

I REMEMBER WHEN

In 1943, Starkey Farms, a large vegetable farm in PA was sold to the Fairless Steel Corp, my husband, Victor Cubberley was office manager of Starkey's and since we were in World War II was locked in agriculture, Starkey Farms had sold both spinach and broccoli to Seabrook Farms for freezing so one year, in February '43, he drove down to Cumberland Co., and applied for a job. They were glad to have a man with farm office experience and hired him. He started in the Field and Contract Dept. that Spring and our 2 daughters and I moved down to So. Jersey at the end of the school year.

In the Spring of 1944 I took a job with the State of N.J. taking samples of asparagus for the State Grader from boxes of asparagus that the farmers brought to the front platform for unloading. This was done by some German PW's who were assigned to Seabrook Farms and who lived at nearby Parvin State Park in Centerton. These young men were from the Panzer Div. of the German Army.

The employees were told not to fraternize with the prisoners but working every day with them it was difficult not to have some communication. One day one of them indicated to me that he would like to have a mirror. Living in a PW camp, I'm sure they didn't have many luxuries. The next day I gave him a small mirror from my purse and later in appreciation, he gave me a bronze Panther he had made from a melted down belt buckle in the craft workshop. I never learned his name. One other PW was an artist and did a lot painting of Ye Old Centerton Inn which has hung for years over the fireplace in the Inn.

By Helen B. Cubberley
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