Does Anyone Remember?

REMEMBER “white pennies”? Minted during the Second World War, they were made of zinc-coated steel instead of copper so that the latter could go into the war effort. Their greenish-colored metal turned somewhat white with use.

White pennies were already becoming unusual when I was a small child, in the early 1950s. When told that they were not being made anymore, I began to save them. I had accumulated five when I thought, They’re only pennies! and spent them.

Now, after many decades of living, I realize that their monetary value was the smaller of my losses.

—Nancy Weinstein, Seattle, Washington

I RECALL my sixth-grade class and my Girl Scout troop as being very patriotic through various activities during World War II. Each sixth grader devoted time each day to knit 6-inch squares from yarn. These were given to the Red Cross, where they were combined to make afghans for the boys overseas.

Each class also had an air-raid warden, and I was ours. Wardens had to take a first-aid course, learning to keep a patient warm and how to take a pulse, put on a sling and apply all kinds of bandages.

On Saturdays, dressed in my Girl Scout uniform (above), I’d take the bus from South Glens Falls, New York over the Hudson River to Glens Falls to sell war stamps, now called savings bonds, at a booth near the entrance to the F.W. Woolworth store. The stamp book was then turned in at the post office for a war bond.

—Celia Butterfield, Rutland, Vermont