

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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A REMINDER OF WAR



Today the trees and shrubs on the Court House lawn are decked with orange and yellow ribbons in support of our men and women fighting in the Persian Gulf. People back home always have their own way of coping with war and supporting their loved ones on the battle field.

During World War II, now almost 50 years ago, the Court House lawn was also made a spectacle. At that time it was virtually turned into a junk yard in support of the war effort abroad. Scrap drives of this sort helped build patriotism and brought the war closer to the people at home. In this manner almost every individual could participate by prounging in their attics, cellars and barns to find junk metal to donate.

Along with the scrap there was also propaganda to catch the eye of everyone who passed by. A thermometer attached to a nearby tree stated: "Help Heat Hitler." This had a goal of 250 tons for our local residents to reach. Nearby, another large sign was lettered with "Help It Grow — Scrap Will Win The War — Add Yours." Perhaps the most bizarre part of the whole display was an effigy of Hitler placed in a casket propped up against a tree. Above the effigy, another sign was placed which stated "Reserved for Hitler."

It is therefore no doubt, very appropriate that the Liberty tree which now occupies this area be laden with orange bows, not suggesting that we support war, but that we give our unswerving support to all those now in combat. Our Court House lawn may not be filled with junk or an effigy of a tyrant, but the message is the same. The news broadcast out of



Buffalo the other night interviewed some people in a bar where they had made a dart board with Saddam Hussein pictured on it. Indeed, every generation can think of graphic means by which to show its dislike for a mad man.