

History Booklet

Port Angeles Veterans Center and the DAV Chapter 9

DISABLED AMERICAN **VETERANS**

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DISABLED AMERICAN **VETERANS** **AUXILIARY**

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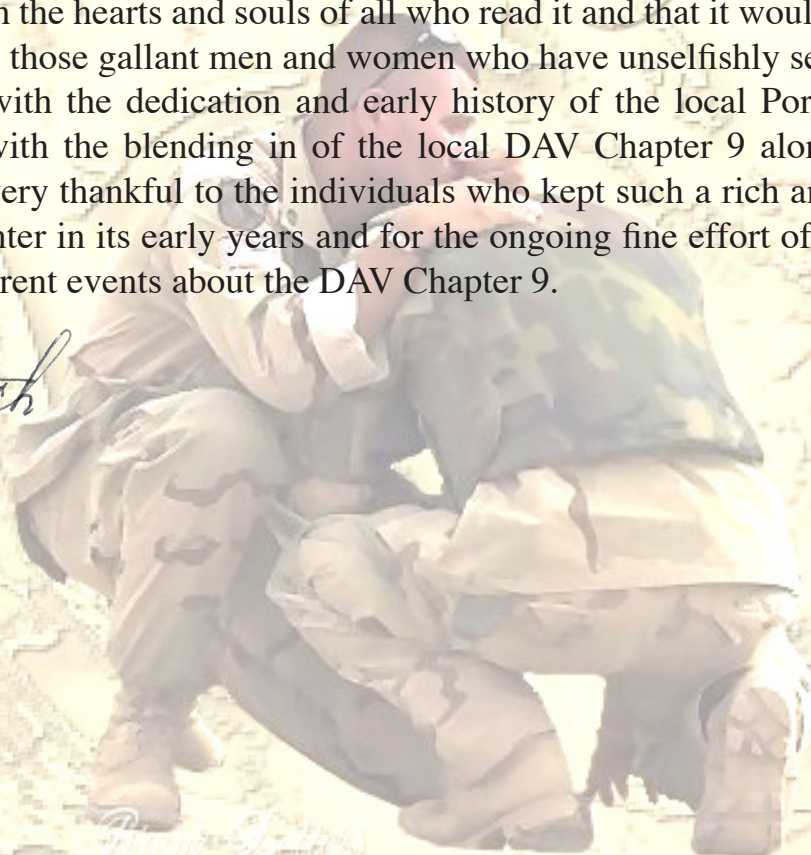


Welcome to the history booklet of the local Port Angeles Veterans Center along with it's inclusion of the local DAV chapter 9 center. This booklet is dedicated to all the brave men and women who have suffered and died so that we can be free. It is because of their sacrifices that we are able to even tell this story.

Though this is just a very small part of the gallant men and women who have served it is none the less just as important as any other. So to those fallen local men and women and to those who live disabled we thank you from our hearts. Let us also remember that the Eagle above represents us as a people and the US flag represents us as a people united! And so the goal of this history booklet about the local veterans center and the DAV center here in the Pacific NW at Port Angeles Wa. is that it might touch the hearts and souls of all who read it and that it would help to remind us to keep an eagles eye on those gallant men and women who have unselfishly served.

The book starts with the dedication and early history of the local Port Angeles Veterans Center and concludes with the blending in of the local DAV Chapter 9 along with the DAV's current events. We are very thankful to the individuals who kept such a rich and detailed account of this fine Veterans Center in its early years and for the ongoing fine effort of Vance Percival for maintaining detailed current events about the DAV Chapter 9.

Robert Couch
History Director



The Beginning

THE HISTORY OF THE VETERANS CENTER

The Venerable G.A.R. Hall, located at the northeast corner of Fifth and Lincoln Streets, had served as home to the veteran organizations of five wars over a period of more than fourscore years; but, due to the growth of the city, its location had become a traffic hazard and the county commissioners were looking for another location. When the County acquired the Hall from the Grand Army of the Republic in 1919, it was stipulated in the deed that the County would maintain the Hall for the veterans organizations named in the deed or provide equally commodious quarters elsewhere.

When the state Department of Natural Resources informed the then County Auditor, R. A. "Bob" Fleming that their old headquarters at Third and Francis Streets would be put up for sale, Fleming immediately visualized the property as ideal for a Veterans Center, and informed the then Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Thomas Mansfield (a World War II veteran), who presented the idea to the other commissioners, and spark plugged the negotiations over many months that led to the county acquiring the property from the State of Washington through a trade.

The county commissioners appointed a Veterans Center Advisory Council, composed of the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and a representative from each of the veterans organizations, to work out plans for the development of the center. Nicholas Heuhslein was appointed chairman; Walter Baar, vice-chairman; Helen Webber, secretary and James Kinney treasurer. It was decided to make a hall for the ladies out of the existing building and to erect a 46 by 48 foot addition to the west end of the building for the men's hall and dining and kitchen facilities.

State Law R.C.W. 73.04.070 authorized counties to furnish and maintain meeting halls free of charge for the exclusive use of the several nationally recognized veteran organizations. Under this authority, the county commissioners authorized the construction of the addition, and bonds in the amount of \$20,000 for the purpose. Les Roline was chosen architect, and the construction of the addition was awarded to the Enger Construction Company. Volunteer workers, most of whom were World War I veterans between the ages of 68 and 78, undertook the extensive remodeling of what had been the truck garage and crew dormitory of the State Division of Forestry.

No more serious body of men ever undertook any project. They came early, brought their lunch buckets, and stayed late. The lunch buckets were really not needed, because the ladies, bless them, were right on the job for many days with lunch prepared right in the Center's kitchen.

Not much could be done until the new addition was completed, but by strict adherence to the job, one of the ladies groups was able to hold their first meeting in their hall in July, 1967. Ernest Roth acted as job foreman, and his knowledge of construction greatly expedited completion. It was estimated that more than \$8,000 worth of volunteer labor went into the project in order to bring it to its present state of completion.

The wholehearted cooperation of the county commissioners in supplying money, as county finances would permit, was greatly appreciated; but much remained to be done. Fixtures and furniture had to be obtained, so the relatively small group dug into their pockets and contributed more than \$4,600 in cash, furniture and fixtures. It was resolved by the advisory council to obtain a Book of Gold and inscribe therein the names of all those who had contributed to the Center in any manner. Mrs. Ernest Roth, Mrs. Fred Feakes, and Bob Fleming were appointed to obtain and prepare the book. This was done at no cost to the center.

It was then decided that the hall was near enough to completion to hold a dedication on Veterans' Day, November 11, 1967. In the meantime, it was proposed by Clay Wolverton that a memorial monument be erected on the grounds, and Wolverton and Bob Fleming were appointed to investigate the possibilities and present their findings to the Council. After discussing several plans, one was agreed upon, and the veterans and their friends dug into their pockets to pay for the stone. It was ordered and erected in time for the dedication.

This chronicle would not be complete without listing the names of those who contributed to the project in any manner. The Center can be called a Monument to the Dedicated Men and Women who believe in the need for veteran organizations, not only because these organizations are of untold value to veterans and their dependents, but because of their value to the **community, state, and nation.** Much remains to be done. Many of the willing hands are still available, and it is hoped that the future will always supply those who want to maintain this Memorial to those Brave Men and Women who suffered and died in the defense of our country.

History Directors Note

A listing of contributors and donors is compiled and recorded at the end of the history about the Veterans Center. The listing is in order as set forth here:

- County Commissioners**
- Those who contributed labor**
- The ladies who cared for and fed the laborers**
- The flag, flag pole and plaque**
- Other gifts**
- Donors who contributed cash, fixtures, furniture**

ORIGINAL ROSTER OF VOTING DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO THE CLALLAM COUNTY VETERANS CENTER ADMINISTRATION BOARD 1965

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S. - Clyde Rhodefer Post #1024

Delegate - Clay Wolverton

Alternate - Thomas Hutto

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S. - Clyde Rhodefer Post #1024 Auxiliary

Delegate - Katherine Feakes

Alternate - Lois Conrad

Veterans of World War I - Barracks #2294

Delegate - Walter Baar

Alternate - Ernest Roth

Veterans of World War I - Barracks #2294 Auxiliary

Delegate - Elsie Roth

Alternate - Anna Main

American Legion - Walter Akeley Post #29

Delegate - William Givens

Alternate - Alpha Williams

American Legion - Walter Akeley Post #29 Auxiliary
Delegate - Florence Ahlvers
Alternate - None Assigned

Disabled American Veterans - Chapter #9
Delegate - Richard Sargent
Alternate - Cecil Seiber

Disabled American Veterans - Chapter #9 Auxiliary
Delegate - Mrs. Dwight Beard
Alternate - None assigned

Women's Relief Corps - Pacific Corps #21
Delegate - Vera Brown
Alternate - Helen Filion

Navy Mothers Club #684
Delegate - Helen Webber
Alternate - Doris Loghry

Ex-officio Member - Thomas Mansfield,
Chm. Board of County Commissioners - 1965



BUILDING COMMITTEE

Nick Heuhslein, Chm.
Ernest Roth
Bob Fleming
Joe LOM
Ira Bourm

Clay Wolverton
Al. Williams
Walter Baar
C. H. Young

As of November 11 1967 the cost for the building and grounds has been as follows:

Cost to the County	\$25,000
Cash Donations from Veterans	2,000
Furniture and Fixture Donations	2,600
Volunteer Labor	8,000
Total cost	<u>\$37,600</u>
Plus the original cost of the property.	

A Dedication Brochure

DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE of CLALLAM COUNTY VETERANS CENTER



3rd & FRANCIS STREET PORT ANGELES, WASH.



Nov. 11, 1967

11:30 A. M. to 3:00 P. M.

Officers Are:

NICK HEUHSLEIN	President
WALTER BAAR	Vice President
FRED FEAKES	Secretary
JAMES KINNEY	Treasurer



GOD BLESS AMERICA

God Bless America, Land That I Love
Stand Beside Her, And Guide Her
Thru The Night With A Light From Above
From The Mountains, To The Prairies
To The Oceans, White With Foam
God Bless America, My Home Sweet Home
God Bless America, My Home Sweet Home

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ELMER CRITCHFIELD.....Chairman
THOMAS MANSFIELD
HARVEY EACRETT

BUILDING COMMITTEE

NICK HEUHSLEIN.....Chairman	
ERNEST ROTH	CLAY WOLVERTON
BOB FLEMING	AL. WILLIAMS
JOE LONN	WALTER BAAR
IRA BOURM	C. H. YOUNG

ARCHITECT.....LES ROLINE

CONTRACTOR.....ENGER CONSTRUCTION CO.

In 1965 the County Commissioners, under the chairmanship of Thomas Mansfield, acquired the Veterans Center property from the State Department of Natural Resources, which had been their Port Angeles headquarters. The Building Committee from the veteran organizations met with the County Commissioners who agreed to construct a 46 by 48 addition to the existing building to serve as a men's meeting hall, kitchen and dining room. The addition was constructed entirely by the contractor and the old building was completely remodeled by volunteer labor of veterans, most of whom were World War I, ranging in age from 68 to 74.

The cost to date for the building and grounds has been as follows:

Cost to the County.....	\$25,000
Cash Donations from Veterans.....	2,000
Furniture and Fixture Donations.....	2,600
Volunteer Labor.....	8,000

Total cost.....\$37,600

Plus the original cost of the property

The operation of the Center is under the supervision of the Advisory Committee for the Clallam County Veterans Center, consisting of the chairman of the County Commissioners and one representative from each veterans organization.



— PROGRAM —

MUSIC BY THE LILJEDAHLS

Pledge of Allegiance.....James Drennan
Invocation.....Joe Lonn, District Chaplain



Introductions of Organizations and their Guests

WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS.....Florence Duncan, President
NAVY MOTHERS.....Dorothy Ridout, Commander
AMERICAN LEGION POST 29.....Joe J. Dailey, Commander
AUXILIARY.....Loretta Melcher, President
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1024.....James Deaton, Commander
AUXILIARY.....Katherine Feakes, President
VETERANS WORLD WAR I BARRACKS 2294.....Donnell Bailey, Commander
AUXILIARY.....Agnes De Camp, President
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS.....Richard Sargent, Commander



Song by James Drennan....."This Is My Country"

Mrs. Carl Shields, Piano

THE DEDICATION ADDRESS.....William D. Welch

Song — "God Bless America" by the Audience

Music by the Liljedahls

At Last Celebration Day!

VETERANS SALUTE A NEW HOME.....BUILT FOR THE YEARS

By William D Welsh
Past State Commander American Legion,
Department of Washington, On Armistice
Day, 1967 in Port Angeles, Washington

When Chairman Nick Heuhslein entranced me with details of this building achievement we are dedicating today, he made a strong point that the veterans who applied some cash and \$8,000 of their own time and skills in finishing the interior, besides scores of other functions, ranged from 68 to 74 years of age, which certainly means they were unselfish about preparing an attractive and durable home for younger veterans. Then he reached into the bottom of the barrel for a 77-year old veteran to make this talk. And right now this 77-year old veteran finds himself pleasantly terrified! Probably this verse may tell the story:

The reason I know my youth is all spent
Is my "get up and go" just got up and went.
But I don't mind when I think, with a grin
Of all of the places my "get-up" has been.
Since I have retired from life's competition,
I busy myself with complete repetition.
I get up each morning-- dust off my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the obits.
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead,
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.

Nick has drill sergeant ways. He issued three commands:

One. That I should reach back across the years to chat with you for a time about the old Grand Army Hall on Fifth and Lincoln Streets.

Two. Name the succession of veteran and auxiliary organizations that were the beneficiaries of its hallowed halls.

Three. Make it short.

For a starting point' we must reach back, 78 years. Pacific Post No. 48 Grand. Army of the Republic was formed in Port Angeles by Union veterans of the Civil War on February 21, 1889 with 15 members. And to this group of men fell the honor of having held the first veterans local Memorial Day observance on May 30, 1889. We used to call it Decoration Day.

However, the pioneer post of 15 members was just a seed patch. And the next movement of Union veterans to Port Angeles was the start of several significant migrations. Filion Mill and Timber Mill was being constructed on C Street, and for years it was known as "The Grand Army Mill". For on September 18, 1892 the steamer land docked at Port Angeles with a large number of Civil War veterans from Michigan. They were met at the steamer dock by members of Pacific Post 48 and soon became established in homes and activities here. Most of them worked in Filions Mill, operating the sawmill, shingle mill, box factory and the narrow gauge railroad which coursed through the timbered sections of the Dry Creek country for logs. Other Civil War veteran

migrations followed. And from what I remember of many chats with Major Harding and others, the veterans plan was to make Port Angeles a Grand Army town. And in fact they practically did for there were many months when Civil War pension checks and Filion's payroll were about the only ready cash in the whole area. Indeed they kept the wolf from the door.

By 1893 Pacific Post had risen to 149 members and there were astute politicians when I came here in 1913 who assured me that anyone risking his neck for public office had better get himself on good terms with the Grand Army boys. Augmenting them were the Women's Relief Corps and Ladies of the G.A.R.

The Women's Relief Corps was constant in its assistance in G.A.R. affairs like Memorial Day. Across the years from the times of horse and buggy transportation, they have seen that the Civil War veterans graves were all decorated with the United States flags and flowers on Memorial Day. And many a noon luncheon they served up for the veterans on the return from Ocean View Cemetery. Along the way, the post held fast to patriotic principles and were strong backers of a good school system. There was one significant element actually ingrained in local American life in what has been called the "Grand Army Days", even the days following the Spanish American War and World Wars I and II. Citizens were not neglectful of showing their colors on national holidays; and dissenters like those who march with sleazy banners today or use thievery, arson, pillage, fire arms or open rebellion as instruments of dissent from authority would likely have found themselves in bad trouble.

I can remember singing at most Memorial Day exercises in the old Opera House on Front Street where the stage was filled with Grand Army people and the house chock-a-block with people who were there to honor the memory of the fallen.

Stores and public buildings were closed. Streets were decorated with flags. And there was always the annual pilgrimage to Ocean View Cemetery to decorate graves in the Grand Army plot, its headstones relentlessly increasing in number. In later years often the G. A. R. American Legion men joined others in providing transportation to the cemetery and afterwards back to the Elks Lodge, which always entertained the Grand Army Veterans and their ladies for lunch.

There was one quite humorous Confederate veteran named "Daddy" Leake who asked and received permission of the Grand Army boys to join them in the Memorial Day services at Ocean View. And I recall "Daddy" teasing some of the G. A. R. boys he knew quite well by asking if they remembered when he was with raiders that "chased them through the woods." And the aging Grand Army men would smile back and ask where he spent the days of the war-----in prison?

As time passed there was a small organization of Spanish-American War veterans using the G.A.R. Hall. Later came Walter Akeley Post 29 of the American Legion, members of which spent many evenings fixing up the lower level of the old building so the Legion Auxiliary could hold it's meetings on the same night as the Legion. In 1919 an army recruiting sergeant named Jones engineered formation of an organization called Veterans of World War One, which had only a few short months of life. After the American Legion convention in Paris, the local veterans group was disbanded in favor of Walter Akeley Post American Legion 29, to be later joined by the American Legion Auxiliary. First meeting was in the Odd Fellows Hall with Charles Filion as first commander. I remember that meeting very well because there wasn't a veteran present with what we call "store clothes". Most of the boys wore army or navy items of clothing and shoes. I wore my navy blue chief petty officer's uniform with brass buttons and insignia removed. And I well remember two resolutions that were passed; and fortunately forgotten: One was condemning a local boy as being a slacker, when in fact he had applied for enlistment and been turned down. The other was against the old Port Angeles Daily Herald which all the boys seemed provoked at for an over-emphasis on pro-British editorials. However, the calm reasoning of Charles Filion prevailed, and the public never saw the resolutions.

Subsequent meetings were held variously until finally the Legion moved to the G.A.R. Hall where they remained with their auxiliary until they built a beautiful new home on lower Cherry Hill. This was sold, and with membership still growing, the Legion purchased the big Jacobs Building on First Street, which is now up for sale, the plan now being to meet in this beautiful hall which cooperation between the county commissioners and World War One post has made possible.

The G.A.R. Hall was local birthplace of Clyde Rhodefer Post Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary, both of which have had many active years.

A small chapter of Disabled American War Veterans also used the Hall, but mainly operated within American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Ranks.

In October, 1960 a new veterans organization formed a barracks here--- Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A. Port Angeles Barracks 2294, and continued to hold meetings in the old Grand Army Hall until time to move to these modern quarters. Many of these boys also belong to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and with their substantial auxiliary breathed considerable life into veteran affairs.

So have marched veterans of the several wars and their auxiliaries. Marched under different organization banners, but always with one Flag: the Stars and Stripes. Marched to their altars with different rituals and words of initiation and purpose, but consistently with the same deep understanding that they were serving (in the words of the American Legion ritual) "For God and Country". Marched to the United States Congress with footsteps of insistence that the very best in medical, surgical and hospital care be provided for the stricken who had worn the colors. Marched proudly with no one lagging. Marched to, through and from the old Grand Army building. Finally, one night about a year ago, taps was played with a flaming torch to a well remembered veterans hall, still proud but weakening after having served so many for more than seventy years. The Civil War veterans who had made that lumber and fashioned the hall with their own hands could well look down and salute its passing with pride that it did the job that it was built to do. In this cultural age it would win no Oscars or medals for design, but as one old veteran was heard to say one night when the building was packed for a meeting: "She ain't much for looks, but she's hell for stout".

For a time it looked as if the path to this new building was booby-trapped by some neglect, a great deal of misunderstanding and a number of legal complications which took the patience of Job by the local legal fraternity, and what Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Richardson assured the county commissioners was "a tremendous amount of hard work" by former Prosecutor Howard Doherty. Finally Prosecutor Richardson presented the matter to Superior Court Judge Joseph Johnston who issued a decree quieting title to the G.A.R. property, ownership of which had been claimed by those who believed they were the legal heirs.

It all started in March of 1919 when the G.A.R. assigned the property to Clallam County with the specific requirement that the county maintain the property or "a building equally commodious" at the cost and expense of said county for the use of and as a meeting place for said Pacific Post No. 48 Department of Alaska and Washington, of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Women's Relief Corps, the United Spanish War Veterans and any organizations of the veterans of the late war with Germany.

As the building was condemned years later by the city, the former county commissioners evidently did not fully measure up to the responsibility of furnishing these facilities though' both men's and women's groups held stormy meeting with them. But there were other complications.

In August 1949 the Women's Relief Corps, an auxiliary to the G.A.R., assuming they were logical heirs to G.A.R. property, deeded it to Clyde Rhodefer Post Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Then, back East, one Albert Woolson, claiming to be the last surviving member of the local post of the G.A.R. deeded his claim to the Port Angeles property to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, under the laws of Illinois. Under these circumstances county commissioners moved under a slow bell.

With the title quieted by Judge Johnston, the county was faced with its original responsibility of providing a suitable place for veterans to meet. So the present board of Elmer Critchfield, Thomas Mansfield and Harvey Eacrett made a trade of county timbered property to the Department of State Natural Resources for a building and property at Third and Francis streets, passed a bond issue for \$20,000 for construction purposes if the veterans would pitch in and match this contribution in money, work and materials. The veterans did pitch in, magnificently, as we see here today. They met with county commissioners and approved a plan to construct a 46 x 48 foot addition to the old building for the veterans meeting room and remodel the old building for their auxiliaries together with dining room and kitchen. The addition and remodeling of the old structure was completely achieved by volunteer work of veterans, most of whom were Veterans of World War I, the youngest 68, the oldest 74. You will find other essential details in the dedication program.

Chairman Heuhslein has asked that we dedicate this building and grounds to all veterans organizations

now using it with the hope that Korean and Vietnam veterans will make it their official home. And if he would permit a proud suggestion, it would be a dedication also to the unselfish devotion and hard work of every man jack from ages 68 to 74 in building a beautiful home for all veterans whose loyalty the United States needs so very urgently in these troubled times.

For there are those who tell us that patriotism is old-fashioned. Well, excuse the word, but it damned well better be.

Thank you for the invitation to come, your patient attention and your always pleasant company. And now in closing, a word of comfort to those Clallam County mothers who have recently lost their sons who died in defense of America's responsibilities in this Communist-threatened "free world".

Midst all the maddening maze of things
Though tossed by storm and flood,
To one fixed trust my spirit clings
I know that God is good.

I know not what the future hath
Of marvel and surprise,
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.

Fall 1967 was indeed quite a time for a celebration. After much long hard work on the building, erecting a very beautiful monument, installing flag poles and flags a celebration and dedication picnic were in order. The following pictures touch a small part of this celebration and dedication and the local papers acknowledgement of them.

DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE
of
CLALLAM COUNTY
VETERANS CENTER



3rd & FRANCIS STREET PORT ANGELES, WASH.



Nov. 11, 1967

11:30 A. M. to 3:00 P. M.



MEMORIAL SERVICE - World War II Veterans raised the flag Saturday in tribute to those who died in this country's battles. Services and a dedication were held

at the new Veterans Center. James Drennan sang the Star Spangled Banner and taps were played by Oscar Fodge. (Evening News Photo)

Veterans dedicate building

Ceremony honors war dead

Tribute to those who gave their life in protection of this free country was paid Saturday and a new building was dedicated to their memory.

Veterans Day was observed here by placing wreaths on a new Memorial Monument by various service and fraternal organizations.

The program, directed by world War I Barracks No. 2294, included an invocation given by the Rev. Fred Jewell and a speech given by the Rev. Harold E. Sortor.

Sortor reminded those gathered that these are troubled times, but "people should not be afraid." "We need to remind ourselves that we cannot have Liberty without Justice," Sortor said.

He said the American people can overcome racial problems and the war in Vietnam if they stand united and pledge the flag.

Veterans now have a home they can call their own, for the dedication ended years of hard work by many persons.

The new structure at Third and Francis streets was the former site of the Department of Natural Resources. Veterans used the old GAR Hall at Fifth and Lincoln streets which was burned to the ground when the new site became available.

Initial financing came from the county, but it was the volunteer labor, materials and furnishing that turned an old building into a modern center.

The dedication took place at 11:30 a.m. after memorial services were held.

Nicholas Heuhslein, president of the Veterans Center Administration Board introduced representatives of the various service groups, county commissioners and guest speaker William D. Welsh.

Entertainment was provided by The Liljedahls and James Drennan, accompanied by Mrs. Carl Shields.

A potluck dinner wound up the day-long open house and ceremonies.

Nothing but the best to honor our fallen and suffering comrades!



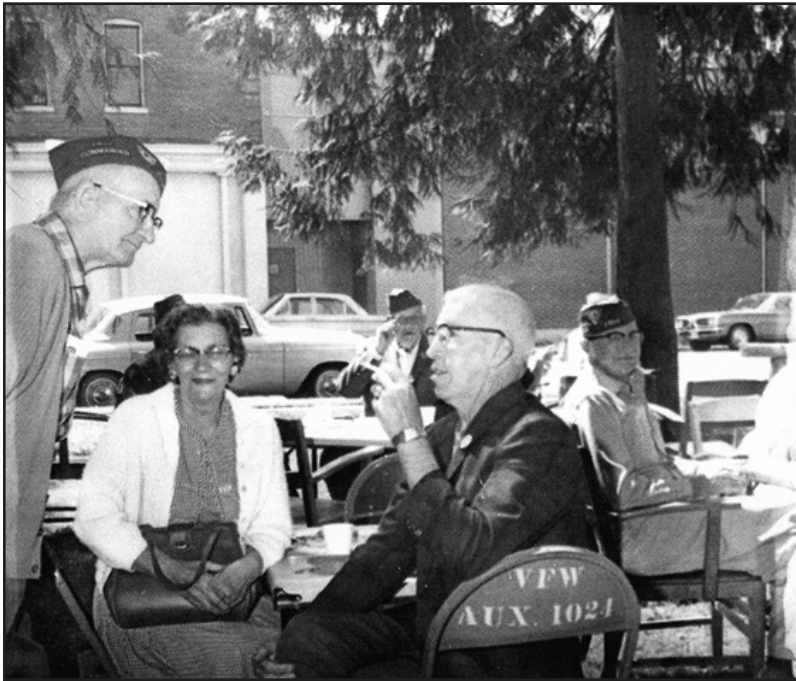
Many of the hard workers celebrating the center and the flag pole.



Preparing the “COLORS” to fly!



A celebration worth waiting for!



Dessert-Nick Heuhslien unwraps a slice of ice cream for his dessert.
(Evening News Photo)



Appreciation DINNER- The people who helped with the building of the Veterans Center were Honored at a dinner there Wednesday evening. Serving diner to 75 at the tables were 14 women from the VFW, Navy Mothers, American legion, Worlds War I and Woman's Relief Corps groups. Entertainment was provided by the high school Pop Choir and also Recce Jirikowic who played electric guitar and sang western songs.
(Evening News Photo)



SUNSHINE AND SHADE-Ernie Roth, left, grins as he visits with members of WWI Barracks and Auxillary enjoying sunshine, games, music and good food with friends at the picnic Friday. (Evening News Photo)



DANCING TOO — When the lively music started, Dick Furseley grabbed a partner and did a little fancy stepping. (Evening News Photo)



The listing of contributors and donors to the Veterans Center follows.

- County Commissioners
- Those who contributed labor
- The ladies who cared for and fed the laborers
- The flag, flag pole and plaque
- Other gifts
- Donors who contributed cash, fixtures, furniture

This chronicle would not be complete without listing the names of those who contributed to the project in any manner. First the County Commissioners:

E. L. Critchfield - Board Chairman for 1967
Thomas Mansfield
Harvey Eacrett

A list of those who contributed labor must be led by the names of Ernest Roth and Clay Wolverton, who spent hundreds of hours in developing the center. Several others spent day after day on the job during the heavy construction, and volunteers were plentiful when needed during the long months of development.

Following is a list of the boys who built the Ladies Hall and who have continued to do whatever needs doing:

Walter A. Barr	WW I
Ira Bourm	WW I
James H. McBride	WW I
C. A. (Dick) Pursley	WW I
Samuel Howard Morse	WW II
Ernest Roth	WW I
Al N. Williams	WW I
Clay A. Wolverton	WW I
C. H. (Red) Young	WW II
Edward York	WW I

Add to the list those who helped when they could or who answered a call for help.

Alfred Aalstad	WW I	F. Joe Lonn	WW I
W. Donnel Bailey	WW I	Fred McCorkle	
Jack J. Baskins	WW II	William McGoff	WW II
William A. Blagdon	WW I	Julian E. Meek	WW II
William E. Bradshaw	WW II	Larry C. Nelson	WW II
Mark Cole	WW I	Donald A. Powell	WW I
William D. Duncan	WW I	Peter Sandness	WW I
Bob Fleming	WW I	Richard Sargent	WW II
William W. Givens	WW II	Lewis w. Schulz	WW I
Nicholas Heuhslein	WW I	Ed J. Schumitsch	WW I
Louis G. Hulse	WW II	Charles R. Shepherd	WW II
James M. Kinney	WW I	Lee V. Struble	WW I
Carl C. Konopaski	WW II	Harry Sutton	WW II
Leo B. Konopaski	WW II	Lloyd Workman	WW I
Frank G. Long	WW I	John C. DeCamp	WW I
Orin Kelly			

The ladies were there, serving lunch, making drapes, doing everything they could--- without being asked. The men are still talking about the perfect dinner the ladies hosted and prepared in appreciation of the work the men did in furnishing them with their lovely meeting room.

Following is a list of the ladies who helped so wonderfully.

Martha Aalstad	Dot Lonn
Florence Ahlvers	Murriel Lyon
Estella Bailey	Anna Main
Nellie Baker	Beulah McBride
Vera Brown	Iola McGoff
Eva Conrad	Laverne Meek
Agnes DeCamp	Loretta Melcher
Ruth Doran	Gladys Neale
Marian Downing	Molly Nelson
Florence Duncan	Dorothy Nordstrom
Mary Edlund	Nell Powell
Katherine Feakes	Dorothy Ridout
Helen Fillion	Elsie Roth
Lyda Fleming	Delores Smith
Iva Foster	Anna Struble
Betty Gesellchen	Inez Shields
June Johnson	Emma Tennis
Georgetta Larson	Helen Webber
Nellie Leslie	Edith York
Doris Loghry	

Florence Ahlvers volunteered and has kept the Monument vases supplied with fresh flowers.

The Flag, Flag Pole and Plaque were presented by Mrs Edith (William) Grant in memory of her son, Junior Egloff, who was killed in World War II.

August Thors presented a gift in memory of his son, Robert W. Thors, who died in China in World War II.

Other Gifts were:

Tim O'Neil - Did concrete work at \$400 savings to Center fund.
Felix Gallacci painted the bulletin board.
Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Williams - Electric Range in the kitchen
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Feakes - A dishwasher which was traded for a refrigerator
Ray Porsch, Olympic Seed Co. - Flowers at base of flagpole
Ira Bourm - Building Material
Pioneer Business Forms of Tacoma - Book of Gold
Walter Akeley Post, American Legion - Furniture and fixtures
Randall Kilmer Construction Co. - Reduced price on paving
Bob Fleming - Monument base form and cabinet for Book of Gold
Richard Sargent - Pictures
Lynn Covault arranged with company for Book of Gold

The list of donors who contributed cash, fixtures and furniture is long and contains the names of many who worked on the project. Some of the gifts were quite large, but all gave what they felt they could. All of the gifts, large and small, were valued and appreciated. The list of donors is as follows:

Cash donations to the development fund:

World War I Barracks #2294
 World War I Barracks Aux. #2294
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2294
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary #1024
 Disabled American Veterans Chapter #9
 Women's Relief Corps, Pacific Corps #21

Walter Conway	Joe and Dot Lonn
Howard V. Doherty	Mr. and Mrs. Otto Melander
Harvey Eacrett	Samuel H. Morse
Robert Gosset	Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Pursley
Orin Kelly	William H. Smith
Carl Konapaski	Clay A. Wolverton

In Memory of William H. Smith:

Women's Literary Club Chorus	Phyllis M. Barry
Lincoln Heights Ladies Aid	Jim and Beulah McBride
Crown Zellerbach Corporation	Mrs. Floyd Bucholz
Floss E. Forbes	Mrs. Delores Smith
Ed and Edith York	Mr. and Mrs. George E. Main
Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Schulz	Mrs. Susan Olson
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Struble	Roy Harbaugh
Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Powell	

In Memory of Walter Smith: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1024

Leo Wallitner: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1024

The monument was purchased with contributions from interested persons. Contributors were:

Mrs. Ethel Schulz
 Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Schulz
 Mr. and Mrs. John C. DeCamp in memory of their son Dodd Conely DeCamp K.I.A. near St.Lo.France WW2.
 Lucy D. Gordon - In memory of her late husband, Edwin B. Gordon
 Mrs. L. L. Livingston
 Louis and Lucy Mona
 George L. Mogan
 Fletcher-Wittenborn Auxiliary #9106, V.F.W.
 Arthur Moody
 Hugo Johnson
 Iva Foster
 Bob Loghry
 Bernice Baker
 Ann Leamon
 Mrs. Lee Durham - In memory of Lance Corporal Ronald Pearson and Pfc. Dean Messersmith KIA, Viet Nam
 Mamie Goddard
 Emma Tennis - In memory of her late husband, Edward Tennis
 Veterans of 91st Division
 Clay Wolverton
 Nick Heuhslein
 Joe Lonn
 Lee Stroble
 Louis Mona
 } In memory of Alva Burgess, a 91st Division Buddy
 VWV I Aux.of Barracks #2294 in memory of Louise Aneres
 Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post #1024 in memory of Floyd Conner
 Jack Durrwachter
 WW 1 Barracks #2294 in memory of George Elliot Main
 Mr.& Mrs. Louis Schultz " " " " "
 Mr.& Mrs.Ernest Roth " " " " "
 Mr.& Mrs. A.R. Teeters " " " " "
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 Mr.& Mrs. Munro " " " " "
 Marie Lisk & Family " " " " "
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Furthur contributions to monument fund

In memory of Frank Gregory Lindsay

MR.& MRS. ArT MUNSON

Mrs. William E Lindsay

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Mr.& Mrs. Rollin Norris

Mrs.Elizabeth Holliday

Mr.& Mrs.Ross Jolly & Bob

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James Wise

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Don Tisdale and Blaine Gosset

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In memory of John C. DeCamp BY World War I Auxilliary #2294

In Memory of Thomas Crowder BY World War I Auxilliary #2294

In Memory of George E. Main By Mrs. George Main

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In Memory of Sidney S. Fleener By Lois L. Conrad

In Memory of Ted Harbison By lois L. Conrad

In Memory of George Main By B. Marshall

In Memory of Frank Lindsay By Joe and Dot Lonn
V. F. W. Auxiliary #1024

In Memory of FRED SCHULTZ By Mrs. Ethel Schultz

In Memory of WM. H. Thomas By Eunice Ahlvers

In Memory of Joe Dessler By WWI and WWI Auxiliary

In Memory of james Perry By WWI and WWI Auxiliary

In Memory of James Kinney By WWI and WWI Auxiliary
Anna Main

In Memory of Harry Conner By WWI and WWI Auxiliary

In Memory of Milton lanway By WWI

In Memory of Fred Robert Smith By Anna Main
890 27 92 - Fireman 1st Class
Served 26 May 1943-6 April '45
Missing in Action
Son of Anna Main

In Memory of George B. Mulford By WWI

In Memory of Agnes Rowland
 In Memory of Lucy Mona
 In Memory of William N. Kidd
 In Memory of Hugo Johnson
 In Memory of Delores Smith
 In Memory of Otto Melander
 In Memory of Floss Forbes
 In Memory of Ray Gamache
 In Memory of Emmett Groves
 In Memory of Albert Duncan
 In Memory of Anton Schell
 In Memory of B. N. Morehead
 In Memory of Hazel Finch
 In Memory of Vivian Guernsey
 In Memory of Henry Boetcher
 In Memory of Ira Bourm
 In Memory of William McComb
 In Memory of Emma Tennis
 In Memory of Hugh Counts
 In Memory of Nick Heuhslein
 In Memory of Runhard P. Damme
 In Memory of Hobart Snider

By WWI Auxiliary
 By WWI Auxiliary
 By WWI
 By WWI
 By Nick Heuhslein
 Emma Tennis
 By Ralph H. Floria
 WWI & WWI Auxiliary
 By WWI Auxiliary
 By WWI & WWI Auxiliary
 By Rose Groves
 By WWI Auxiliary
 By WWI
 By WWI
 By WWI Auxiliary
 By WWI Auxiliary
 Wilda McDonald
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 Glenn Bourm
 By WWI
 By Dorothy Olson
 Bonnie K. Gudbranson
 By WWI
 By Claire Moyer
 June Johnson
 WWI
 By WWI
 By WWI

In Memory of William J. McCoy	By WWI
In Memory of William Cuncan	By WWI Don Bailey
In Memory of Nick Heuhslein	By VFW #1024
In Memory of Michael Karpan	By VFW # 1024
In Memory of Earl Cashman	By VFW #1024
In Memory of Chester Sams	By WWI
In Memory of Gardener D. Richardson	By WWI
In Memory of Robert B. Gossett	By WWI
In Memory of Ernest Roth	By Elmer Jacobs
In Memory of Estelle Bailey	By Elmer Jacobs
In Memory of High Fitch	By Katherine Feakes
In Memory of Eula Hayes	By WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Joe Lonn	By Elmer Jacobs WWI VFW #1024 Ben Lonn
In Memory of Gardener Richardson	By Maudie Richardson
In Memory of Oscar Fogde	By WWI
In Memory of Lee Struble	By Elmer Jacobs Don Bailey WWI Lewis Schultz J. McBride
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In Memory of E. R. Brooks	By WWI
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In Memory of Walter Boyer	By WWI Auxiliary
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In Memory of Malchon Ross	By June Johnson Nick Heuhslein Walter Baar Eva Mulford
In Memory of Hazel Starks	By VFW #1024 Auxiliary
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In Memory of Alfred D. Aalstad	By Mr. & Mrs. Donald Powell Mr. & Mrs. Lee Struble WWI and WWI Auxiliary
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In Memory of Claude Randall	By WWI
In Memory of Eugene Buckner, Lt. Comm.	By Betty Buckner
In Memory of Ida Pearson	By WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Iva Foster	By WWI Auxiliary

In Memory of Clarence N. Myers	By WWI
In Memory of James W. Oakes	By WWI
In Memory of Mamie Goddard	By Nan M. Anthony
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In Memory of Peder K. Sandness	By WWI
In Memory of Margret Schultz	By Mrs. Nell Powell Jim and Beulah McBride WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Guy Albright	By WWI and WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Harold A. Wilcox, Sr.	By WWI and WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Percy Payne	By WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Louis Mona	By WWI and WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Martin Kurober	By WWI and WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Edward Tennis	By Emma Tennis
In Memory of Joe Vollmers	By Mrs. Joe Vollmers
In Memory of John H. Duggin	By WWI
In Memory of Henry Wells	By WWI
In Memory of Joseph S. McNight	By Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Walters
In Memory of Edith York	By WWI Auxiliary Nell Powell Claire Moyer Nick Heuhslein Dorothy Olson Barbara Bradford Esther Larson Molly Nelson
In Memory of Henry Schmith	By Meile & Robin Schmith Florence Troutman Marge Cren
In Memory of Elmer Eacrett	By WWI

In Memory of R. Dickgeizer	By WWI
In Memory of Grover Gilemer	By WWI
In Memory of Donald Powell	By Malden Lowman Ed York Walter Baar Anna Struble
In Memory of William Blagdon	By Edith Gormley Elmer Jacobs William Woods
In Memory of Marg Daly	By WWI
In Memory of Herman Ahlvers	By WWI
In Memory of Frank Foy	By WWI
In Memory of Everett Frisbee	By WWI
In Memory of Merle J. Buckholz	By Floyd Buckholz
In Memory of Marie Sather	By WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Maybeth Williams	By WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Olive Shearer	By WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Cecelia Louck (Melander)	By WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Arthur Rathbun	By WWI
In Memory of Hazel McCann	By WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Louis Uphoff	By WWI
In Memory of Earl V. Conrad	By FRA Br. 354
In Memory of William Conniff	By WWI
In Memory of	By WWI Auxiliary
In Memory of Joseph and George Galander	By Martin Galanda Elizabeth Worth Ann Flowers

Memory of Cecil Howe	By WWI
Memory of Joseph Vane	By WWI
Memory of Clarence Caskey	By Kenneth and Nellie Watkins By Betsy McDaniels
Memory of Abraham Bennett	By WWI
Memory of Wm. McCauley	By WWI
Memory of Lucy Rathbun	By Ruth and Ed York
Memory of Rose Liljedahl	By WWI Auxiliary
Memory of Frances R. Stevenson	By Wayne and Mary Brown Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Baar
Memory of Chris Gill	By DAV Chapter 9
Memory of Milton Goddard	By DAV Chapter 9
Memory of Walter Baar	By WWI VFW Auxiliary Elaine J. Baker, San Juan Capistrano, CA William and Lillian Martinson R. L. Clark Theresa Hodgdon Leonard Kautz Evelyn Bragg Fritz and Nell Sutter Anna Main Mary Mulford Edna Kelly Orpha Dempsey Mrs. F. J. Hart Dorthea B. Coe Al Williams L. M. Montgomery Ed York Verda Ratcliff, Bellingham Lena M. Lindsay, Bellingham Ken and Nellie Watkins LAFRA Unit #354 FRA Branch #354
Memory of Joe Sylvia	By WWI

In Memory of Walter Baar

Elaine J. Baker-San Juan Capistrano,
Wm. and Lillian Martinson Ca
R. L. Clark
Theresa Hodgdon
Leonard Kautz
Evelyn Bragg
Fritz and Nell Sutter
Anna Main
Mary E. Mulford
Edna Kelly
Orpha Dempsey
Mrs. F. J. Hart
Dorthea B. Coe
Al Williams
L. M. Montgomery
Ed York
Verda Ratcliff--Bellingham
Lena M. Lindsay "
Ken and Nellie Watkins
LAFRA Unit #354
FRA Branch #354
L. M. Montgomery

In Memory of Joe Sylvia

WW1

In Memory of Victor Ramo

WW1

In Memory of Sereno Flores

WW1

In Memory of Lewis W. Schulz

Mrs. Ethel Schulz
Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hill

In Memory of Arthur Rathbun	By WW1
In Memory of Hazel McCann	By WW1 Auxiliary
In Memory of Louis Uphoff	By WW1
In Memory of Earl V. Conrad	By FRA Br. 354
In Memory of William Conniff	By WW1
In Memory of Nellie Leslie	By WW1 Auxiliary
In Memory of Joseph & Geo. Galander	By Martin Galanda Elizabeth Worth Ann Flowers
In Memory of Cecil Howe	By WW1
In Memory of Joseph Vane	By WW1
In Memory of Clarence M. Caskey	By Kenneth and Nellie Watkins By Betty McDaniels
In Memory of Abram Bennett	By WW1
In Memory of Wm. McCauley	By WW1
In Memory of Lucy Rathbun	By Ruth and Ed York
In Memory of Rose Liljedahl	By WW1 Auxiliary
In Memory of Francis R. Stevenson	By Wayne and Mary Brown Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Baar
In Memory of Chris Gill	By DAV Chapter 9
In Memory of Milton Goodard	By DAV Chapter 9
In Memory of Walter Baar	By WW1 VFW Auxiliary

In Memory of Al Williams	By WWI
In Memory of Otto Slehofer	"
In Memory of John Bergaeson	"
In Memory of Guy Whitman	"
In Memory of Malcom Lindsay	""
In Memory of Nagle George	"
In Memory of Oliver Snelgrove	"
In Memory of Leroy Benson	"
In Memory of Elbert Thompson	"
In Memory of Sam Palmquest	"
In Memory of Harvey Keller	
In Memory of Fred Solf	
In Memory of H.A.Hollingworth	
In Memory of Edward York	
In Memory of Lloyd Tooker	
In Memory of Chester Rich Dr.	
In Memory of Alvin Carr	
In Memory of Harold Sortor	
In Memory of Ralph Lackman	
In Memory of George Hayes	
In Memory of Stephen Pitzen	
In Memory of Walter McCormick	
In Memory of Thomas Parr	
In Memory of Charles Lockart	
In Memory of Edward Hall	
In Memory of Ashep Haas	
In Memory of Neil E. Loomis	
In Memory of Einor Norman	
In Memory of Claud Krone	
In Memory of Alfred Spencer	
In Memory of Theodore Carlson	
In Memory of Carl Lawrence	
In Memory of Dr. Adrian F,Werner	
In Memory of Jesse Colvin	
In Memory of Vergne Snow	
In Memory of Paul W. Clements	
In Memory of Sedney Brannin	
In Memory of Ralph H.Predmore	
In Memory of Harry Schoeffel	
In Memory of Donnell Winslow Bailey	
In Memory of Eugene O. Forest	
In Memory of Claude I. Cox	
In Memory of Victor A. Oberg	
In Memory of John Schweitzer	
In Memory of Reginald Lewis	
In Memory of Jack Olson	
In Memory of George Fowler	
In Memory of Charlie Murray	
In Memory of John Kannair	
In Memory of John Woodward	
In Memory of Stanley R. Herr	
In Memory of Fred Feakes	By Clare Moyer
In Memory of Marian Melville	By Clare Moyer

In Memory Of Jessie A. Menshaw	By Fleet Reserve Assn.# 354
In Memory of James L. Reynalds	By Fleet Reserve Assn. #354
In Memory of Paul D. Hesselman	By Fleet Reserve Assn. #354
In Memory of Earl B. Miller	By Fleet REserve Assn. #354
In Memory of Audrey Milo Lile	By Fleet Reserve Assn. #354
In Memory of Lewis W. Schulz	By Mr. & Mrs. Carl Carlson
In Memory of Jim Fredericks	By Bob & Gladys Fox
In Memory of John Valentine Wright (Civil War)	By Edith Bucholz
In Memory of Earl W. Bucholz	By Edith Bucholz
In Memory of Merle James Bucholz	By Edith Bucholz
In Memory of Jesse A. Menshaw	By Fleet Reserve Assn. #354
In Memory of James Manakan	By Fleet Reserve Assn. #354
In Memory of Howard Johns	By WWI
In Memory of Revolutionary War Patriots	By Michael Trebert Chapter DAR
In Memory of Anthony Stevens	By Henry Miller
In Memory of Sam Kallen	By Henry Miller
In Memory of Glen Grove	By Melvine Mason
In Memory of Glen Grove	By R.A. Lorentzen
In Memory of Alf Michelson	By WWI
In Memory of Ernest de Leo	By WWI
In Memory of Martin Schmidt	By Hulda & Theodore Schmidt
In Memory of James Manakan	By Fleet Reserve Assn. #354
In Memory of George Enges	By Fleet Reserve Assn #354
In Memory of Charles L. Whitaker	By Fleet Reserve Assn. #354
In Memory of Earl L. Schmidt	By Fleet Reserve Assn. #354
In Memory of Lena May Lindsay	By Western Pump
In Memory of Lena May Lindsay	By Earline Boyd

In Memory of Victor Rambo

In Memory of Sereo Flores

In Memory of Lewis W. Schulz

In Memory of Lena May Lindsey

In Memory of Lena Lindaay

In Memory of Lena May Lindsay

In Memory of Spud Sawyer

In Memory of Anna M. Struble

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In Memory of Anna M. Struble

In Memory of Anna M. Struble

In Memory of Anna M. Struble

In Memory of Anna M. Struble

In Memory of Ivar Bholin

By WWI

By WWI

By Mrs. Ethel Schulz
Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hill

By Joan Koringo

By Juanita E. Webb

By VFW aux.#1024

Lewis & Nadin e Tucker & Bowes & Luke
D.A.V.#9

By Melvin & Rachel Lynch

By Charles & Helen Gariepy

By Harry & Lucile Wilson

By Ronald & Myrtle Magnuson

By Myron & Yulanda Carlson

By C.H. & Alice Watkins

By Jack & Ruth Pearman

By Margaret L. Struble

By Mr. & Mrs Carl Fors

By B. Brandstrom

Mrs R. Cady

Mrs G. Edfelt

Mrs E. Nyman





DAV
TRANSPORTATION NETWORK



Now the history booklet turns to the DAV and its blending into the local veterans center. First a brief explanation of the formation of the DAV as a national organization, and then a brief history on how and when our local chapter was formed and its current affairs.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

About the DAV

The DAV's Long Tradition of Service

The following short story is from the national DAV web site

When the troops came home from World War I, some 300,000 carried grim reminders of war: Disabling injuries, battle scars, gas-seared lungs, and prolonged illnesses. Following a tumultuous hero's welcome, America wiped the horror of war from its mind almost as quickly as the ticker tape was swept from the streets of New York City. As a result, the needs of the nation's disabled heroes were swept aside as well.

Angered by the negligence and incompetence of those dealing with their problems, disabled veterans began forming local self-help groups in cities across America. In 1920, leaders from 250 of these groups gathered in Cincinnati, Ohio. They federated into a national body named the Disabled American Veterans of the World War (DAVWW).

When the specter of World War II raised its head, the DAVWW dropped the reference to the First World War from its name, becoming simply the Disabled American Veterans, or DAV.

DAV efforts to open up employment opportunities for disabled veterans and other handicapped people are legendary. They prepared an organization that was

Continued next page

ready to serve the veterans of the next generation, those who returned from the Vietnam War sick and wounded. In doing so, they resolutely stood in opposition to a society that often shunned these younger veterans.

The DAV's Vietnam generation continued that tradition of advocacy, among other victories, winning recognition of the needs of veterans exposed to radiation in the post World War II era and Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

If the DAV's World War II and Korean War veterans were quick to respond to the needs of Vietnam veterans, the Vietnam generation proved just as ready to respond to the veterans of the Persian Gulf War and other post-Vietnam military conflicts. They're actively recruiting a new generation of DAV National Service Officers from disabled veterans now in their twenties and thirties, a generation that will lead the DAV into the 21st century.

It is important to note that the DAV has had a quiet partner as the organization built this substantial record of achievement. It takes funds to field the kind of services, programs and advocacy the DAV offers to disabled veterans and their families—more funding than could possibly be supplied by the dues paid by disabled veterans for membership in the organization. The American people, good and loyal people like yourself have stood by our organization, providing nearly all of the funding necessary to field our extensive network of services. We are not exaggerating one bit when we say we are eternally grateful to you. Your generosity has allowed us to touch the lives of literally millions of disabled veterans and their families. ***Thank you for such great kindness.***

Dates of formation, both national and the local chapter 9:

National:

- Founded In 1920
- Congressionally Chartered in 1932
- Headquartered in Cincinnati Ohio

Local DAV Chapter 9:

- Chapter Chartered in 1969
- Originally Named as the Port Angeles Chapter
- Re-named Clarence M. Caskey after a local Veteran killed at Pearl Harbor during WWII.



The DAV

MISSION STATEMENT



Made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense, the Disabled American Veterans is dedicated to one single purpose – building better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families. Providing free professional assistance to Veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services. Providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally and to the disabled veteran and their families specifically. Representation before Congress, the White House, and the Judicial Branch as well as state and local government.

Extending into the communities working through a network of state level departments and local Chapters. Variety of Volunteer programs whereby disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans.

Now the early history of the local DAV Chapter 9 and how it came to be at the Port Angeles Veterans Center.

- Chapter Chartered in 1969
- Originally Named as the Port Angeles Chapter
- Re-named Clarence M. Caskey after a local Veteran killed at Pearl Harbor during WWII.

The Veterans Center has always been a facility for use by all Service Organizations and for what seems like a century or more, the VFW used the Annex behind the Center for their Headquarters. The facility was maintained and operated by Katherine (Kitty) Feaks and several members of the VFW but, due to the death of Mrs. Feaks in early 2004, the VFW appeared to vacate the Facility.

The Annex sat empty for quite some time until Robert Caruthers of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), requested a portion of the Annex to Headquarter the DAV there since the Service Officers of the DAV worked primarily out of their homes and traveled to local libraries to offer claim services to veterans in need of benefits.

The DAV moved into the Annex in 2004 and became the guardians of the Veterans Center. However, all organizations were invited to join the DAV in support of Veterans at

Continued next page

the Annex, but only the DAV holds an office there. Since our move into the Annex the DAV has helped secure over \$18 million dollars in benefits to return back into the community. As we move into the future we hope to continue the “call to duty” to enable all veterans to secure their benefits and continue to help a struggling community find a way to help its veterans to thrive.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS



Clarence M. Caskey
Chapter 9
Post Office Box 971
Port Angeles, WA 98362



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS **AUXILIARY**

Clarence M. Caskey
Auxiliary 9
Post Office Box 3236
Sequim, WA 98382

**We now skip ahead some 40 years to
current events with the
DAV
*Clarence Caskey Chapter 9!***

The day to day folks that “*make it happen*”



A “Charter Member” and his lovely wife!



Veterans service officers to visit North Peninsula

Peninsula Daily News

Veterans service officers will visit the Forks Masonic Hall, Neah bay Senior Center and Port Hadlock library starting today.

The Forks session will run from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, and the Neah Bay visit will last from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday.

The Port Hadlock session will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18th.

Meanwhile, the Veterans center at 216 S. Francis St., Post Angeles, offers services to vets, their widows and their family members from 10 a.m. to

Veterans who need transportation to Seattle in the Disabled American Veterans van should call the DAV Transportation Office. 360-457-5251

2 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to noon Friday.

For an appointment, call 360-417-9444 or 360-417-2630.

The Sequim satellite office in the senior center at 921 E. Hammond St. is open from

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. For details, call 360-681-2402.

Transportation Options

Veterans who need transportation to Seattle in the Disabled American Veterans van should call the DAV Transportation Office, 360-457-5251.

The DAV needs volunteer drivers for the van, which carries an average of 32 vets per week to and from Seattle for their medical appointments.

Volunteer drivers need not be veterans but must have valid drivers' licenses and good driving records.



A DAV Van is needed!



STEPHEN P. THARINGER, District 1, Chair
MICHAEL C. CHAPMAN, District 2
HOWARD V. DOHERTY, Jr., District 3

Board of Clallam County Commissioners

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015
360.417.2233 Fax: 360.417.2493
E-mail: commissioners@co.clallam.wa.us

Jim Jones, Jr., County Administrator

File: A22.44

May 6, 2007

David Price, General Manager
Port Angeles Ford
1527 E Front Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you yesterday to discuss the Port Angeles based Disabled Americans Van (DAV) that is operated to transport Veterans to their medical appointments in Bremerton and Seattle.

As we discussed the DAV van was involved in an accident near Sequim Bay Park on Friday, April 27, 2007 which resulted in the death of one of the Veterans that was returning from his medical appointment in Seattle. The three newspaper articles provide details on the accident and the need for a replacement van as soon as possible. The van was a total loss.

A meeting occurred with the Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans Department of Washington, Ernest Hume who explained to us the options that were available:

1. If a donation of a van could be obtained or a surplus vehicle at cost the DAV would provide a tax donation receipt and the sponsors name would be listed on both sides of the van.
2. Donations and a lump sum payment from the DAV could be used to purchase a new van at an estimated price of \$22,000.00. This of course would take some time and is provided that the money could be collected.
3. If the DAV is not able to come up with money for a new van or a donation of a new/used van they will not be eligible for another from the VA until June, 2008.

I spoke with Ernest this morning and understand that a surplus van with an estimated 20,000 miles on it as well as an active warranty would be acceptable to the Veterans Administration who oversees the transportation department. I understand that there may be a van available at cost and would appreciate anything you could do to get us more information.

Thank you again for meeting with me. If you have any additional questions please contact me at 360.417.2233 or Tammy Davidson at 360.417.2383. I look forward to hearing from you soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Doherty".

Mike Doherty

DAV seeks to replace crashed van

PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

Disabled American Veterans has resumed transportation to the Seattle Veterans Affairs medical facilities following Friday's fatal crash of its van near Sequim.

However, the replacement vehicle on loan from the DAV in Seattle can only seat five passengers plus its driver, not the nine passengers carried by the van that wrecked Friday on U.S. Highway 101.

"It's first-come, first-served," Karen Key said.

Vets who need rides to Seattle should call 360-457-5251 as far before their appointments as possible, said Key, DAV service officer at the Clallam County Veterans Center.

Continued Right: VAN

Van: Donors

CONTINUED FROM A1

Unless donors can raise funds for a replacement, it will be a year before the DAV can buy a larger vehicle, she said.

"We don't have enough dollars to get a new van," Key said.

"Unless we get a van donated or get funds donated, it's a year until we can get a new van (through the purchasing process of the DAV, an affiliate of the U.S. Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs)."

The van that crashed into a tree near the entrance to Sequim Bay State Park could seat 12, but it was limited to carrying nine people plus its driver because of its rollover danger.

Key said the DAV would meet soon with Clallam County officials to discuss their next steps to acquiring a new vehicle.

Interested persons can call her at 360-417-9444.



Veterans group in financial need

Peninsula Daily News

PORT ANGELES - The Disabled American Veterans organization needs money.

Karen Key of the DAV briefly addressed the Port Angeles Business Association's breakfast meeting Tuesday.

"The long and short of it is, the DAV needs money," She said.

The group, which serves all eligible veterans in Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap and part of Grays Harbor counties, has a

single fund-raiser, it's forget-me-not sale in August.

"A lot of us take money out of our own pockets to help these veterans and their families," Key said.

Contributions for a new van to shuttle vets to medical appointments at the Veterans Affairs center in Seattle arrived after the DAV's van was wrecked.

The collision May 4 on US Highway 101 near the Park killed Howard LeRoy

Fisher, 63, of Port Angeles, a passenger returning from Seattle.

"It looks like we may have found a van," Key said, with the help of Clallam County Commissioner Mike Doherty, D-Port Angeles, at Port Angeles Ford Lincoln-Mercury.

The local DAV must buy the nine-passenger vehicle but turn over its title to the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition, the vehicle must carry a warranty.

Meanwhile, the DAV is using a six-passenger van borrowed from the Seattle Chapter to make the day long trip to and from Seattle.

Persons interested in helping support the DAV's programs can call Key at 360-417-9444.

Key also invited people to come to the 1 p.m. potluck and 2 p.m. meeting the second Sunday of each month at the Clallam County Veterans Center, 216 S. Francis St., Port Angeles.

Pocketbooks open up for new veterans' van

Peninsula Daily News

PORT ANGELES

The Disabled American Veterans has received numerous offers to donate to buying a new van to transport vets to Medical appointments in Seattle.

"We already have received people walking into the Veterans center [at 261 S. Francis St.], handing us checks for the van," Karen Key of the DAV said Thursday.

The donors were responding to a story on Page A1 of Thursday's Peninsula Daily News, Key said. The article reported it might take a year for the DAV to buy a van through the normal channels of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

Key added that the DAV also will accept "any donations for the veterans and families of all persons involved in the crash".

Key referred to the wreck last Friday that killed Howard LeRoy Fisher, 63, of Port Angeles, a passenger in the DAV

van returning from Seattle. Also injured in the crash but since released from Olympic Medical Center were Daniel Lee Hendrickson, 67, of Port Angeles, also a passenger, and James Walter, 63, of Port Angeles, its driver.

Donors should make checks Payable to DAV Chapter 9, said Key and the group will forward the funds to the victims.

The Clallam County DAV is using a six passenger van on loan from its Seattle affiliate while it and Clallam County investigate options for a replacement vehicle.

The Agency wants to replace the 12-passenger van that wrecked on U.S. highway 101 near the entrance to Sequim Bay State Park.

The DAV will not buy a 15-passenger vehicle that, because of its high rollover danger, would be limited to carrying nine people, said Key.

The smaller van will allow the agency to carry 11 passengers per trip, plus a driver, she said.

DAV attempts to open local VA Clinic

It's VA in PA: Vets' 'virtual' clinic OK'd

OMC board approves \$1 annual lease

By JIM CASEY
PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

PORT ANGELES — Olympic Medical Center will lease office space to the Department of Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System for a "virtual" VA clinic at 1005 Georgiana St.

The VA will pay \$1 a year under terms approved Wednesday by hospital commissioners.

It also will receive \$25,000 in free radiology and laboratory services for patients who need it in emergencies.

The clinic, staffed by Marty Melcher, a Port Angeles nurse practitioner, is expected to open in late spring or early summer in OMC's building.

The VA will be able to use the building five days a week.

However Melcher also will visit

the Lower Elwha Klallam Health Clinic, 243511 W. U.S. Highway 101, and Coast Guard Group/Air Station Port Angeles on Ediz Hook each week, according to the VA.

In addition, she will make home-health visits, the agency has said.

The Georgiana Street building was occupied by two doctors in private practice before they joined OMC earlier this year and the hospital bought their building.

It is furnished with office equipment and telephones. The VA will pay utilities.

Clinic can grow, says CEO

The low-cost lease was part of the hospital's efforts to improve medical treatment for Clallam County veterans, said OMC Administrator Eric Lewis.

"We want to do everything we can to bring the VA here," he told hospital commissioners.

Lewis said he foresaw the veterans agency expanding its services in Port Angeles.

"This can grow," he said. "This is a very good start."

TURN TO VETS/A6

Continued Next Page: Vets

Vets: Primary outpatient care

CONTINUED FROM A1

The clinic will extend primary care services of the VA's Bremerton Community Based Outpatient Clinic to North Olympic Peninsula veterans who enroll for VA medical benefits.

Instead of a building owned and operated by the VA, it will use the Georgiana Street building and other existing medical facilities — thus the "virtual" clinic.

Long sought by OMC, the Lower Elwha and veterans' organizations, the clinic turned from a dream into a plan in March when the Bremerton facility said it would send Melcher to the three facilities.

A campaign for the virtual clinic was led by OMC Commissioner Jim Leskinovitch, a retired Coast Guard captain.

Leskinovitch and Commissioners Cindy Witham and Gary Smith's spearheaded a committee of veterans organizations that bombarded the VA with more than 1,000 letters and more than 10,000 signatures on petitions.

Opening date uncertain

The virtual clinic was supported by U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Belfair, and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Shoreline.

They visited the Clallam County Veterans Center in Port Angeles last October to meet with vets and urge the VA to authorize the unique virtual clinic.

It isn't the VA's Washington, D.C., headquarters, however, that will make the Clallam County clinic a reality but the Bremerton facility and its parent Puget Sound Health Care System.

A Seattle VA spokeswoman, Jeri Rowe, said a specific date remains uncertain for opening the clinic.

The virtual clinic will save many vets the day-long trip to the Seattle VA medical center.

Currently they face a lengthy trip across Hood Canal and Puget Sound in a Disabled American Veterans van driven by volunteers.

Dick Stumbaugh, Clallam County veterans assistant, said vets using the van aren't only elders from the World War II and Korean War eras.

They also include younger



KEITH THORP/PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

This building at 1005 Georgiana St. Port Angeles, will become the home of a "virtual" VA clinic in the late spring or early summer.



men who must take a day off work to visit the Seattle center.

According to a recent article in the *Washington Post*, 44 percent of vets returning from Afghanistan and Iraq are from rural areas.

Stopping serious illnesses

"If you work and have to give up a full day," Stumbaugh said Wednesday, "you might as well go to a [local] doctor."

When the virtual clinic opens, Stumbaugh said, "there'll be a lot of guys who can stave off serious ailments by seeing someone who can prescribe an antibiotic."

The virtual clinic will provide only primary care, so the van must continue to take vets to specialists' appointments

in Seattle.

The driver and two passengers in the van that struck a tree Friday near the entrance to Sequim Bay State Park all were returning from specialty visits to the Seattle facility.

Howard LeRoy Fisher, 63, of Port Angeles died in the crash.

He had gone to eye and dental appointments at the center.

Services are set for 3 p.m. today at Drennan-Ford Funeral Home, 260 Monroe Road, Port Angeles.

Graveside inurnment with full military honors will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday in Mount Angeles Memorial Park, U.S. Highway 101 at Monroe Road, Port Angeles.

Another passenger, Daniel Lee Hendrickson, 67, of Port

Angeles, was discharged from Olympic Medical Center on Wednesday.

He had gone to Seattle for a nuclear medicine appointment.

End to 10½-hour day

The van's driver, James Walter Paul, 63, had gone to the VA center to be evaluated as a kidney donor for his diabetic son in law.

He was released from OMC a few hours after the crash.

Paul had picked up Hendrickson at about 5 a.m., and the three men arrived at the Seattle VA center shortly before 8 a.m.

They left the center not long before 1 p.m. The crash occurred at about 3:30 p.m.

The van hit the base of the same western hemlock tree that 70-year old Kay Lynn Clure had struck April 11, 16 days earlier.

Also at Wednesday's hospital meeting, commissioners:

■ Bought a nuclear cardiac camera for \$260,737.

■ Accepted a \$707,999 for air-cooling equipment at the hospital at 939 Caroline St. from Stirrett Johnson Inc. of Silverdale.

■ Received an update on a hospital-billed pulmonary, gastroenterology and urology clinic that will open later this year in the new Ancillary Services Building at OMC's Sequim Medical Park.

Reporter Jim Casey can be reached at 360-417-3538 or at jim.casey@peninsuladailynews.com.

Success for the "Virtual Clinic"

'Virtual' VA clinic opens today in PA

Center to begin on limited basis; officials urge veterans to sign up

By Jim Casey

PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

PORT ANGELES In what you could call a case of virtual reality a Veterans Administration primary care clinic will open today at 1005 Georgiana St.

The facility has been dubbed a "virtual" clinic because it will use the offices and equipment of existing health care providers including Olympic Medical Center and the Lower Elwha Health Clinic.

Other VA Community based outpatient clinics are owned by the government.

The "Reality" is that, after years of pushing from local health officials and the

area's congressional delegation the VA will start serving veterans in Clallam and Jefferson counties.

Few bugs in system

Jim Leskinovitch, the Olympic Medical Center commissioner who led the push for a virtual clinic, said today's opening would be low key. "They're still having bugs in the information technology system," Leskinovitch said, after talking with Frankie Manning, associate director of nursing services at the VA's Bremerton clinic.

The Bremerton clinic will oversee the Port Angeles facility.

"they're just going to work out the bugs and start the process," Leskinovitch said.

To Make appointments, or for more information phone Manning at 206-764-2626.

Manning did not return calls from Peninsula Daily News. Even the agency's regional public affairs person could confirm only that the clinic would open, not its hours.

At least one vet, however got the good news Thursday when the Bremerton clinic called and asked if he would consider moving his appointment to the Port Angeles facility, according to Dick Stumbaugh, Clallam County veterans assistant.

Continued Below: VA



KEITH THORPE/PENINSULA DAILY NEWS
Olympic Medical center commissioners Cindy Witham and Jim Leskinovitch stand outside what will become a "virtual" Veterans Administration clinic near the medical center in Port Angeles.

VA continued

For his part, Leskinovitch said he wanted to spread the news so that local veterans who receive primary care in Bremerton or Seattle can contact the VA and request that they be treated in Port Angeles.

"They need to get the word out that it is, in fact opening," he said, "and the vets really ought to contact the VA and do the paperwork necessary to transfer over here."

Veterans also must register for medical benefits to receive them, he said.

For help in doing so, they may phone Stumbaugh between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at 360-417-2233.

Official to visit PA

Manning said Leskinovitch will visit Port Angeles on today and Tuesday to observe the start-up.

VA officials said the nurse practitioner who will staff the Port Angeles office also will make weekly visits to the Lower Elwha clinic, 243511 W. U.S. Highway 101, and to Coast Guard Station/Air Group Port Angeles on Ediz Hook.

However, tribal Health and Social Services Director Cecile Geenway said Friday she hadn't heard from the VA since April.

Wherever it offers services, the VA will provide only primary care in Port Angeles.

Vets who need specialty care will continue to receive it in Seattle.

That means the Disabled American Veterans must continue to provide transportation via DAV vans from Clallam and Jefferson counties to the Seattle VA center.

The Port Angeles DAV office is accepting donations to purchase a nine-passenger van to replace the one that was wrecked May 4 when it struck a tree on U.S. Highway 101 opposite the entrance to Sequim Bay State Park.

That crash killed Howard LeRoy Fisher, 63, of Port Angeles, a passenger returning from Seattle.

Since the wreck, the DAV has borrowed a six-passenger van from its Seattle chapter.

Persons interested in supporting DAV programs can phone Karen Key at 360-417-9444.

Building owned by OMC

The virtual clinic will open in a building owned by Olympic Medical Center and leased to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for \$1 a year.

It has telephones and office equipment.

Besides the facility—a two-doctor clinic the hospital recently bought after its Physicians joined the OMC staff—the hospital will donate \$25,000 in emergency radiology and laboratory services.

Leskinovitch and OMC Commissioners Gary Smith and Cindy Witham joined hundreds of North Olympic Peninsula Veterans in campaigning for the clinic.

Together, they bombarded the VA with more than 1,000 letters and 10,000 signatures on petitions.

The facility will not be a VA initiative at the department level but rather an extension of services from the existing Bremerton clinic.

Leskinovitch and others said the virtual VA clinic will be the first of its kind in the country.

The idea won support from U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Belfair, whose 6th District includes the North Olympic Peninsula, and from U.S. Sen. Patty Murray.

Both visited the Clallam County Veterans Center in Port Angeles last October to solicit veterans' opinions.

Port Angeles last October to solicit veterans' opinions.

Riding with germs

They heard stories that included one from a vet with a chronic respiratory illness who must ride to Seattle in a van that sometimes is crowded by people coughing and sneezing with colds and flu.

Stumbaugh also told of a man who, because he physically could not go to the VA center in Seattle for treatment, had to sell his farm to afford private medical care.

Most of the veterans who met with Dicks and Murray had seen service in World War II, Korea or Vietnam.

However, Stumbaugh said the virtual clinic would be a blessing, too, for vets returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and who hold jobs.

Now, they must take off a full day's work to travel to Seattle.

With the virtual clinic, many of them may be able to stave off serious illnesses by receiving primary care in Port Angeles.

Reporter Jim Casey can be reached at 360-417-3538 or at jim.casey@peninsuladailynews.com.

The Virtual Clinic no longer “Virtual”

IT'S NOT 'VIRTUAL' ANYMORE



TOM THOMPSON PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

Olympic Medical Center Commissioner Jim Leskinovitch, at podium, thanks the individuals who helped create the Veterans Affairs Clinic in Port Angeles during opening ceremonies. U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, right of flag, and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, far right, were on hand.

Lengthy effort to create Peninsula VA Clinic hailed

By **JIM CASEY**

PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

PORT ANGELES—The new Veterans Affairs Clinic lost its “virtual” Tuesday.

“Starting today, I think we should eliminate the word “virtual” because this clinic is very real,” Eric Lewis, CEO of Olympic Medical Center, said as the facility officially opened.

“We’re banning that word,” echoed U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Belfair, in an interview with the Peninsula Daily news.

“Virtual” was spliced to the name because the VA doesn’t own the building at 1005 Georgiana St., but instead leases it from OMC for \$1 a year.

Whatever you call it, it’s the first of its kind in the nation.

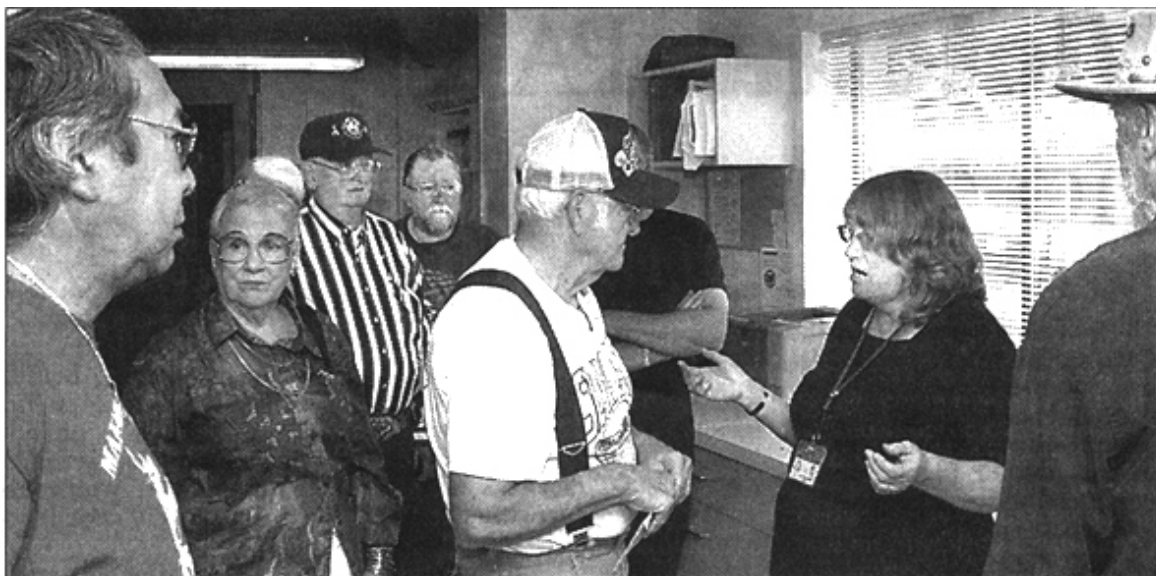
It opened ceremonially on Tuesday with speeches from Dicks, U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Freeland, and officials of the VA and the hospital.

Later in the day, Dicks also toured the revitalized Jefferson County Courthouse clock tower.

At the VA clinic, a crowd of about 70 people gathered for the program and a tour of the facility, which housed a two doctor private practice before OMC bought it.

Many heads in the audience were covered with American Legion, Marine Corps League or Veterans of Foreign Wars caps.

Frankie Manning, associate director of nursing for the VA’s Puget Sound Health Care System, praised the collaboration between her agency and OMC.



TOM THOMPSON/PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

Cynthia Elsenberger, right, VA Clinic health technician, answers a question from Army veteran Jim Moody of Port Angeles during a tour of the new facility on Tuesday

Clinic: 'This is a marriage'

Continued: Clinic

"This is not a partnership," she said.

"It's a marriage, and it's a wonderful marriage."

The clinic has four examining rooms. It is staffed by a nurse practitioner, a registered nurse and a medical technician.

The VA plans to add another nurse practitioner and a technician, occasionally make a doctor available and eventually to provide mental health care by televideo.

Other locations to open

It opened unofficially in June and since has built up to providing primary care for four to 10 people per day.

Eventually, said Cynthia Elsenberger, the medical technician, it can handle 26 patients a day, although specialty services like cardiac care still will be provided at the VA center in Seattle.

The VA also plans to send the clinic staff to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Health

Clinic, 243511 W. U.S. Highway 101, and to Coast Guard Group/Air Station Port Angeles on Ediz Hook.

Details of agreements with those locations are being worked out.

For many vets on the North Olympic Peninsula, the Port Angeles clinic eliminates the trip — more than 200 miles for veterans from Neah Bay — to and from the Seattle facility.

'What a godsend'

"What a godsend for the veterans of our community," said OMC Commissioner Jim Leskinovitch, a retired Coast Guard captain who threw the hospital's weight behind the idea and pressed the VA to approve the clinic.

Murray said Leskinovitch "served our country in the Coast Guard, and he's serving our country again."

She and Dicks had backed the facility since 2005.

"This clinic needs to be a first step, not the last step," she said.

Both Murray and Dicks said a full Community Based Outpatient Clinic could be built on the Peninsula if enough veterans enroll for VA medical benefits.

Murray will attend the opening of such a clinic today in Wenatchee so vets needn't travel to Seattle or Spokane for care.

Another, she said, is being built in Mount Vernon.

An estimated 14,000 vets live on the North Olympic Peninsula, but only about 3,000 are enrolled.

If another 7,000 ex-service members enroll, the full clinic will be possible, said Dicks.

"We've got to get the vets to sign up," the congressman said.

For help to enroll, veterans can phone Dick Stumbaugh, Clallam County veterans assistant, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday at 360-417-2233.

Reporter Jim Casey can be reached at 360-417-3538 or at jim.casey@peninsuladailynews.com.

Now for the addition of the local POW-MIA, sharing the Veterans center with the DAV.



PORT ANGELES _ The Clallam County Veterans Center on Sept. 21 will honor U.S. service members listed as prisoners of war or missing in action. The POW/MIA Remembrance Day will include a Missing Man's Table at the center, 261 S. Francis St. The program will start at 2 p.m. It is open to the public. The table will be set for one "because they are no longer with us," said Venay Money of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4760. The table's round shape will symbolize loved ones' "never-ending search," a white tablecloth will mark their pure hopes, and servings of salt and lemon will represent their bitter tears, she said. Port Angeles Mayor Karen Rogers will read a proclamation at the ceremony and accept a U.S. flag ceremoniously folded by a Coast Guard honor guard. The event also will feature a bagpiper and a rendition of "Danny Boy."

Public eye

"I have been getting so many e-mails thanking me," said Money, "because we're keeping this in the public's eye." Participants will receive an update on service members' remains found since the start of 2007, she said, and those who still are unaccounted for. Cake and coffee will be served at the close of the ceremony. For more information about POW/MIA Remembrance Day, phone Money at 360-681-7085. To see a photo of a Missing Man's Table _ one of which is displayed in every VFW post across the country _ visit http://vfwpost2070.com/missing_man_main.htm.

Continued next Page

POWS, MIAS REMEMBERED 09/23/07

Publication: Peninsula Daily News

Byline: BY JIM CASEY

PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

U.S. Navy veteran Walter Zergman recounts his experiences
as a prisoner of war during World War II.

POWs, MIAs remembered

Ex-prisoner shares grisly WWII story

PORT ANGELES _ Walter Zergman thought enlisting in the Navy would keep him out of foxholes. He wound up in a series of hellholes instead. Zergman, who'd enlisted in 1939, survived 3½ years as a prisoner of the Japanese, unremitting misery that ended only when an atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

The 87-year-old veteran addressed a group of about 50 people Friday as they marked POW/MIA Recognition Day. The ceremony climaxed with the dressing of a Missing Man's Table in the Clallam County Veterans Center, 261 S. Francis St. Zergman, though, all but stole the show. "I seen the way Hitler was on the march," he recalled, so he joined the Navy "to avoid being in a foxhole." He was aboard ship in Manila when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, then bombed Manila, and he eventually found himself fighting alongside infantrymen on Corrigedor. Ordered to hold the island fortress for six weeks, U.S. forces held it for six months before they surrendered.

Ailing GIs killed

"It was bad because we were already sick," Zergman said. "We were eating rats, snakes _ anything that moved _ before we were captured." If an American prisoner collapsed, he was bayoneted or shot. Zergman lasted out the infamous Bataan death march, then was put to slave labor on a vegetable farm in Japan and finally was sent to mine coal.

The tramp steamer that delivered him was jammed back-to-back, front-to-front with prisoners. "You had guys who were dead two or three days and couldn't even fall over," he said. "We were standing in our own waste." Some of the men went mad from thirst, attacked their comrades and tried to drink their blood, he said. Of the 1,800 prisoners in his group, just over 500 survived to reach Camp 17. "I got down to 68 pounds," Zergman said. "All we got to eat was a rice ball and a fish head." Below ground, the men mined pillars of coal that had been left to support played-out seams. They were harassed endlessly by guards who were eager to meet their quotas for carloads of coal.

Arm broken on purpose

Zergman told an American doctor he wouldn't last another day, and the physician observed that he couldn't mine coal if his arm was broken. While the guards were distracted, another prisoner used a jackhammer bit to break Zergman's arm. Zergman then created a minor cave-in and claimed it had caused his injury. Worth less now to his captors, Zergman was put on half rations and sent to chip mortar from reclaimed bricks at a yard across not far mountain from Nagasaki. The Japanese kept count of prisoners in their chow line by marking off numbers they had wired into the Americans' shirts.

Carrying dead

When Zergman and others were detailed to carry dead prisoners to the beach, they ripped off their deceased colleagues' numbers and used them to revisit the chow line. "I got up to 98 pounds," he said. Then came Aug. 9, 1945. "All of a sudden we saw a big plume," he said. "Everything was quiet and eerie." Their guards disappeared, so the prisoners seized a warehouse where the Japanese had diverted Red Cross shipments of food for themselves. They feasted, but "in 30 minutes it went right through us."

Back to Milwaukee

The following day, American bombers dropped more food, medicine, clothing and a message from Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Later, Red Cross teams arrived and told them of the atomic bombs that had been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, pushing the Japanese to surrender. Liberating troops repeatedly tried to put Zergman and other survivors into sick bay, but they demanded to go home. By way of Okinawa, Johnson Island, the Philippines and Oakland, Calif., Zergman finally returned to Milwaukee. The girl he'd left behind had waited for him, and he married her. Zergman he re-enlisted in the Navy, serving 20 years before he retired to work for TRW Inc. in California. He retired for good and moved to Sequim in 1980.

Observances

Friday's observance also included:

A proclamation by Port Angeles Mayor Karen Rogers.

A ceremonial folding of a U.S. flag that was presented to the city by the U.S. Coast Guard. "Amazing Grace" played by bagpiper Don Alward of the Marine Corps League.

"Danny Boy" sung by Ian McKelvie of Olympic Theater Arts.

"God Bless America" led by a group of Sequim Valley Pathfinders.

A "Poem for the Missing" by Dale Butler of Sequim.

The Missing Man's Table will remain in the Veterans Center as it does in Veterans of Foreign Wars posts across the country. It was set with a single rose, symbolizing faith; a slice of lemon for the missing service persons' fate; a sprinkling of salt for loved ones' tears; a lighted candle of hope; and a glass, inverted "because they cannot toast with us today," said Karen Key, Disabled American Veterans service officer. "We must not forget the sacrifices they are still making," said Bill Minor, commander of Port Angeles VFW Post 1024. "We must give moral support to their families, who also are suffering."





**The Story never ends as the lives of those
so intimately involved in the establishing
of this Veterans hall continue on from
generation to generation.**

**But this is the end of the book!
So....**



Boooklet designed and compiled by
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