

her meant get your horse to the starting gate—the race is about to begin.

An avid horsewoman, she was born in the infield of a race track and spent most of her life training and driving trotting horses in between raising seven children. Referred

to by Life Magazine as the “Queen of Racing” in 1948, “Grandma” Burright is also remembered by some Oregonites for her early television appearance on the 1950’s show “What’s My Line?” where she stumped the questioning panel royally.

HISTORY AND LEGEND SURROUND HARNESS RACING AT THE OGLE COUNTY FAIR



(Al Brodsky photo)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each year ILLINOIS STANDARD-BRED chooses one County Fair in Illinois that offers harness racing as one of its major attractions to feature in its Annual "County Fair Edition." This year's feature fair is the Ogle County Fair, Oregon, Ill. We hope you enjoy Al Brodsky's look at the fair, both with his pen and his camera.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AL BRODSKY

For the 129th time, the Ogle County Fair will take place this September continuing in its tradition of history and folklore that surrounds the area.

Located in Oregon, Illinois, a small town of 3,800, the Ogle County fairgrounds are situated just off the west bank of the Rock River, along Route 2, the Blackhawk

trail, and conveniently between the major racing ovals of the Chicago area and Quad City Downs of East Moline.

The statue of Blackhawk (see cover of this issue), one of the most famous of Indian war chiefs in the history of a growing America, stands 300 feet above the east bank of the Rock River, over the land in which he once lived and protected in battle, and overlooks the area much like Blackhawk himself must have done as he was known to have used the location to ponder the fate of his nation, while the panoramic view inspired his thoughts, of his people and of the fate of their land.

Blackhawk (1767-1838) was born near the mouth of the Rock River, not far from what is now Moline. After demonstrating his fighting prowess amongst other tribes of Indians, Blackhawk became war chief of his tribe in 1788.

As time went on, more and more white men pushed

their way west, interttering with the lives of the Indians. Compromises between the people were reached, but again and again, the promises of treaties were broken by the white men.

Tired from the constant battling, Chief Keokuk took his band of Indians to the other side of the Mississippi River in 1829. Blackhawk and his faithful warriors refused to follow, leaving the fertile farming and hunting grounds they had known all their lives. Military forces finally forced Blackhawk across the Mississippi.

Unhappy there, with the growing scarcity of food, Blackhawk soon got together 800 Indians and horses, warriors from the Sauk and Fox tribes, and recrossed the river. Eventually, the end came of what became known as the "Blackhawk War," in the final confrontation, the "Battle of Bad Axe," in 1832, as American soldiers, with more powerful forces, slaughtered and nearly extinguished what was left of the Sauk tribe, capturing Blackhawk.

Blackhawk was led to prison at Fortress Monroe, but his courage and bravery were admired by the men who fought against him in battle; men like Abraham Lincoln, Zachary Taylor, and Jefferson Davis. Through this respect and because of it, Blackhawk was taken to Washington to meet with President Andrew Jackson, and led to an understanding of the real power of the United States. Blackhawk was pardoned and released to join his tribe on a reservation near Fort DesMoines in 1833. The relented war chief lived 5 more years until he surrendered his own life to a fever in 1838, at the age of 71.

High on a ledge above the Rock River, in what is now Lowden Park, stands a lasting memorial to the great war chief, as on July 1, 1911, a 50 foot statue built by the famous sculptor, Lorado Taft, was dedicated to Blackhawk and overlooks the land that once was of his people but now belongs to Americans living in Ogle County.

Ogle County Fair's first year of operation came in 1853, only 15 years after the death of Blackhawk. Only horseback running races were held then, but in about 15 years harness racing began to share some of the scene. Now, after 115 years from its emergence at Ogle County, harness racing remains as its only equine challenge.

The legend has it, according to oldtimers who were able to report to E.D. Landers, editor of the *Ogle County Republication Reporter* and a major stockholder and promoter of the fairgrounds around the 1930's, that Jesse and Frank James, along with Cole Younger, his brothers, and the rest of their band of outlaws, stopped in to race their horses at the Ogle County Fair. The local townspeople of Oregon figured the fair would be robbed as they had heard and read much about the James' gang, who were infamous for robbing banks and trains in Missouri since 1865. However, the James' gang, intending only to race their horses against local owners, moved on and soon after tried to rob a bank in Northfield, Minnesota.

Assuming that the legend is true, then attending the fair only days before the 7th of September, 1876 (the date of the Northfield robbery attempt) were; Frank and Jesse

James; Bob, Jim, and Cole Younger; and fellow outlaws, Clell Miller; Charlie Pitts and Bill Chadwell. They all had well-groomed, expensive horses and new pistols, but chose to rob only when advance intelligence indicated large sums of money. Since the plans was to rob a bank in Northfield, Minnesota, the Ogle Fair was merely a little horse racing pleasure, of which Jesse James was known to enjoy. The trip to Oregon had been only a slight bit out of the way for a fellow horse racing enthusiast.

However, back in Northfield, the townspeople were ready to fight back and did, killing and capturing the Younger brothers. Jesse and Frank James escaped. Jesse, having gone into exile under an assumed name, was known to continue racing his fast horse, Red Fox, winning many events in the Nashville Tennessee area.

One of the first major entrepreneurs of harness racing in Ogle County was the Illinois supreme court judge, James H. Cartwright. Judge Cartwright (1842-1924) established the Springvale Stock Farm in the year of 1878. The farm was located just north of the fairgrounds in Oregon. The judge was recognized as a leading authority on the pedigree of trotting horses, and his farm was totally dedicated to harness racing. A stallion of note, bought by Judge Cartwright in 1879, was Kensett, a son of a number of good trotters and producing many dams. The world's champion pacing mare, Citation, foaled in 1899, was his best racing horse. Citation tied the world record for pacing mares of 2:01 3/4 on September 23, 1908, while racing on the grand circuit in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1895, gambling at the Ogle Fair was permitted but became frowned upon and soon after was stopped. Nevertheless, people in this era around the turn of the century continued coming by horseback and wagon, often bringing their own food, spending the entire day and having a great time.

The Ogle County Fair attempted to take another step forward in the 1930's, when its promoter, E.D. Landers, decided to have what may have been the first night-lighted race track in the country. There was no race wagering, but admission was only a dollar. Although purses ranged from only \$100 to \$200 at the time, expenses could not be met, and they foreclosed on the owners. A group of stockholders paid \$11,689.39 to buy the fairgrounds, a 40 acre site, and have been the controllers ever since, operating without the aid of lights.

One of the early names in harness racing at the Ogle fairgrounds is one we still recognize today; Burright. Ernest Burright managed the farm of Judge Cartwright and went on to do some training and driving on his own. His brother, Forest Burright, also was in the harness training business. Forest married Neva, who was one of the first female harness drivers, affectionately known as "Grandma Burright," racing well into her 70's, Neva's favorite horse was Luckyette, a trotter that still holds the track record of 2:06.3 set in 1943 at Morrison, Illinois, a town not far from Oregon.

Ernest Burrigh's son, Harry Burrigh, practically grew up right on the Ogle fairgrounds. After beginning his harness racing career in Oregon, Harry went on to Maywood Park, becoming the meet-leading, race-winning driver there during meets in the years of '49, '51, '56, '57, '59, '67, and '69.

Another old time driver-trainer was Leo Hop Colson, who, at one time, also worked as a trainer for Judge Cartwright. Leo served as the superintendent of speed at the Oregon track for many years. Leo owned and trained Pearl Harbor, who, a three-year-old filly, took the track record for trotters at Oregon, in 2:05.1. Omer Amundsen, an excellent reinsman, drove Pearl Harbor for Leo Colson that afternoon in 1944. Bought as a yearling for \$150 in Lexington, Leo sold Pearl Harbor for \$8,000 to Col. E.J. Baker, owner of the world's champion, legendary trotter, Greyhound.

Greyhound, the world's fastest trotter, having set 25 world records before retiring in 1940, was the highlight of the 1944 fair as his appearance lured in quite a crowd. Doc Flannery, of Maple Park, Illinois, took care of Greyhound during his retirement, and drove him that afternoon in an exhibition half-mile to the delight of an excited crowd.

In 1954, a pacing stallion named Brook King fell down in the first heat but came back to capture the second mile event in a record-breaking 2:05.2. Driving that afternoon was William C. Carney for owner Glen Bice of Galesburg.

Today there are about 50 horses in training at the Ogle fairgrounds under the names of about a dozen trainers. Some of those trainers are; Ken Gearhart, who trained the trotter Secret Session, with lifetime earnings of \$65,000 and a 2:02.4 record, Paul Rosenbalm, who had the good pacer Fury Day, a descendant of the champion mare (of previous mention) Citation, Gerald Chasm, Marty Pravadica, Gerald Anderson, and Jim and Billie Henry.

Laverne Baker, the superintendent of speed for the last six years at the fair, also operates a small breeding farm, which includes the stud, Chief Red, a 1:59.2 record, whose first colt, the 2-year-old Jako, won in Chicago in a time of 2:05.3f and the trotting stud, Cool Speed, whose oldest foals are yearlings. Many thanks goes out to Laverne for helping compile much of the information in this article.

Additional attractions at the fair will include rides and amusements, food and side show stands, fair queen contest, tractor pull, mud wrestlers, livestock, grain and garden exhibits, along with the popular demolition derby. After a general admission of \$4.00, the rides and grandstand are free, with the racing program obtainable for 50 cents. Senior citizens are admitted for \$2.00.

This year, the September 5th and 6th dates represent the final stop on the Mid-Western Illinois Racing Association calendar, with two top purses of an estimated \$8,000 each to be divided in the 2-year-old pacing and 30-year-old trotting events. If you're in the mood for a bit

(Note: Al Brodsky photos not available.) Permission for reprint obtained from editor Chas. Leininger, ed. *Il Standardbred*.

of nostalgic, county fair harness racing this Labor Day weekend, then come out to the Ogle County fairgrounds and relive some of the memories of a growing nation and growing sport.

These horse stalls and horses owe their existence to people like the Larry Blume family who year round attend to the rigors of horse training with its endless harness and sulky repairs, veterinarian bills, and blacksmithing sessions.

Upon entering a horse barn there is an immediate recognition of its inhabitants as ones nose registers the



(Photo by Beth Simeone)

peculiar but pleasant odor of horse sweat, liniment, wool cooling blankets, and well oiled harness. This olfactory experience brings people back to the horse barns again and again to renew past memories.

The last harness races were said to be held in 1985 with the following year dedicated to pickup trucks on giant balloon wheels, daredevil drivers through hoops of fire, and dozens of battered souped up cars that wrecked each other in the Demolition Derby. The grandstand was



March, 1987—Jogging a colt on an early Sunday morning. Daily tedious work fit only for those passionate enough to endure the elements. This young man works his horse in blind faith not knowing whether it will ever race again on this track. (Photo by Beth Simeone)

strained to its weight limit with all the eager fans thirsty as ancient Romans come to watch the gladiators exterminate each other.

And yet rumor has it that the harness races may return and once again the green young trotters and pacers will pound the track to gain experience before moving on to the cold blooded competition of professional racing. With them will go the newly confident drivers and trainers who owe much of their knowledge to historical county tracks such as this.

What cannot return to this tradition is the annual written expose by E. D. Landers that praised, admonished, promoted, and took to task anyone not putting forth their efforts to make each annual Ogle County Fair the best yet.

Mr. Landers, never noted for his reticence, wielded a sharp tongue and swift pen for multiple decades. For appreciative readers, his annual litany lives on in the bound copies of the Republican Reporter in the historical section of the Oregon Public Library.

Of grave concern is that this most encompassing history of Oregon that extends into every facet of the community's fibre, is rapidly deteriorating into brittle, yellowed pages and will soon be lost to the next generation. No one historical text can begin to capture the important weekly life threads of this paper. If it is lost, all that will remain are fragmented recollections that will die with this generation because the following one will only understand videos and "Ernie didn't do videos. . . ."



Aerial View—129th Ogle County Fair—1984 (Photo Courtesy of Ken Gearhart)

This section compiled and written by Beth (Baker) Simeone. No biographical information provided.

Military



PARADE OF THE SEASONS

*Autumn with her hazy smile
Paints her trees in artist style.
Then winter comes with winds that blow
Autumn leaves beneath the snow.*

*Trees and flowers fall sound asleep
As winter stars their vigil keep
Till strong March wind and April rain
Tell the earth it's spring again.*

*Loveliness comes to stem and bouc̄h
As earth awaits the hoe and plow
And summer moves through petal sheen
In robes of delicate rose and green.*

by Edith Andrew Burchell from "Pink Orchids"

This record of some of the history of Oregon Citizens who served in the military, was supposed to be made up from the information sent in when the Sesquicentennial Committee asked for it. The response was not that great. There was no information sent in from the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts and very little from World War II. I did some research and tried to cover each conflict and listed some of the people who served, and points of interest. There is no possible way to list or mention all who served

and those who lost their lives for two reasons: one—there are no complete records available that can be secured on people who served, except maybe during the Civil War. Second—space was not available in the book. A separate book could be written if a person conducted a survey and could take the time to research. I hope the information I have provided is of interest to all and I apologize if I omitted someone who lost their loved ones.

John Berger

This is some of the history of Oregon and her part played in the different military conflicts which affected our great country. When you check records and history, many of the facts are listed for Ogle County as well as the town of Oregon. This is partly because of Oregon being the County Seat.

CIVIL WAR

In the Civil War a total of 2445 men served in the Union Army from Ogle County. This was approximately 10% of the total population. A side note is that this was 64 short of the total of 2509 requested by the Army. Of this total 160 were from Oregon. Ten were killed in battle or died of wounds, one died in Andersonville Prison in Georgia, one died in Florence, South Carolina Prison, and many were mustered out before the end of the war due to disability from wounds or other injuries.

The North or "United States" provided a total of 2,778,304 men; 359,528 died or were killed. It is ironic that disease and accidents accounted for about two-thirds

of the fatalities and only one-third was killed in actual combat.

A native of Ogle County, Sergeant Edward B. Spalding is probably the only winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War. He was in Company E 52nd. Illinois Infantry. Spalding received the medal for action at Pittsburg Landing in Tennessee April 6, 1862. This was part of the campaign for Shiloh, Tennessee under the leadership of U.S. Grant, Commanding General. Spalding's citation stated "Although twice wounded, and thereby crippled for life, he remained fighting in open ground to the close of the battle".

Because the Civil War was fought primarily with regiments recruited from the individual states, most regiments were identified by their state and number in the order in which they were mustered into federal service.

From the very beginning Ogle County men responded to the call for troops issued by President Lincoln. Among those who responded to the first call for 75,000 troops for 90 days were the men of the Seventh Illinois Infantry Regiment, the first infantry unit to be recruited from Illinois. The previous six regiments all saw service in the Mexican War, along with the First Illinois Cavalry Regiment.

Ogle county men served in Company A and Company C of this first Illinois regiment in the Civil War. They also served in Companies A and F of the Eighth Illinois Infantry Regiment, in Company D of the Ninth Illinois, in Company D of the Eleventh Illinois, and in many of the regiments that were recruited as the war progressed.

Ogle County men served in a total of 43 Illinois infantry regiments and in every cavalry regiment except the Fifth, Sixth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Fifteenth. In addition, Ogle County men served in four batteries of each of the First and Second Illinois Light Artillery, furnishing 40 men for Battery G of the Second.

Fifteenth Illinois Volunteers

Ogle County first felt the real impact of the war in May, 1861, when the Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment was organized at Freeport and mustered into federal service on May 24. The unit was known as the Fifteenth Regiment Infantry Illinois Volunteers.

This was the first three year regiment recruited in Illinois; previous enlistments had been primarily for 90 days service.

Company H included 105 men from Ogle County, almost the entire company. County men also served in Companies B, C, and I.

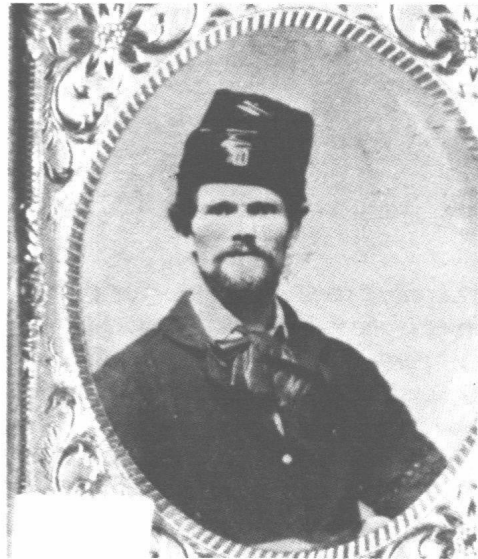
Later, when the Fifteenth Illinois was merged with the Fourteenth Illinois and then reorganized into a new Fifteenth Illinois, Ogle County men were found on the muster rolls of Companies A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and K. Company F included 82 men from the county.

The stories of the Fifteenth Illinois, and a few other regiments which had large numbers of county men, are typical of the stories of many Civil War regiments. Full strength of a regiment when it was mustered into federal service was theoretically 1,000 men. Many regiments had less than full strength to begin with; most if not all regiments had far less than full strength when the regiments were disbanded.

Illinois soldiers, like all other soldiers in the Civil War, suffered terribly from illness, which accounted for more than two-thirds of the fatalities in the war. One-third came from combat. Regiments which began with 800 to 1,000 men were down to 200 to 300 by the end of the war. Replacements were hard to come by for the veteran regiments since most new recruits went into new regi-

ments, often recruited by prominent local people who were looking for command positions.

Many of the Illinois regiments in which Ogle County men served saw meritorious action in combat all the way from the eastern seaboard to the great plains. Ogle County men were in many of the major campaigns, particularly of the Army of the Cumberland and the Army of the Tennessee. A number were killed or died of wounds or diseases. Others were captured and imprisoned in infamous places like Andersonville.



John Kelley, Civil War Soldier from Oregon who was a confederate prisoner at Andersonville.

The original Fifteenth Illinois was at Shiloh in April, 1862. Shiloh was one of the bloodiest campaigns of the war and certainly included the worst fighting that the Americans had ever seen up to that time. Worse was still to come, but for the men of the Fifteenth Illinois and other regiments at Shiloh, it was bad enough.

In the fighting at Pittsburgh Landing, the regiment lost 252 officers and men, killed and wounded, approximately one-fourth of their full strength. More were lost at Corinth.

At Bolivar, Mississippi, approximately 50 men were casualties. Then the regiment was in the siege of Vicksburg, eventually moved east to Georgia for the Atlanta campaign, and served under Major General William Tecumseh Sherman in the march to the sea across the heart of Georgia.

Civil War Enlistment System

One of the tragic aspects of the Civil War enlistment system was that most regiments were enlisted from the same community or county, or from neighboring or adjoining counties. It meant that most or all of the men in a single regiment, or company, could be from the same city or town or county.

One advantage of the system was that the men, on entering the army and the strangeness and loneliness that

accompanied army life, were with friends from civilian days. They could share news from home; they had shared background experiences; and they knew how others in the unit felt and thought.

But this also meant that when a regiment was in the thick of the action, taking many casualties, an entire town or city or county could suffer terrible losses.

The extreme example of this was at Gettysburg, July 1-4, 1863, when the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment lost 82 percent of its active participants in killed and wounded, with 215 casualties out of 262 participants.

Among the 50 Union regiments sustaining the largest percentage of men killed or suffering wounds which proved mortal were four Illinois regiments, the Ninety-Third, the Thirty-Sixth, the Ninth, and the Fifty-Fifth Illinois. Men from Ogle County served in the Ninth and the Fifty-Fifth Illinois, both of which lost 14 percent of their total enrollment from battlefield deaths and wounds. This does not include the large percentage of men who died of disease and in accidents, a figure generally double that of battlefield fatalities. Nor does it include the large number of men whose wounds were to incapacitate them for the rest of their lives.

Since in most small communities almost all of the 17 and 18 year-olds served in the army by the end of the war, and since each community contributed proportionately large numbers of men to the war effort, it meant that every community knew the pain of death and the apprehension that came with every report of a major engagement.

On the Home Front

The newspapers would carry the lists of casualties, often the first news which a family would have of a loved one. After every battle the casualties lists were carefully read by everyone who might have a man engaged in the action.

The effect of the war effort was felt by those on the home front as well as those in the armed forces. Old men, young boys, and the women did much of the work in the factories, in stores, and on farms. With many of the enlistment calls coming in the spring, mid-summer, and early fall, it meant that the men were leaving when the crops were ready to be planted, when the hay was ready for cutting, when the harvest was ready to be gathered.

Then it was up to those who were left behind to see that the work was completed, with the men who were still at home helping finish the work of the men who left for the army.

Few families went unscathed by the war. Most suffered losses in killed, wounded, and captured; many of the men who came back before the war was over were disabled for the rest of their lives. No county, no community, went untouched by the grim horror of war.

People Supported the War Effort

The people, too, were behind the war effort in Ogle County. Voluntary contributions as well as taxes were

given to help finance the war. The county repeatedly added to the funds to be given as enlistment bounties and as support for the soldiers' families. The total expenditure for the county was \$120,070.

According to some old records Flagg, Buffalo, and Scott Townships each provided about \$11,000 in funds while White Rock added another \$8,500. Taking all the townships together, on the basis of the known contributions, the total for the townships given in support of the war was approximately \$100,000, bringing the total cost of the war to the people of Ogle County to about \$225,000.

Discounting the hyperbole which nineteenth century writers often used in their descriptions, and recognizing that there were those in the northern states whose support of the war effort ranged from lukewarm support to cold opposition, and realizing that there were those in Ogle County whose support of the war effort was less than enthusiastic, it is still a tribute to the county that the support of the national government and the cause of the Union which the people of the county gave was above and beyond what many similar counties did.

When counties have been applauded for contributing 10 percent of their population for the military during the four years of war the contribution of Ogle County of half-again that many stands out as a remarkable record.

The men of Ogle County, many of whom hated war, many of whom discovered that much of army life is boredom and homesickness, many of whom discovered that the greatest enemy was not the enemies' bullets and shells, but disease, served well in the cause of preserving the Union. And the flowery tribute of a century ago is still valid in saluting the determination and courage of those who followed the flag, as the soldiers literally did in the Civil War, and those who gave them support at home.

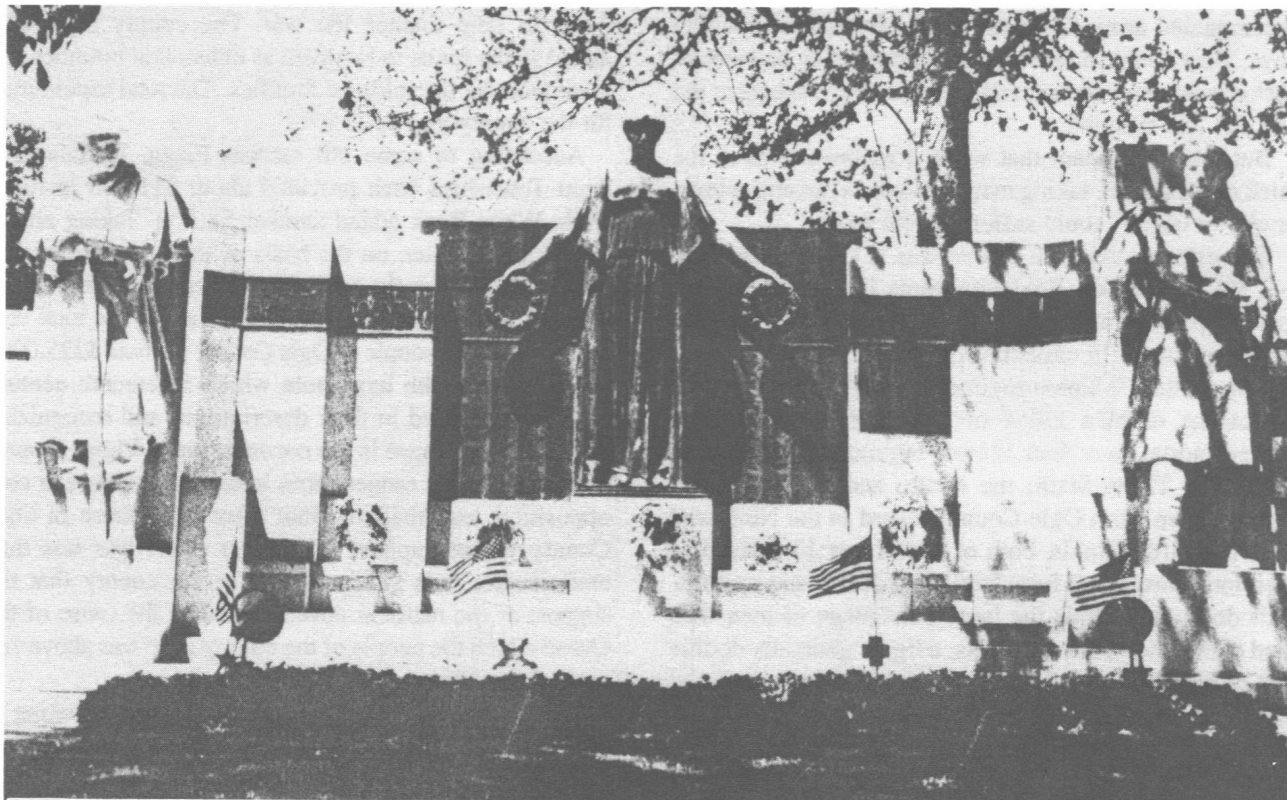
Soldier's Monument

The monument on the courthouse lawn also serves as a permanent record of the contribution of the men of Ogle County in the Civil War.

Created by famed sculptor Lorado Taft, in conjunction with Pond and Pond, Architects, the monument was authorized on February 8, 1911, by the Ogle County Board. It was erected in 1916 and dedicated on September 4 of that year. The committee in charge of its construction included A.M. Johnson, chairman, L.C. Sprecher, and Urias Brantner.

"To Her Brave Defenders, America's External Gratitude" is carved into the back of the monument. On the front are the words "Ogle County Honors Her Sons."

In the center of the monument stands Liberty, representing the United States. At Liberty's left, the north end of the monument, is the figure of a cavalryman, fully equipped, clothed in overcoat and cape. At Liberty's right, the south end of the monument, is the figure of an infantryman, also equipped to the kepi on his head. Together they represent all who fought to preserve the Union in the great struggle between the states.



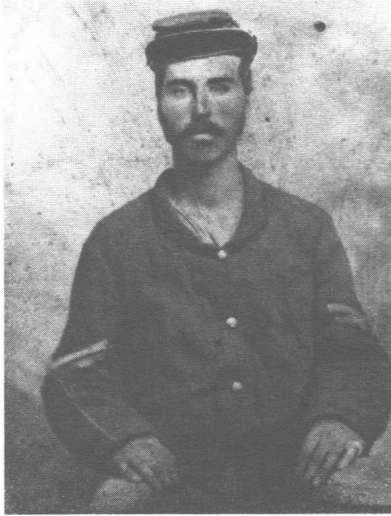
"Soldiers' Monument" by Lorado Taft, on the Ogle County courthouse square.

The following is a list of the regiments, and companies, in which Ogle County residents served in the Civil War.

Infantry

- Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies A, C.
- Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies A, F.
- Ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company D
- Eleventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company E
- Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company B
- Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies A, C, G.
- Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies B, C, H, I
- Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Reorganized—Companies A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K
- Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company G
- Eighteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies D, F, K
- Twenty-Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies C, G
- Twenty-Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company B
- Twenty-Ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company E
- Thirty-Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K
- Thirty-Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies F, G
- Thirty-Ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company D
- Forty-Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company G
- Forty-Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies F, G, K
- Forty-Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies A, C, D, E, F, H, I
- Fifty-First Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies A, D
- Fifty-Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies A, C, D, E, K
- Fifty-Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company D
- Fifty-Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company C
- Fifty-Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies B, C, H
- Fifty-Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies B, C, I
- Sixty-Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Company F
- Sixty-Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies A, B, C
- Sixth-Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Companies A, I, K

Sixty-Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—
Companies A, C, H
Sixty-Ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—Com-
panies C, D, H, K
Seventy-First Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—
Company C
Seventy-Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—
Company H
Seventy-Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—
Companies C, E, F, G, K



J. G. Waldie, Co. G. Seventy-Fourth Illinois Volunteers. Enlisted at Oregon, Illinois, August 11, 1862, served to June 10, 1865.

Seventy-Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—
Companies E, F, G, H
Ninety-Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment—
Companies B, D, E, F, H, K
One-Hundred Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regi-
ment—Companies F, K
One-Hundred Twenty-Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry
Regiment—Company B
One-Hundred Thirty-Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry
Regiment—Companies F, G
One-Hundred Fortieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regi-
ment—Companies D, H, I
One-Hundred Forty-Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry
Regiment—Companies D, E, G, I
One-Hundred Forty-Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry
Regiment—Company C
One-Hundred Fifty-Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regi-
ment—Companies A, D, G, I
One-Hundred Fifty-Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regi-
ment—Companies E, G, K

Cavalry

Second Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Company
A
Third Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Companies
G, H, I, K



L. Dickerman, 1861. Age 16. Co. A. Thirty-Third Illinois Vet., Vol. Infantry, Aug. 21, 1861, to Oct. 3, 1865.

Fourth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Companies
B, D, E, F, M
Seventh Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Compa-
nies B, C, F, G, I, L, M
Eighth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Companies
A, E, I, L, M
Ninth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Company I
Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Compa-
nies A, C, K, L
Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Com-
pany F
Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Com-
panies A, C, D, E, I, K, L
Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Compa-
nies I, L
Seventeenth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment—Com-
panies G, K, M

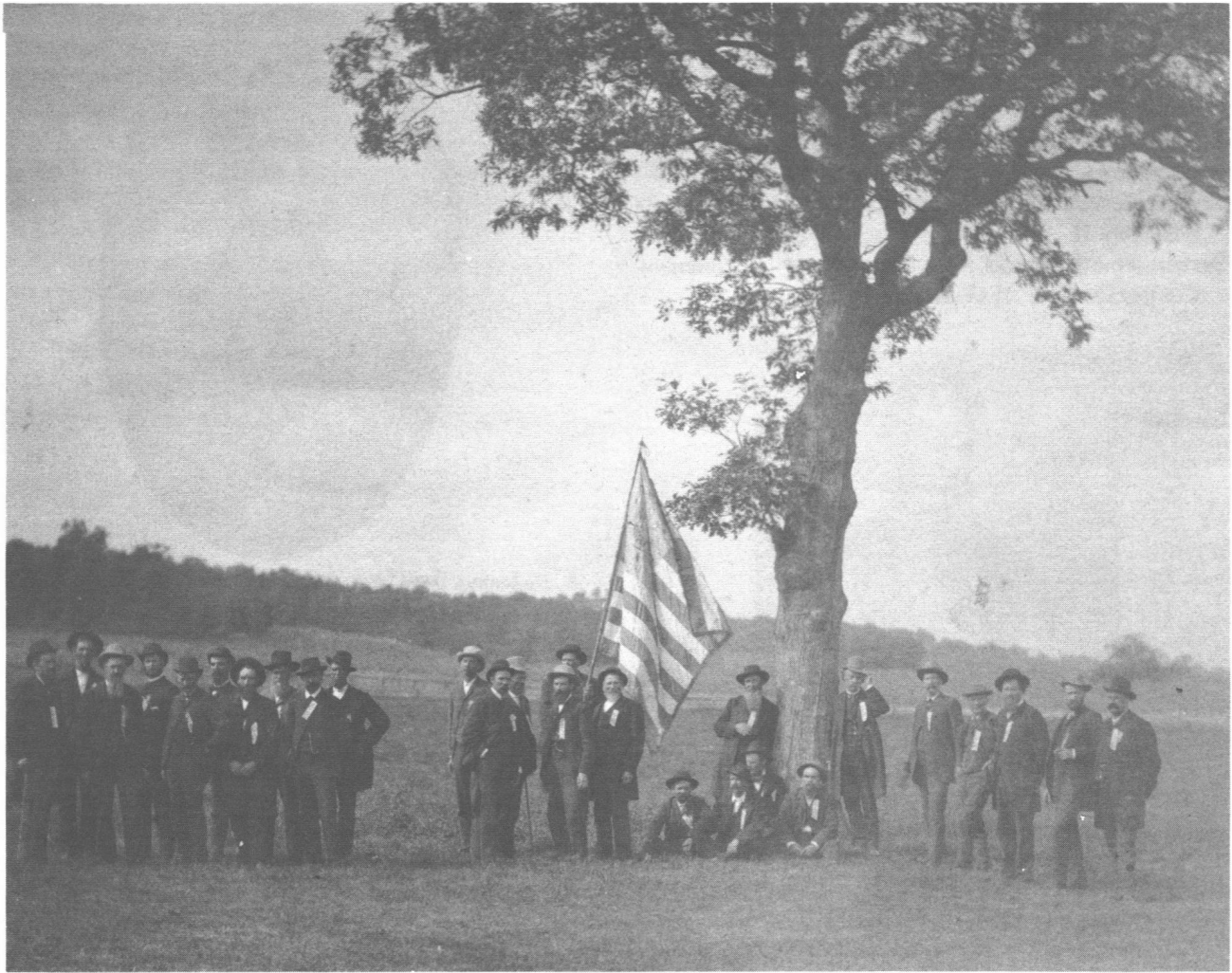
Artillery

First Illinois Volunteer Artillery Regiment—Batteries C,
F, K, L
Second Illinois Volunteer Artillery Regiment—Batteries
F, G, K, L

At one time the names of all the Civil War veterans decorated the third floor of the courthouse when that third floor area was used as a meeting place for veteran members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

With great care and accuracy, someone, or several someones, painted the names on the walls, identifying each man by the unit to which he belonged.

All that is gone now, however, as the area has been converted into offices and the walls are painted over. Photographs of each wall remain in the county clerk's office with a permanent record of the men who served in the Union army.



92nd Company B, Illinois Volunteers of Civil War. (Courtesy E.G. Landers)

WORLD WAR I

With the advent of World War I, state designations for regiments disappeared. They were replaced by national regimental numbers, thereby making it difficult to trace the activities of other than individuals. Two of those individuals were Shirley Tilton and Ralyn Hill. Shirley Tilton was the only Oregon serviceman who was killed in action. The local American Legion Post adopted his name for their post. Ralyn Hill was the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The following article describes in detail the funeral ceremony held for Shirley Tilton on October 16, 1921. He was killed on November 5, 1918, and was originally buried in a cemetery in Romagne, France.

The following information courtesy Richard Head:

OREGON SOLDIER LAID TO REST SUNDAY

SERVICE HELD FROM COURT HOUSE LAWN

Services in charge of Shirley Tilton Post American Legion. Remains conveyed to Washington Grove Cemetery for interment.

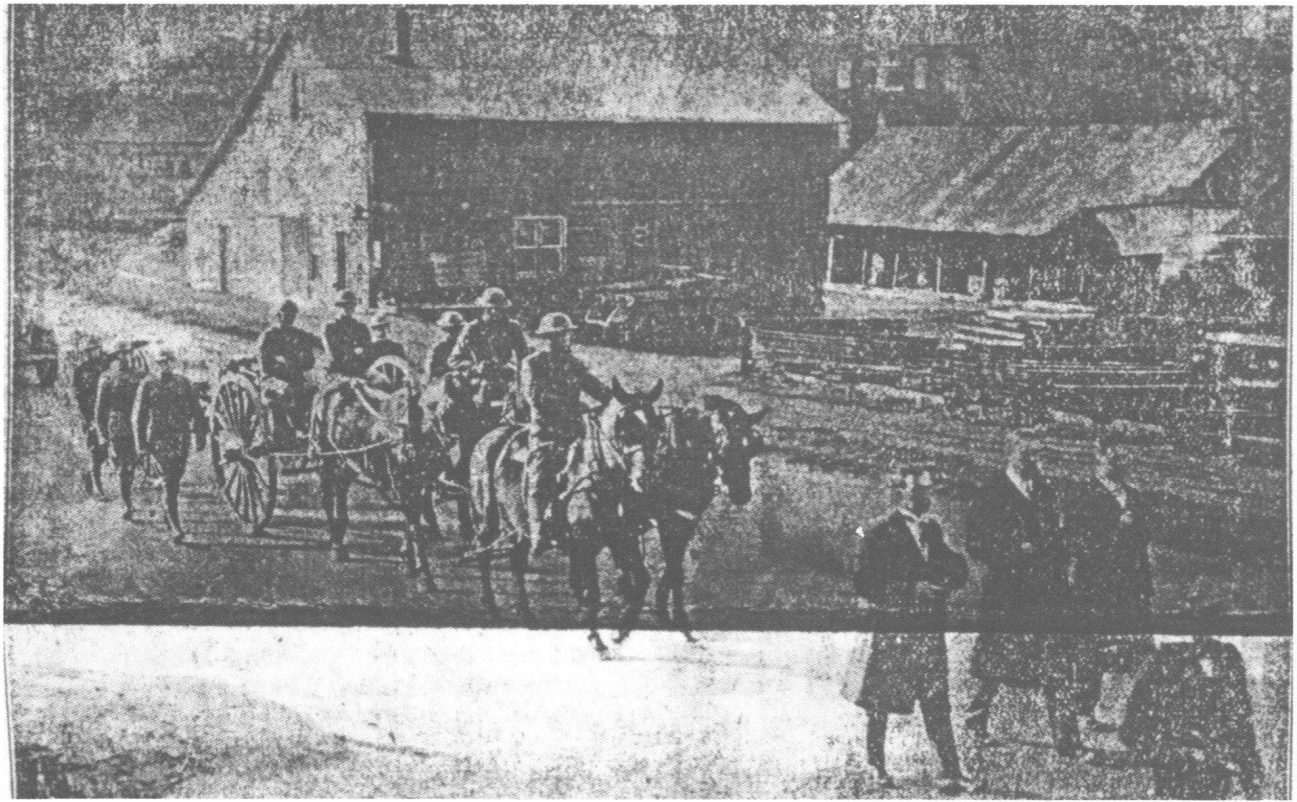
Probably the largest military funeral ever held in Ogle County was that of Shirley Tilton, conducted from the Court House lawn last Sunday afternoon, close to 3,000 people being present. The service was in charge of Shirley Tilton Post, American Legion of Oregon, all arrangements having been in charge of Legion members. Ex-service men to the number of close to one hundred marched to the home of the deceased and escorted the remains to the Court House Square. The remains were transferred on a caisson which the American Legion Post secured from the Savanna Proving Grounds. The caisson was drawn by four black horses, and on it rested the flag draped casket.

The services at the Court House square were impressive, beginning with a prayer by Rev. Freeman, after which Rev. Williams of the Presbyterian church delivered the funeral sermon. The Oregon ministers' quartette and Mrs. Arthur J. Brunner sang. The pallbearers were ex-service men and included E.A. Birkenback, Evert Jacobs, B.C. O'Brien, Harold Seas, Frank Mammenga and Paul Bergner. John Waldie Sr., and C.W. Swanson acted as color bearers, and Elmer Kesselring and Claude Arbogast as color guards.

At the conclusion of the service, the remains were escorted through the business section of the city to the west end of the wagon bridge by the American Legion, Ladies' Auxiliary, G.A.R., W.R.C., school children and citizens, the Oregon American Legion Band heading the column.

From there they were transported to Washington Grove Cemetery for interment, 187 automobiles being required to carry the sorrowing relatives and friends to the cemetery.

The service at the grave was in charge of the American Legion, Adjutant L.L. Ogle reading the ritual service. As the remains were lowered to the grave a firing squad under charge of Lieutenant Robert Etnyre gave the last salute, and Bugler Delos Andrew sounded taps.



View of Funeral Cortege as it Neared the Wagon Bridge (Courtesy Richard Head)

Shirley Tilton enlisted in the army on April 27, 1918, and was killed in action November 5, 1918, scarcely a week prior to the signing of the armistice. He was the only Oregon boy who met death in action. He was a member of Co. D., 355th Infantry, 89th Division. At the time of his death, burial was made in a cemetery at Romaigne, France.

The deceased was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Warden D. Tilton of Oregon. He was born in Pine Rock Township, Ogle County, Illinois, and at the time of his enlistment had been a resident of Oregon for about fifteen years.

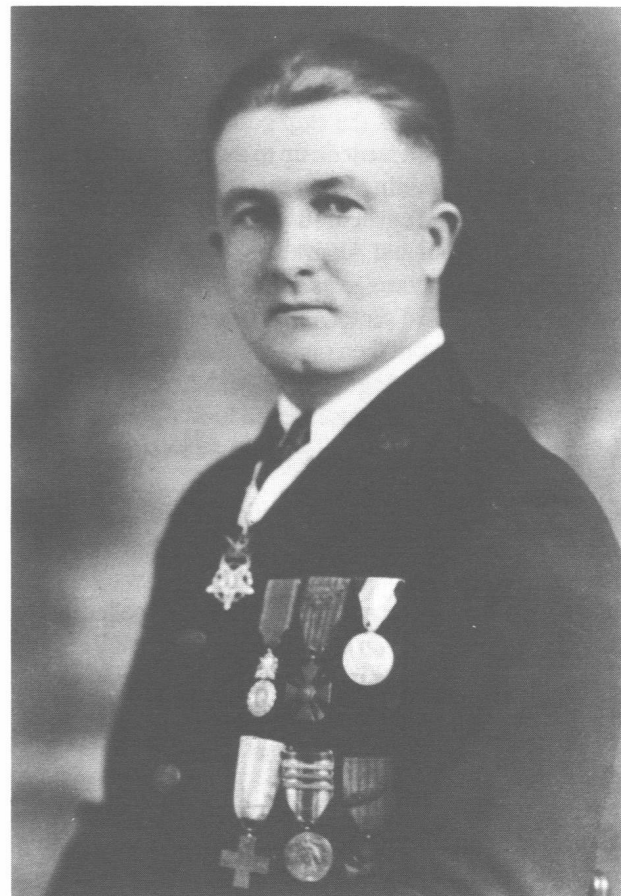
The vast throng of sorrowing relatives and friends who gathered on Sunday last to pay tribute to this boy who made the supreme sacrifice for his country, bore mute evidence of the regard and respect in which the deceased was held.

To the members of Shirley Tilton Post, American Legion, praise is due for the splendid manner in which they rallied to the occasion and conducted the service for this fallen comrade. Each member did his bit, to the best of his ability.

Among those in attendance were Ex-Governor and Mrs. Frank O. Lowden, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Clarkson, Mr. and Mrs. William Heckman, and many other prominent people, all of whom pronounced it the most fitting tribute to a departed hero it had ever been their privilege to attend.

The following is an article taken from a publication called Viewpoint, dated 1976. This news item fits the times and the backgrounds of most of the young men who served from the Oregon area. The difference being that Mr. Hill received the "Congressional Medal of Honor".

I WAS BORN about three miles south of Lindenwood, Illinois on May 6, 1899. I didn't know the township, but my granddad, Ed Hurd, lived about two miles farther in an area called Stingy Slough. A family named Carpenter



Ralyn Hill, 1929. (Courtesy Warren Shetter)

lived near us. I lived there for some time, then my folks moved to Minnesota where my dad ran a big summer home for the Great Northern Railroad. Later he worked for the railroad as a bridge builder. He was gone for different lengths of time, from a month to three months. We lived in St. Cloud, Minnesota till I was nine or ten years old. Then we moved back to Illinois. We finally landed over at Shirland and from there we moved to a farm north of Oregon.

Our entertainment in those early days were swimming and fishing in the summer and skating and sledding in the winter. I completed up to a year and one-half of high school before I went into the army in 1917. There was a circus coming to Rockford, and it was the middle of the harvest season. My dad told me that as soon as we got done cutting the oats I could go. Boy, I worked late that evening! We got up pretty early the next morning and caught the train from Byron to Davis Junction and then to Rockford. We went to the circus and came back by the armory. One of my friends took me up to the captain and we told him we wanted to enlist. He wouldn't swear me in because I wasn't eighteen yet, and didn't have my parents consent. But as we started to leave, another officer told me to come back that night and he would enlist us. That's what we did. Then I was scared to death and didn't know what to do. But my mother called me after about three days and understood what I had done. So that was the beginning of my army life.

We went to Texas and took our training there. Before a year's service was up we were headed for France. I had been promoted to Corporal by this time. I spent my eighteenth birthday on the ship going over and we landed at Brest, France. We went on up to the front where we took a little combat training with the British and Australian troops. About the Fourth of July, 33rd Division of Illinois, with a few British and Australian soldiers sprinkled into each platoon to encourage us and to give us moral support, moved into the Elbe sector. This was my first battle and a good skirmish. From then on it was a series, fifteen in all, of battles at Meuse, Argonne, St. Meheile and others. We were used regularly because we did have a good outfit. We had been trained pretty well. When we were on the front, we had hot food every night.

In August, 1918, we were stationed along the Meuse River. It was daylight and I was on duty. There was just a few of us on duty in the daytime but all of us usually had night duty. I heard machine gun fire and looked up and saw eight or ten German planes chasing a French observation plane. They kept circling around him trying to force him down. This French plane wasn't armed, as it was just an observation plane. They finally chased him down to about one-hundred feet from the ground. Apparently, a burst of gunfire had killed the pilot and the plane crashed. I was watching all this and it was like a hawk circling a rabbit. I realized what was happening, but in a case of a plane crash like this you make up your mind so quick, you don't think about the consequences. You know that it is

your duty to see if there was anybody else in that plane. I grabbed my rifle and crossed the railroad bridge over the river. It was a bridge that had been pretty well shot up but you could still cross it. By then I was close enough to see the dead pilot, but the observer was injured and still alive. I pulled him out, he was conscious and insisted on bringing along his briefcase. After we got away from the plane a little bit, the Germans, who were in the little town of Dannevoux, could see me. Apparently they had not noticed me upon my approach to the downed aircraft. As I started half-carrying and half-dragging the injured man, they opened up with machine guns. I got him back across the bridge and into the trenches without being hit at all. He was then sent back to our headquarters hospital on a stretcher. I later tried to find out who he was, but I was never able to get in touch with him.

I really think we had adequate training in the States. I'm sure there were some who did not have the same nine months training we had. World War I was a justifiable war, but I don't think the Viet Nam or Korean wars were. I don't see how those guys went through it. In our war, we knew who we were shooting at—there were no civilians around to get in the way—none! With all the dirty, stinking skull-duggery nowadays, the amount of money spent and lives we have lost, I don't know how the private soldier stood up under it. They get no recognition. When I came back from the service, I felt welcomed and honored, but, of course, after a few years everybody forgets.

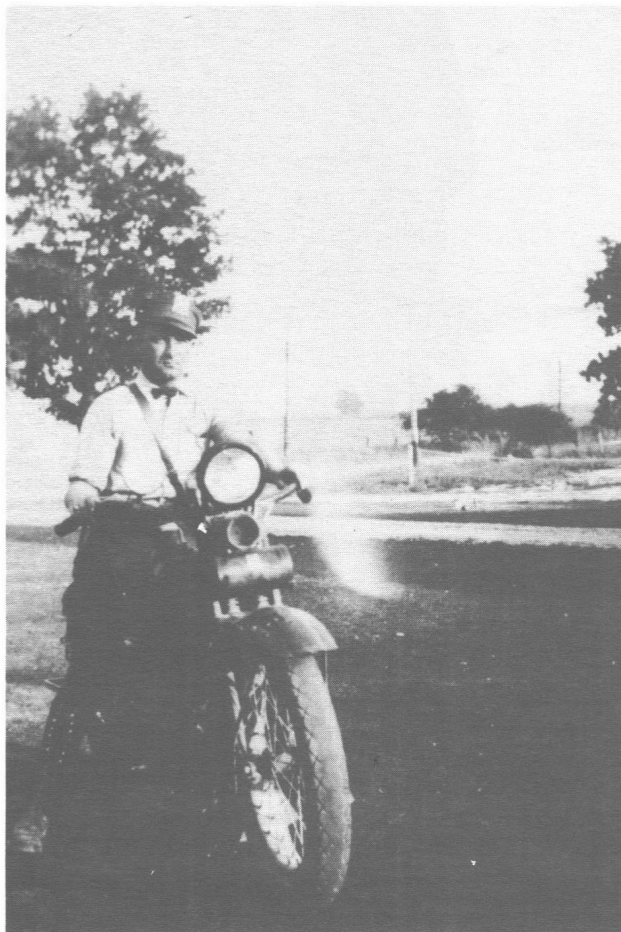
After the war ended, on November the eleventh, 1918, we went up to Luxembourg, a little independent country. We were in the Army of Occupation. After being there for some time, they called for a review of our division just prior to our being shipped home. Meanwhile, orders had come down from headquarters that I had been awarded the highest decoration that the United States could give—THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR. Nobody knew what it was. Finally the day came for General "Black Jack" Pershing to review us, along with King George of England and King Leopold of Belgium, and a lot of other high officials. General Pershing pinned the Medal on me at Eddleburg. That was the name of the town where the review was held. The citation given me read as follows: "To Ralyn Hill, Company H, one-hundred twenty-ninth Infantry, Thirty-third Division, for conspicuous gallantry in intrepidity, above and beyond the call of action, with the enemy near Dannevoux, France, October seventh, 1918. Seeing a French airplane fall out of control and crash on the enemy side of the Meuse River, with its pilot dead, Corporal Hill voluntarily dashed across a foot bridge to the side of the plane's wounded man and taking him upon his back, started back to his lines. During the entire exploit he was subjected to the murderous fire of enemy machine guns and artillery but he successfully accomplished his mission and brought his man to the place of safety, a distance of several hundred yards. His mother is Mrs. Edna Hill, and address is Oregon, Illinois."

Then at Brest, France, I was decorated by Major-General Lejeune, of the Marine Corps, who was the commandant at the port. A French General gave me the French MEDAILLE MILITAIRE and the CROIX DE GUERRE with a palm. After I had been home a while, I was notified that I had been given another Croix de guerre with a palm, also the Italian CROSS OF WAR, the Montenegro SILVER MEDAL, and the U.S. VICTORY MEDAL with the three battle clasps. Generally you get a Distinguished Service Cross, but they withdraw that when you get the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Almost all the occupation troops came home in May of 1919. I was never wounded but I did take a little gas which has given me some problems over the years. There was a big parade in New York when we returned and also in Chicago when the 33rd Division of Illinois came home. I did have seven days leave during my term of service and happened to arrive back to my outfit on the armistice. I was one of the first in the outfit to get a furlough.

To go back a bit, in regard to schooling, I went to Shirland High School for a year and one-half about 1916 and 1917. When we moved to Oregon, I didn't re-enter school, but enlisted in the Army that fall. We lived in Rockvale Township near a man called Doug Camling. After I got home I worked for my dad and different farmers as a hired hand. Then I got married.

Ralyn's first job after he married July 3, 1920 was working for Wallace Heckman on the Blackhawk Estate near the Blackhawk Statue. He later became a motorcycle cop for the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff at that time was a Mr. Dodson. (Courtesy Warren Shetter)



Ralyn Hill, Motorcycle Policeman after he returned. Lived in Oregon; traveled territory between Dixon and Rockford.

HOW PEOPLE OF OREGON REACTED TO WORLD WAR I

Children in school and the adults of Oregon supported our cause in World War I in a positive and dedicated manner. The sale of War Bonds, later to be known as Victory Bonds, in World War II became very popular. An article by Ruby Reynolds, a sophomore in Oregon High School titled "The Spirit of O.H.S." tells the full story of saving and buying twenty-five cent stamps and then turning them into bonds.

THE SPIRIT OF O.H.S. The Sale of War Stamps

by Ruby Reynolds
Sophomore, Oregon High School
Oregon, Illinois

Uncle Sam does not want us all to be soldiers or he does not need us to be General Pershing, Foch or the Food Administrator, Y.M.C.A. Men or Red Cross Nurses; but he does ask each and every one of us to do one thing, and that is to support him loyally. Although there are many ways in which we can do this, perhaps the most

common and yet most needed is buying thrift and war saving stamps.

The thrift stamps are twenty-five cents each. The war saving stamps began at four dollars twelve cents in January and increase one cent each month. When you have obtained sixteen of the smaller stamps, you may exchange them for a large one by paying the extra number of cents.

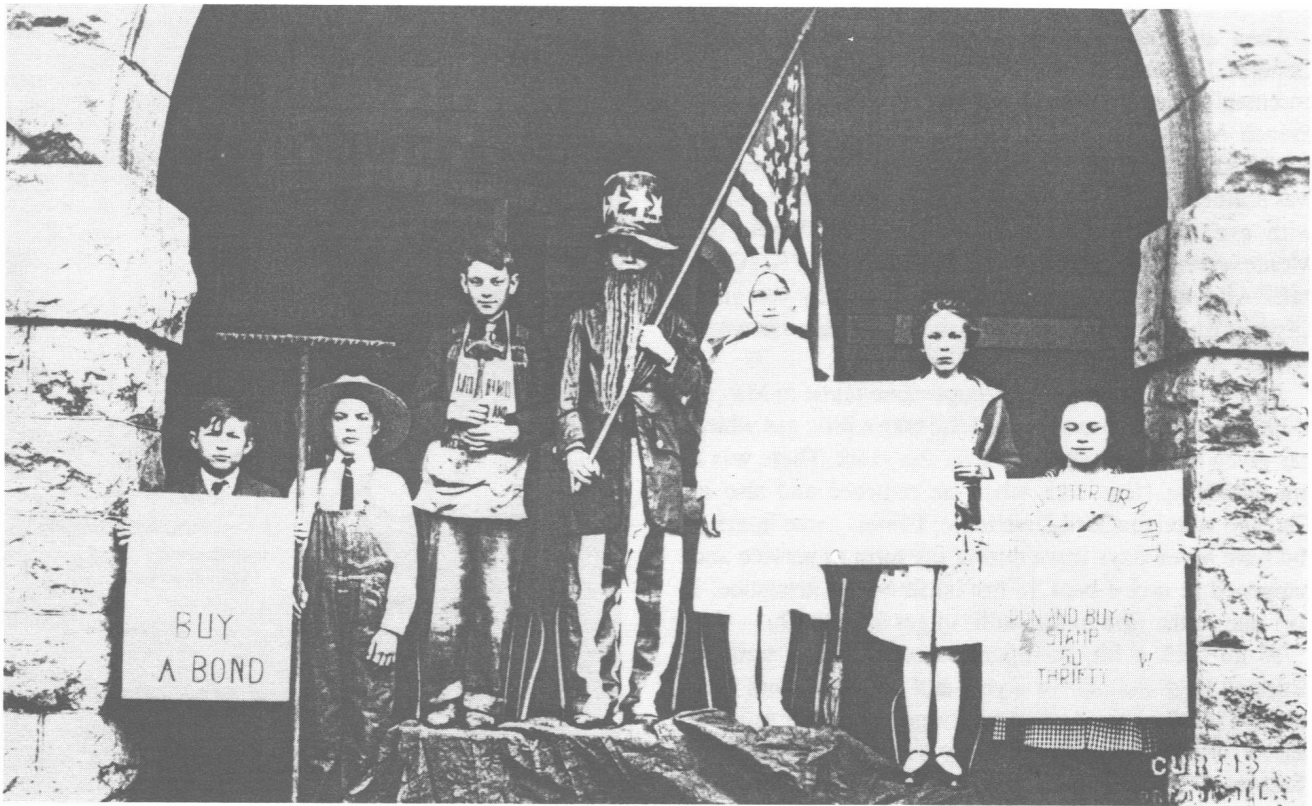
These stamps were placed on sale in Oregon in different places, one of these being the high school.

Posters of different varieties were made to induce us to save our money and buy stamps to help our country win this great war. Every once in a while a pupil would buy one. Suddenly a new spirit arose. We realized that the government really did need our money and that it was for us, that the boys who have gone over there, are risking their lives. We were determined to do our bit and this was the outcome.

"The Juniors Have Gone Over The Top", appeared on the board.

"I expected to see the Freshies go first", says one.

"Well, we're going next anyhow, we'll be the second class to help Uncle Sam", replies the hopeful freshy.



Uncle Sam's Helpers—Uncle Sam, Harold Trenholm; Shipbuilder, Charles Mongan; Farmer, Lyle Taylor; Liberty Bond, Mike Pankowski; War Savings, Edna Trenholm; Food Saver, Helen Hall. (Courtesy Charles Mongan)



U.S. FlagDrill—Hazel Kinn, Etta Lowrey, Lillian Brooke, LaVerne Wernicke, Edna Trenholm, Margaret Boyden, Helen Hall, Beulah Williams, Dorothy Whitmore, Violet Baxter, Eupha Gibson, Ida Hayenga, Helen Beveridge, Eloise Shelly, Eleanor Thomas, Jeanette Rumery. (Courtesy Charles Mongan)

In spite of their willing effort, the sophomores, led by Miss Potter came in unexpectedly. But this did not discourage the other classes, not a bit; they were too patriotic for that. About three minutes after we had “gone over” a spry little freshy hopped to the board and we didn’t need to look to see what was being written—we all knew. We were glad too.

The next morning the professor came in, not with his usual smile, but with a much broader smile and told us that the seniors were over too. We could see that he was proud of his patriots. He told us we were to raise a flag on our schoolhouse in honor of being one hundred percent. Every member of the high school had a thrift stamp or more.

Now, Old Glory floats from our schoolhouse to show our patriotism in helping in this great struggle for freedom.

The good work did not stop here, it went on and is still going. Now, we, the first school in Ogle County, have reached our quota for the whole year. In honor of this,

the pupils and other people of this vicinity brought their cars, which numbered about twenty-five, and the whole school paraded through the streets of Oregon. After one car had taken a group about so far, it came back, unloaded, and loaded up and started off again. In this manner, all the streets in Oregon were paraded. Flags and banners of all kinds were flying from the cars. All the people came out to watch us.

We are not only investing in these savings, but we are trying to get all of the people in the town to invest. Two pupils went together with pledge cards and called at every house in one block, asking them to pledge to buy so many stamps every week or month the remaining part of 1918. We are proud to say that most of the people pledged.

The end of the war marked a big celebration in Oregon as told in an article from the Republican Reporter dated Nov. 9, 1918 retelling the celebration of 1918.

There is a separate plaque on the Soldier’s Monument on the courthouse square listing the World War I veterans.



School Year 1917-1918 Oregon Grade School Sixth Grade. Verified by Thomas Sauer's report card and by Charles Mongan.

Top Row: Left to right Jeannette Rumery, Ida Hayenga, Etta Lowry, Marguerite Boyden, Roy Wilke, Hazel Kinn, Lillian Brooke, Beulah Williams, Violet Baxter

Third Row: Alan Spoor, Lyle Taylor, Charles Mongan, Leo Curtis, LaVerne Wernick, Thomas Sauer, Helen Beveridge, Eupha Gibson

Second Row: Prof. Taylor, Grover Stroh, Edna Becker, Mike Pankowski, Eloise Shelly, Harlan Heller, Martha Elliott, James Tremble, Mary Smith, Ernest Flick, Salome Marshall, Dewey Kinn, Eleanor Thomas

First Row: Beulah Gilbert, "Pete" Jerome, Margaret Jerome, Roger Woodworth, Stella Mammenga, Ben Roe, Mary Sollars, Franklin Lundstrom, Victoria Smoland, Elsie Kinn, Walter Hinkle, Henry Stevens, Margaret Abbott. Sixth Grade 1917-1918, by Thomas S. report Card. Edna Becker graduated from O.H.S. 1908 (Courtesy Charles Mongan)

Armistice Day In Oregon Fifty-Four Years Ago

REPUBLICAN-REPORTER

Oregon, Illinois

November 9, 1972 - Page 5

A crowd soon assembled downtown. A large campfire illuminated the streets and a procession marched to the depot, back up town, and thence through the northern part of the city. Half past six found the crowd breaking up and going home for breakfast.

School children were dismissed early so they could prepare for the costumes they were to wear in the parade. Each class had something different.

At 1:30, the parade started from the school buildings. Some classes went in trucks, some on hayracks, some in automobiles, while a great many walked. The junior class had a goat on which they had a poster saying, "We've got the Kaiser's goat." A wagon at the rear contained a rough box covered with the colors of Germany. This was supposed to be the Kaiser's.

As the parade was going through the main part of town, it passed the hearse. The imaginary Kaiser was in it and on the hearse were the words, "America first, to hell with the Kaiser."

The procession marched through the northern part of town and from there down South Main Street. It went by the condensery where a large crowd joined in. It then came back up town where there was singing and some stunts were performed by the goat already mentioned.

The important part of the afternoon performance was the burning of the imaginary Kaiser and his coffin.

After supper, the crowd marched again, sang songs, and blew horns and whistles. A fire was kindled in the center of the street around which gathered a crowd of people. The burning of two old houses and the calaboose caused much excitement.

Marching was again resumed for some time, after which the people dispersed with happy hearts and tired bodies."

WORLD WAR II

Once again the men and women of Oregon answered the call to defend their country. World War II saw a lot more participation by women. Some of the women who served were Hazel Dale, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Dale (he was pastor of the Lutheran Church). She entered the Women's Army Corp. in 1943. She spent some time at Columbus Army Air Field, Columbus, Mississippi and then served with an air service command in England.

Verna B. Settles, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Settles, enlisted in June, 1943, in the Marines. She spent most of her time as Paris Island Air Station in South Carolina.

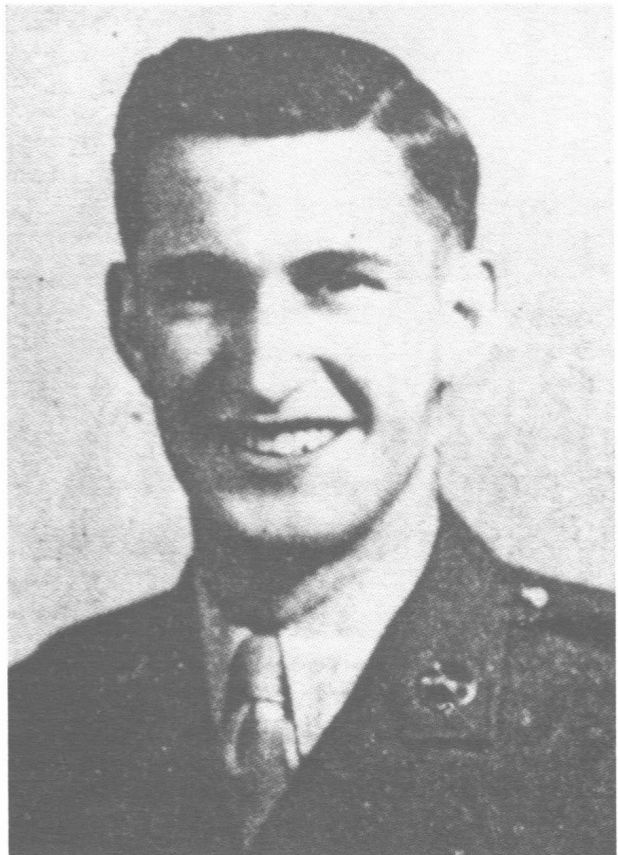
Cecilia Laskos (now Mrs. Howard Mantsch), took her training with the Waves at Hunter College, New York and she then served at Great Lakes Naval Training Center doing laboratory work.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zittle of Oregon had five sons in the service at one time, which was a record as far as we are able to determine. They were T/S Edward L. Zittle in the U.S. Army; James H. Zittle M.O.M.M. 3/c in the Navy doing submarine duty; Joseph W. Zittle, Seaman 1/c in the Navy; Robert Zittle F 2/c in the Navy and Paul Zittle, Seaman 2/c in the Navy.

The Bronze Star Medal is given for heroism in battle and those entitled to wear it are rare indeed, but Mr. & Mrs. P.V. Saur of Oregon had two sons who both received the Bronze Star. First Sergeant Philip C. Saur, received the medal for heroism against the Japanese in the Philippine Liberation Campaign. His brother Joseph W. Saur, received the medal for heroism against the Germans on the Western Front. Another Bronze medal winner was Sgt. Floyd F. Reed.

"Floyd F. Reed, 6001462, First Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 339th Field Artillery Battalion.

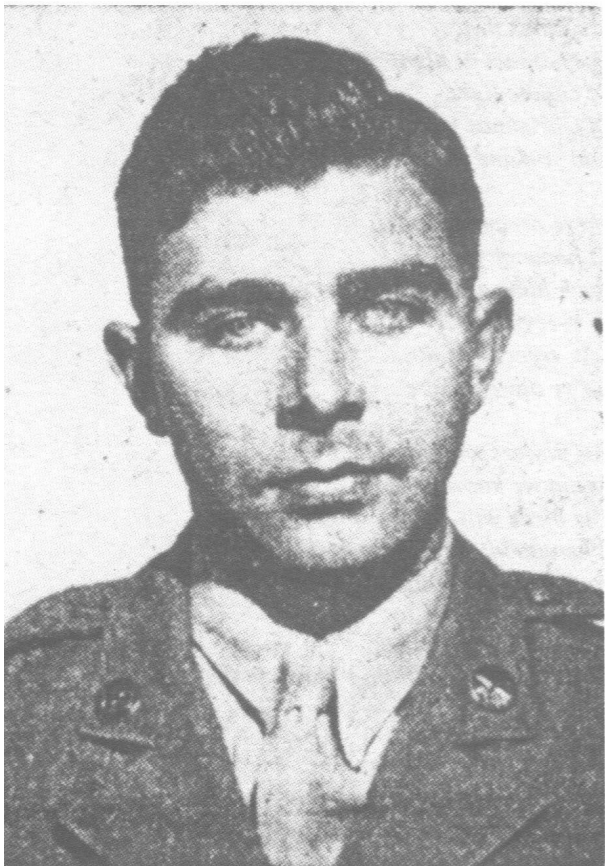
For meritorious service in combat from 7 March 1944, to January 1945, in Italy. Sergeant Reed, as Battalion Communication Chief, performed his duties with great distinction. He directed and coordinated communications between this headquarters, the firing batteries and the next higher



Sgt. Joseph W. Saur (Courtesy John Leary)



First Sgt. Phillip C. Saur (Courtesy John Leary)



First Sgt. Floyd F. Reed (Courtesy John Leary)

headquarters. Though difficulties increased, particularly in the phase of rapid movement in the drive on Rome, Sergeant Reed's great technical knowledge, his courage and skill were important factors in the ability of the battalion to maintain contact with all vital points and to carry out the fire missions that helped to rout the enemy. During the piercing of the Gothic Line by our troops, rain, cold and continuous enemy resistance multiplies the dangers and difficulties of communications work, and in this period too, Sergeant Reed's valor and skill were apparent. On many occasions this soldier courageously exposed himself to enemy shell fire in order to repair broken lines. He was also valuable in reconnaissance for wire routes and switchboard positions, when he accompanied his battery commander. Sergeant Reed's untiring efforts to keep communications at top efficiency in spite of enemy gunfire, rain and cold, have gained for him the admiration of the officers and men with whom he has worked."

One hundred and seven men and women gave their lives from the Oregon area during this war. The following describes sorrowful happenings.

"Mr. & Mrs. Fred Joesten, residing on South Sixth Street, received a telegram from the War Department yesterday morning that their son, Pfc Charles



Pfc. Charles R. Joesten (Courtesy John Leary)

R. Joesten has been killed in action in Germany on April 16, and that a letter with more information would follow.”



Pvt. David G. Maxwell (Courtesy John Leary)

“Deep and widespread sorrow came to this community Monday, November 6, when word came from the War Department to Mr. & Mrs. Arnold I. Maxwell, that their youngest son, Pfc. David G. Maxwell had been lost in action on the German battlefield at Aachen on October 20. He was a member of the Infantry in the First Army and First Division.”

The People at Home

The people of Oregon staying at home have supported their sons and daughters by buying Victory Bonds as they did in World War I. Many poems were written by local people. The following is written by Mrs. Edith Burchell.

OUR BOYS

Verse:

*We will always remember
That day in December
The Japs, with their slaps and their bombs;
We will back the attack
As we bring our boys back
By buying United States Bonds.*

First Chorus:

*Remember our boys at Pearl Harbor
And buy one more Bond today.
Remember our ships at Pearl Harbor
And the flags from our own U.S.A.
The Army and Navy are calling to you
To buy stamps and Bonds.
It's the least we can do,
Remember our boys at Pearl Harbor
And buy one more Bond today.*

Second Chorus:

*What is that which we see in the Harbor?
It's the Star Spangled Banner, we pray!
Praise the power that has made us a nation
To buy one more Bond today;
Wherever there is honor our flag will be found
Floating high, beneath the sky,
It has never touched the ground;
Remember our boys at Pearl Harbor,
And buy one more Bond today.*

Poem by Edith Andrew Burchell from "Pink Orchids"

Another lady, Mrs. Mary Nedrow wrote the following two poems.

LANDS AWAY

*Our boys today
Are lands away.
They dream at night
Of candle light.
Of Christmas tree
And you and me.*

*We're dreaming too,
At home of you.
Each hour a prayer
To everywhere.
Sea, trench, or air,
We're always there.*

*For flowers will grow
Again we know.
The birds will sing,
When good ships bring
You back, some day
From lands away.*

By Mary Nedrow from "Through the Windowpane"

PEACE

*We pray, dear Lord, Thou wilt impart,
Peace and good will to every heart.
War-sacrificed, staring at each empty chair,
Anxious parents, weighed down with care.*

Give them new hope, O speed the Day!
 When Thou shall wipe all tears away.
 Incline Thine ear, O hear the cries
 In trenches, or in plane-filled skies!

In many a home, in many a land,
 Wafted over the ocean or sand,
 Warring nations—bodies torn,
 Echoes now to us are borne.

Though sun or stars they may not see,
 They often think of you and me;
 Of Mother and Dad, and neighbors grand—
 Of course they know we understand!

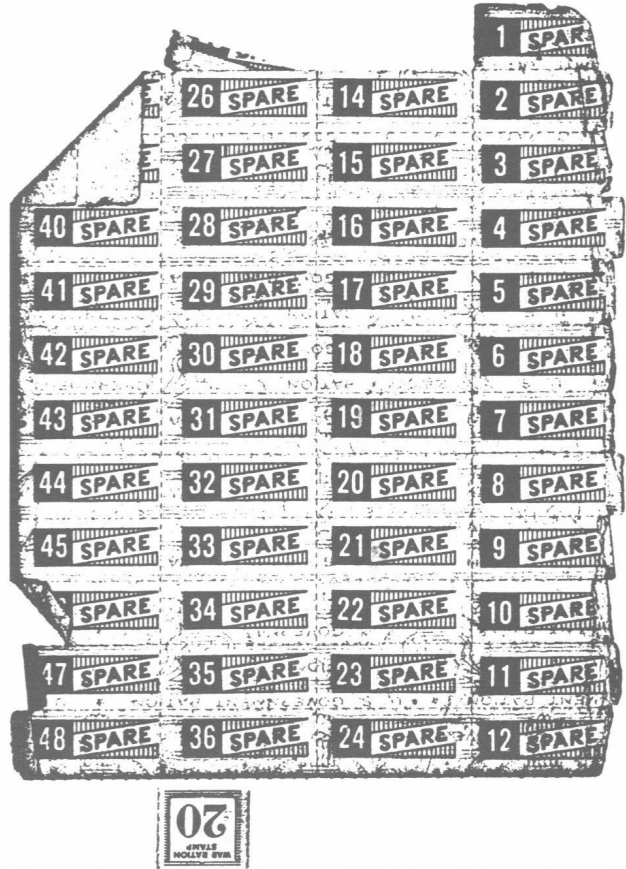
They think of church and choir too,
 Of kindly pastors they once knew.
 As carolers sing "Peace" on earth—
 Down in our hearts we feel no mirth.

There will be laughter, joy, and love,
 When the Saviour comes from heaven above.
 So as we speak of Jesus' birth,
 We'll think of "peace, good will" on earth.

By Mary Nedrow from "Through the Windowpane"

This was also the era of the shortages of sugar, meat, gasoline, etc. and the following pictures explain it a little more in detail:

Before the courthouse was remodeled, there were names of those who served their country on wooden panels on the first floor walls. These names were computerized and put on glass panels and are now on the second floor landing at the courthouse. The panels are lit. The original wood panels are now on display at the coliseum on the walls.



Certificate of Registrar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

War Ration Book One

WARNING

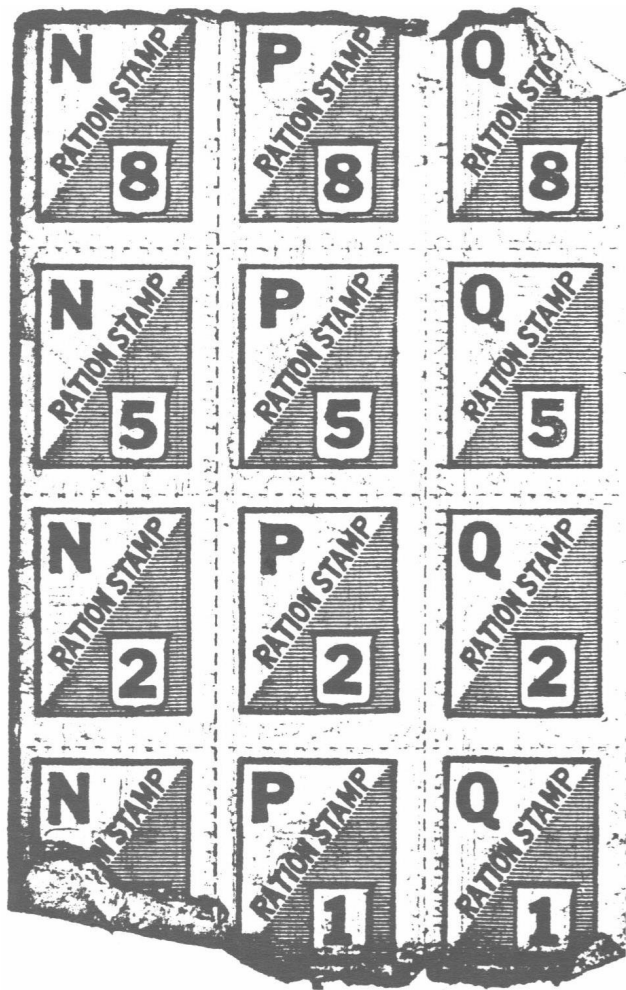
- 1 Punishments ranging as high as *Ten Years' Imprisonment or \$10,000 Fine, or Both*, may be imposed under United States Statutes for violations thereof arising out of infractions of Rationing Orders and Regulations.
- 2 This book must not be transferred. It must be held and used only by or on behalf of the person to whom it has been issued, and anyone presenting it thereby represents to the Office of Price Administration, an agency of the United States Government, that it is being so held and so used. For any misuse of this book it may be taken from the holder by the Office of Price Administration.
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ADMINISTRATIVE

Stamps must not be detached except in the presence of the retailer, his employee, or person authorized by him to make delivery.

(City or town) CHICAGO (State) ILLINOIS (County) COOK (Local Board No.) 408
 (Street No. or P. O. Box No.) 1347
 (First name) M. J. (Last name) M. J. (Middle name) M. J.
 (Signature) M. J. M. J. (Date) 1/1/42
 (Sex) Male (Color of hair) Brown (Color of eyes) Blue (Height) 5 ft. 11 in. (Weight) 150 lbs. (Age) 33 yrs.
 1942, upon the basis of an application signed by himself , her/his , or on his or her behalf by his or her husband , wife , father , mother , or other person (Check one).
 (Signature) M. J. M. J. (Date) 1/1/42
 I have issued the attached War Ration Stamps this _____ day of _____, 1942, upon the basis of an application signed by himself , her/his , or on his or her behalf by his or her husband , wife , father , mother , or other person (Check one).
 (Signature) M. J. M. J. (Date) 1/1/42
 This is to Certify that pursuant to the Rationing Orders and Regulations administered by the OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION, an agency of the United States Government,
 (Name, Address, and Description of person to whom the book is issued.)
 (Middle name) M. J. (Last name) M. J. (First name) M. J.
 (City or town) CHICAGO (State) ILLINOIS (County) COOK (Local Board No.) 408
 (Street No. or P. O. Box No.) 1347
 (Signature) M. J. M. J. (Date) 1/1/42
 (Sex) Male (Color of hair) Brown (Color of eyes) Blue (Height) 5 ft. 11 in. (Weight) 150 lbs. (Age) 33 yrs.
 I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have observed all the conditions and regulations governing the issuance of this War Ration Book; that the "Description of Book Holder" contained herein is correct; that an application for issuance of this book has been duly made by me or on my behalf; and that the statements contained in said application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
 (Signature of, or on behalf of, Book Holder) Gertude Bailey [Book Holder's Own Name]
 Any person signing on behalf of Book Holder must sign his or her own name below and indicate relationship to Book Holder.
 (Father, Mother, etc.)



World War II Memorial (Donna Kennedy Photo)

The names of those who made the supreme sacrifice are as follows:

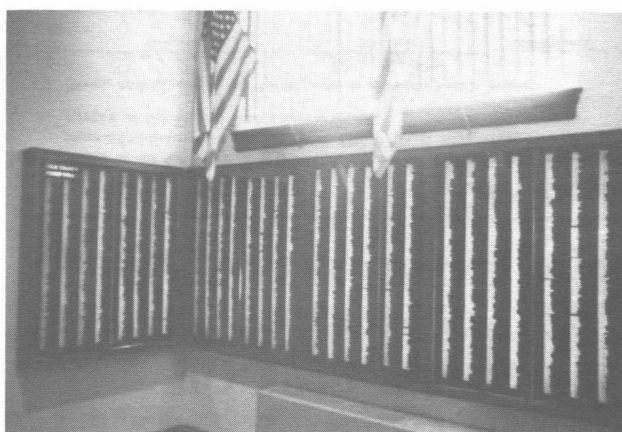
Arne, Vernon E.; Ball, Milton J.; Barnette, Thomas D.; Bearrows, Gordon; Beightol, Carl M.; Bellows, Robert L.; Bemis, Keith C.; Bennett, Chester, A.; Bischoff, Arthur A.; Bollinger, Leon A.; Bolthouse, John A., Jr; Braddy, Lester, L.; Bylinowski, Walter; Byrd, Melvin C.; Byro, Ardith; Claassen, Herbert L.; Claussen, Manly J.; Coffman, Carroll F.; Cote, Robert L.; Crickette, David N.

Dale, Richard R.; Donaldson, Russell; Edmunds, Robert L.; Fell, Stanley A.; Forcum, Ted; Forster, Wilbert, C.; Gantz, Robert C.; Garman, Wayne C.; Gentry, Donald R.; Glee, Paul W.; Good, Charles F.; Goodbrake, Robert E.; Goucher, John R.; Guio, Carl E.; Hager, Earl E.; Hallman, Walter R.; Hardesty, Harold H.; Hardy, Fred A.; Hardy, William R. Jr.; Harleman, John D.; Haws, Ralph.

Heron Edward D.; Horton, Robert L.; Hunt, William H.; Joesten, Charles R.; Johnson, Lowell I.; Johnson, Paul A.; Jones, Gomer; Keefer, Paul R.; Kinkade, Victor I.; Kline, Theodore A.; Kline, John L.; Knudson, Milton L.; Koch, Glen C.; Kreitzburg, Robert; Lace, James; Landaker, Robert L.; Lang, Clyde N.; Lang, R.S.; Larson, Stanley, E.; Larson, Vernon O.; Maxwell, David G.; McCoy, Crawford L.; McCune, Robert K.; McDaniels, Cruz; McDonald, Dudley R.; McKean, Jack W.

McKim, Howard H.; Meisner, Merle L.; Miller, Gerald G.; Miller, Robert G.; Miller, William; Motter, Clinton, Jr.; Murdock, David R.; Naylor, John E.; Newcomer, David A.; Nosalik, Henry C.; Nunemaker, Rae R.; Palmer, Clayton L.; Peterson, Gomer T.; Phillips, Ralph G.; Pollage, Raymond E.; Powell, Goldie M.; Purcell, James, Jr.; Rasmussen, Harlan E.; Rebeck, Earl D.

Reed, Donald C.; Reed, Leonard, E.; Rhodes, Henry R.; Riley, William W.; Roderick, Oliver J.; Rucker, Leon F.; Sallee, Robert E.; Schrader, Verlyn O.; Schurman, Eugene F.; Sell, Chester O.; Singer, Warren L.; Singleton, Harold J.; Stewart, Robert W.; Strauch, Willard G.; Taylor, Merle B.; Tester, Robert D.; Tomlinson, Roy A.; Tosten, Fred R.; Waterland, Everett, H.; Wernick, Vernon J.; White, George C.



Panels on second floor landing at Ogle Co. Courthouse (Donna Kennedy Photo)

The local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8739 built and dedicated a memorial, to the World War II servicemen and women who gave their lives on July 4, 1950. This memorial is on the north side of the courthouse square. It was built almost entirely by the veterans. A plaque on the memorial lists the names which are as follows:

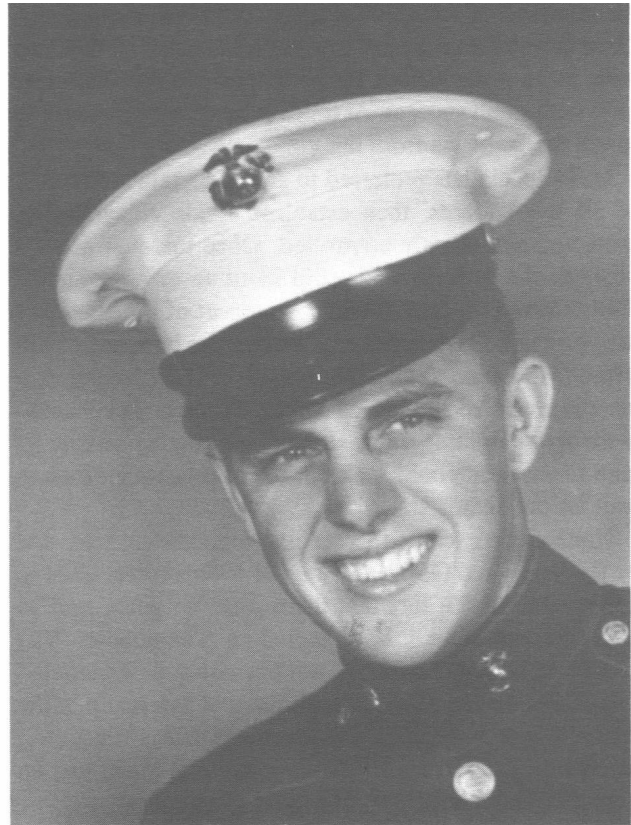
THE KOREAN CONFLICT

This conflict was the first use made of the United Nations Troops. It started in 1950. Again, many young men of Oregon were asked to go to the service and did so. Some of the men who went were Nelson and Dick Cline, and Harold Smith. I interviewed Nelson Cline, who entered the service in 1951, and after basic training was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division. He went to Pusan and from there to the fighting lines. Korea is where the Battle of Heartbreak Ridge took place. The enemy flanked both sides of the United Nation Forces and great losses were suffered. The battle was fought with a battle line and a reserve line. After the battle line was taken, the reserve units would move up to hold the lines with heavier gunnery equipment. The natives had no place to go, and many of their homes were destroyed. They would collect leftovers from the battle, such as lumber and huge cardboard boxes, and improvise houses, and live on the reserve lines and beg for food from the G.I.'s. Almost every unit would end up adopting some small child who had been separated from their parents, or whose parents were killed. The child would end up as a "mascot".



24th Infantry Division Mascot.

The battle was more or less a see-saw action with fighting for a line, having to withdraw, and taking it back again. In 1952, boundaries were set up and those boundaries are still in existence today.



Harold Smith (Courtesy of his mother, Emma Smith)

Harold Smith, son of Ben and Emma Smith, of East Oregon, enlisted in the Marines October 22, 1951. He was on patrol duty in Korea the evening of July 27, 1953. Rumors were that truce negotiations were progressing and that a treaty would soon be signed. At 9:44 p.m., Harold Smith stepped on a land mine and sustained severe injury to the head and chest. He died soon after. Sixteen minutes after he stepped on the mine, the truce was officially declared. Harold Smith was the last American Soldier killed in the war. His parents requested that his body be returned to the states, and this was done approximately one year later. He was awarded the Purple Heart and a full military funeral which was held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oregon. Pastor Paul Bollman was the minister for the service, and about 500 people attended to pay their respects to this young man who gave his all.

The lighted display on the second and third floor landing of the courthouse (previously mentioned), lists most of the names of the Korean Veterans who served.

THE VIETNAM WAR

This was called a police action, and war was never officially declared. Differences arose between the Vietnamese government and its U.S. advisors as to proper measures to be taken to pursue the war, or so called "police action".

President Dien preferred a technique that turned each village into a small armed camp, isolated from the communist guerillas. He thought that this would deprive

the guerillas of food, information, supplies and recruits. Once driven into the open, the guerillas could be attacked with large scale drives by helicopter troops. This met only with small success. At times it was nearly impossible to tell the guerillas from the villagers.

U.S. Specialists preferred to sweep certain areas clear of all rebel forces, then establish major village areas, protected and closely controlled. Once this was accomplished, the government could institute an enlightened civil reform program to win the support of the Vietnamese. The U.S. also urged that greater use be made of hill tribes (Montanards), and that President Dien decentralize his command of the armed forces. Further, they wanted more active fighting units, streamlined, highly mobile 50 men teams who could seek out the enemy, rather than to wait for the enemy to attack.

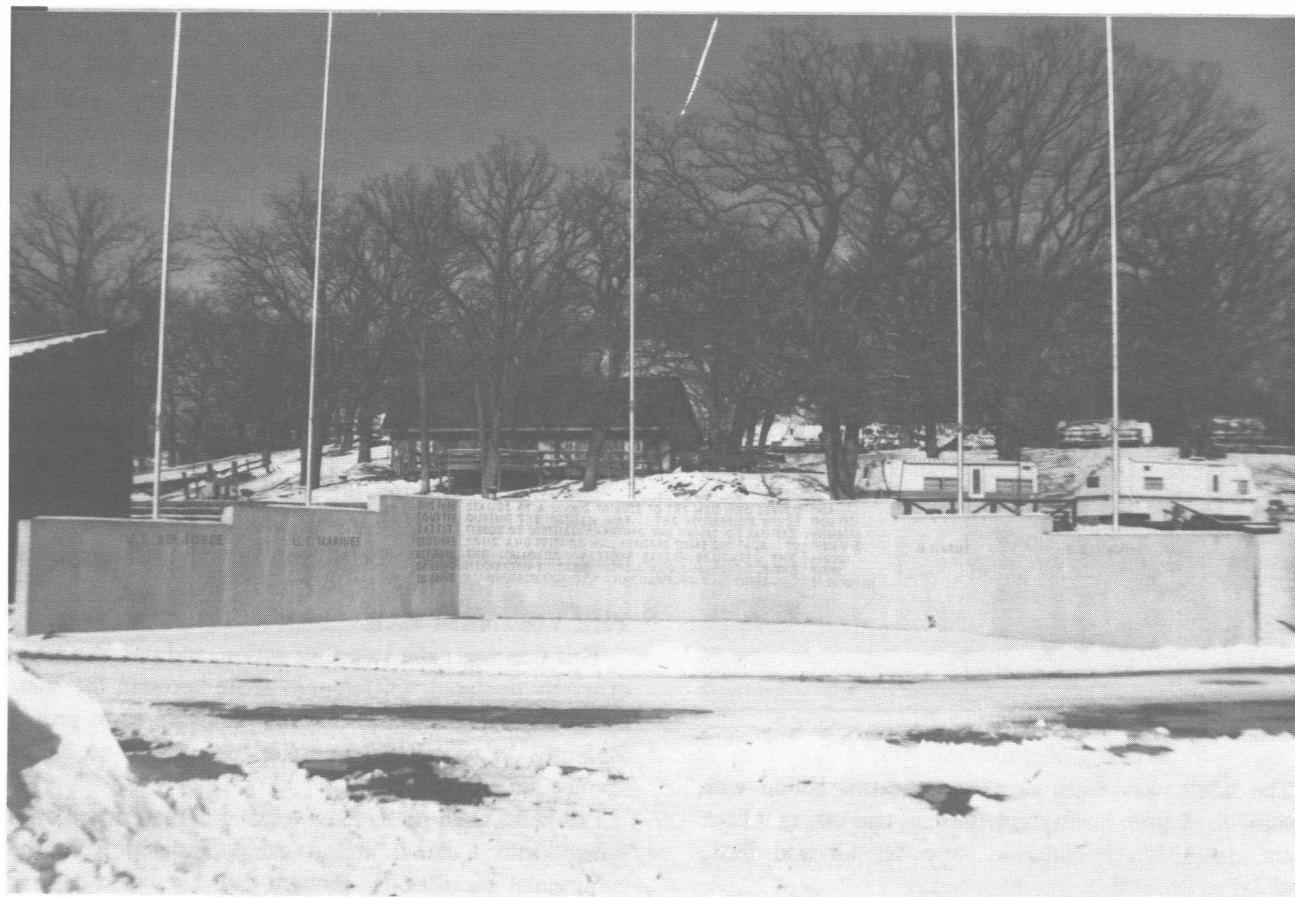
Neither side seemed to resolve their differences, and by the year's end (1962), the fate of Vietnam remained in doubt. Due to the fact that there were no goals, and so many people were killed, including Vietnamese, Viet Cong, and U.S. Soldiers, the war became quite unpopular. The media played on this condition, and as a result of the conflict, met with much disagreement, many riots, etc., here in the United States. Oregon, a small town, had no riots and, most of her youth served when asked.

One Oregon youth seems to stand out when Vietnam is mentioned and that is Lamont Gaston. Lamont served

in the Marines. He was wounded in battle by machine gun fire. During his hospital recovery, Gaston decided to buy some land when he was discharged, make it into a park and a monument dedicated to honor the dead as well as those who returned. He was discharged in 1967. In 1974, he purchased and developed Lake LaDonna, a family campground. On July 11, 1982, the monument was dedicated. Gaston and a fellow Vietnam Vet from Polo, Lynn Snook, completed the monument. The monument stands 8 feet high, 80 feet long and has three concrete walls. The 5 flag poles display the American Flag and the official service flags, the U.S. Army, the Marine Corp, the Navy and the Air Force. The inscription on the monument reads:

“This park stands as a living tribute to the men who served their country during the Vietnam War. The whispering winds from the battlefields of Vietnam carrying the names of the fathers, husbands, brothers, sons and friends, will perhaps someday fade. To those who returned, the memories of their fallen brothers and the anguish of being neglected by their nation, and the hope for the future to bring an understanding of what happened over there will go on forever.”*

According to available records, this was the first monument built in the United States honoring Vietnam Veterans. Lamont Gaston fulfilled his dream, and has helped

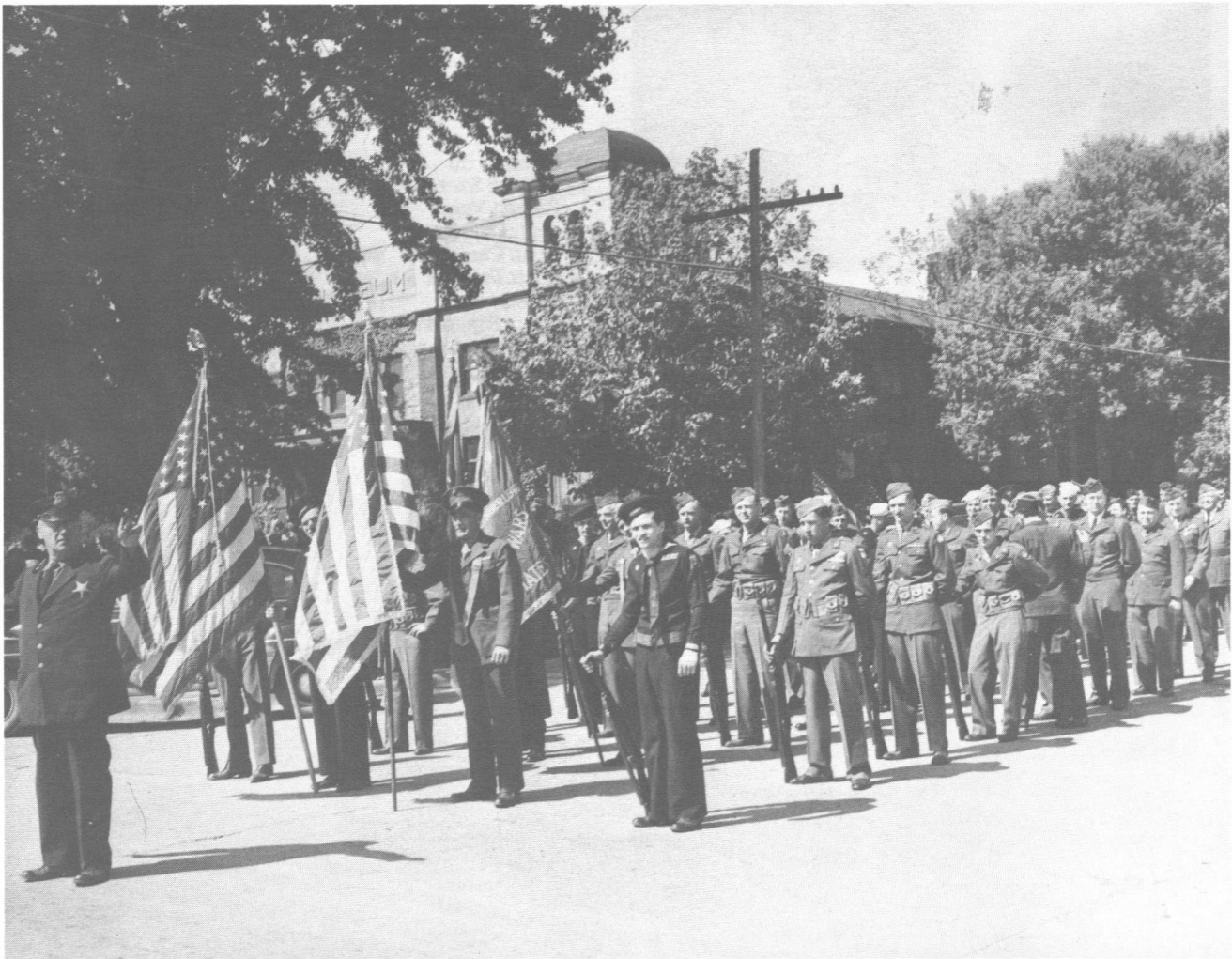


give the people who served, something to be proud of. He said that if the park is ever sold, he may put a clause in the contract giving him the right to care for the monument. He is to be commended for what he has done.

I interviewed Mark Davis, who also served in Vietnam. He said that during his high school days, Vietnam wasn't discussed as much as it was "something you saw on television". He had heard about people going to Canada to avoid the draft, and others burning their draft cards, but they were few (again this was played upon by the news media), compared to the three million from the United States who actually did serve. Mark entered the service in 1969, and after basic and advance training, he was sent to Vietnam. He said that most of the men were practically on their own traveling on a commercial airline

on their first leg of their trip to Nam. After transferring to another airline in Guam or Japan, depending on which route you were traveling, suddenly you were unloading under fire at times, while returnees were boarding the same plane to go home. In the battle zones, you couldn't be sure who was the enemy. In the larger cities of Vietnam, such as Saigon and Long Bien, life went on as though the nation was not at war. There were nightclubs, movies, restaurants, swimming pools, Red Cross, and P.X.'s.

January 19, 1970, Mark was in Vietnam—January 21st, he was in Chicago, on his way home. The transition was almost too sudden. He had attended Junior College, where most of the students had long hair. His was still short from the service, so he was known as "one of them". He said, "you had the feeling that you didn't really



Tribute to Veterans of all Wars—Memorial Day, 1947

accomplish anything, especially with the way the conflict ended".

Originally, Shirley Tilton Post 97 of the American Legion was the first veteran's organization in Oregon. They conducted military funerals and participated in parades honoring veterans. In 1946, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8739 was formed in Oregon. For many years the V.F.W. and Legion conducted ceremonies to-

gether. The V.F.W. is now the principal veteran's organization. Each year, the V.F.W. will hold a Memorial Day Service and a Veteran's Day observance on November 11th. They also conduct flag folding ceremonies for funerals of veterans and have a service officer to assist veterans wanting to go to a Veteran's Hospital, or desiring other information. They provide wheelchairs, beds, walkers, crutches, etc., to veterans and other people in the



Harmon Stone, Jr. (Courtesy of his brother, Bob Stone)

Oregon area.

Corporal Harmon S. Stone, Jr., was another young man of Oregon that made the supreme sacrifice. He was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Harmon Stone, of Oregon. He was inducted on November 7, 1966, and was assigned to the 60th Infantry of the 9th Division. Harmon arrived in Vietnam on May 1, 1967. November 18, 1967, he was on patrol duty in the Mekong Delta. One of his fellow comrades on duty gave this account. He was a Point Guard. He stepped on a land mine and was blinded by shrapnel. The rest of his patrol was going to try and take him back to the medic for help. They were under heavy fire, but Harmon said that he could still hear and felt that he could help the men to defend their position. He was killed later the same day. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Military Merit Medal and the Gallantry Cross with Palm.

Oregon paid their respects to Harmon Stone, Jr., by erecting a flag pole and plaque in his memory in Lions Park.

Servicemen Killed in Vietnam War

Charles Hill
Richard Szczech
Donald Vogel
Walter Ensign Jr.
Brian Campbell
Louis Frericks
Delbert Hall
James Rimmer
Robert Batt
Larry Mackey

John Babich
Gary Futrell
Donald Henricks
Larry Knight
Richard Cheek
Donald Kretsinger
Arnold Johnson
Harmon Stone Jr.
Jerry Wickman
Charles Hazlip