Rae Wilson’s Letter to the Editor of The North Platte Daily Bulletin Thursday December 18, 1941
Canteen Here Is Suggested For Soldiers

Following the visit of the troop train here yesterday afternoon Miss Rae Wilson, sister of North Platte’s Captain Denver Wilson, suggested that a canteen be opened here to make the trips of soldiers thru the city more entertaining. She offered her services without charge. Her public-spirited and generous offer is contained in the following communications to

The Bulletin:

Editor, The Daily Bulletin:

I don’t know just how many people went to meet the trains when the troops went thru our city Wednesday, but those who didn’t should have.

To see the spirits and the high morale among those soldiers should certainly put some of us on our feet and make us realize we are really at war. We should help keep this soldier morale at its highest peak. We can do our part.

During World War I the army and navy mothers, or should I say the war mothers, had canteens at our own depot. Why can’t we, the people of North Platte and the other towns surrounding our community, start a fund and open a Canteen now? I would be more than willing to give my time without charge and run this canteen.

We who met this troop train which arrived about 5 o’clock were expecting Nebraska boys. Naturally we had candy, cigarettes, etc., but we very willingly gave these things to the Kansas boys.

Smiles, tears and laughter followed. Appreciation showed on over 300 faces. An officer told me it was the first time anyone had met their train and that North Platte had helped the boys keep up their spirits.

I say get back of our sons and other mothers’ sons 100 per cent. Let’s do something and do it in a hurry! We can help this way when we can’t help any other way.

—RAE WILSON

Courtesy of History Nebraska

The North Platte Daily Bulletin, 1941
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