan  
Harold "Gum" Bornheim and Joan Fontana at  
the flagpole pavilion, Center Park, March,  
1942.



Alice - Joan - Feeney - Betty Pacheco  
Alice Darling, Joan Fontana, Elmer "Feeney"  
Bornheim, Betty Pacheco, Center Park,  
March, 1942.



Joan - Betty - Alice  
Joan Fontana, Betty Pacheco, Alice Darling,  
Center Park, March, 1942.



Dorothy "Alice" Darling, steps at bottom of  
flagpole pavilion, Center Park, March, 1942.

Center Park - Easter - 4-5-42



Betty - Jil - Joan - Alice - Helen

Betty Pacheco, Gilda "Jil" Accornero, Alice Darling, Helen. Center Park, looking toward library and Main Street. April 5, 1942.



Amelia "Toni" Antonio and Helen at the Dancing bear fountain, Center Park, October 26, 1941.



Amelia "Toni" Antonio, Helen, Alice Darling on a bench in Center Park, looking toward Pearl Street, with Sheridan Hotel in left background. October 26, 1941.



Joan Fontana, Helen, Gary MacPhael, Alice Darling, at Mary Cheney's gardens, June 1942.



Birdhouse, at Mary Cheney's gardens, June 1942.



Helen  
Helen, at Mary Cheney's gardens, June, 1942.



"Woody" Wlodarczyk Joan - Helen - Alice  
"Woody" Wlodarczyk, Joan Fontana, Helen, Alice Darling, at Mary Cheney's gardens, June, 1942.

Mary Cheney Gardens



4/42 Joan Fontana

Joan Fontana, April 1942.

Mary Cheney Gardens - 4/42



Maureen Hicks

Maureen Hicks, April 1942.

Mary Cheney Gardens

4/42



Helen - Betty Pacheco - Maureen Hicks

Helen, Betty Pacheco, Maureen Hicks, at Mary Cheney's gardens, April 1942.

Mary Cheney Gardens

4/42



Maureen Hicks - Alice Darling - Helen - Betty Pacheco

Maureen Hicks, Alice Darling, Helen, Betty Pacheco, at Mary Cheney's gardens, April 1942.