

Sample Chapter Newsletter Article – 75th Anniversary Celebration *February 2008*

IREM Celebrates 75 Years: 1933-2008

By Linda Jackson, CPM, Vice Chair, 75th Anniversary Work Group

As we continue to celebrate IREM's 75 years of excellence, this month we're taking a look back at the 1940s. And what a time it was ... When you think of the 40s, you can almost hear FDR say, "... yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live on in infamy."

Men and boys were off to war. And the first great exodus of women from home to the workplace began. Automobile production ceased in 1942. Rationing of food supplies began in 1943. Schools had scrap drives for steel, tin, paper and rubber. It was a different time, indeed! And here are a few more interesting facts from the 40s ...

Minimum wage was \$0.43 per hour.

Rosie the Riveter was the symbol of the working woman.

Modern glass-and-steel office buildings began to rise after the war ended.

Computers were developed in the early 40s. Final assembly of the digital computer ENIAC with 30 separate units, weighing over 30 tons, was completed in the fall of 1945.

Big bands dominated popular music; the **Jitterbug** made its appearance.

Frozen dinners were invented, which later in the decade became known as **TV Dinners**.

The **Slinky** (1945) and the **Frisbee** (1948) were invented.

The **Zoot Suit** was the height of fashion until the War Production Department restricted the amount of fabric that could be used in men's garments.

Throughout the 40s, IREM helped our members to manage many changes and challenges ... tenants were now gone and serving in the military, under-rented buildings were prevalent and had to be carefully managed.

IREM increased our educational offerings, and students in core courses such as "Management of the Unfurnished Apartment" increased many times over. In 1947, the first edition of "Principles of Real Estate Management" was published.

IREM initiated many service projects during this era and waived dues for all CPM Members in active military service. And after the war, IREM President Orin Woodbury, CPM, received a personal letter from President Eisenhower who recognized IREM's positive impact on cost cutting. And by the way, that IREM President was the grandfather of our 2008 Secretary/Treasurer, Randy Woodbury, CPM.

IREM Members ... we have quite a history and much to be proud of!

The 40s ... men going to war ... men coming home ... women going to work outside the home ... then returning home to make room for men in jobs ... going and coming ... separating and reuniting ... perhaps separating and reuniting again. Take a moment to

look back and remember someone (oh, maybe not as far back as the 40s) ... but nonetheless, reunite with someone – give them a call, a hug or a kiss. **Then, do it again.**

Be an active participant as we celebrate our long and distinguished 75-year legacy of excellence! Check out www.irem.org/75th for more history and fun!

AND be SURE to join your chapter and other IREM colleagues at the Leadership and Legislative Summit in Washington DC April 12-16! You'll have fun at 75th Anniversary events, be a part of IREM nationally, and go to the Hill on Wednesday for meetings with your Congressmen. Check out www.irem.org/conferences for more information.