



**WALTER T. ROACH AMERICAN LEGION POST 182
165 WEST LINCOLN STREET - HUBBARDSTON, MICHIGAN. 48845
NEWSLETTER NUMBER SIXTEEN- OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2003**

Legion Officers

Commander - William Kruger
Adjutant - Dan Heckman
Vice Comdr. - Terry Fletcher
2nd Vice Comdr. - Bud Howard
Sgt.-At-Arms - Leo McMillan
Finance Officer - James Barker
Service Officer - Murdo Wood
Chaplain - James R. McGinn
Historian - John Stoddard
Trustees-Terry Fletcher, Bud Howard, Leo McMillan

Auxiliary Officers

President - Kelly Melton
1st Vice - Tracey Ewalt
2nd Vice - Membership-Lezlie Hauck
Sec.-Treasurer - Tanya Mills
Chaplain - Agnes Bradbury
Historian - Joanne Howard
Sgt.-At-Arms - Kim Brown
Poppy - Carolyn Cunningham
Girl's State - Sheila Thurston
Sunshine - Carol Fitzpatrick

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Comdr.-Rick Cunningham
Adjutant-Bill Cunningham
1st Vice Comdr.-Joe Peiffer
2nd Vice Comdr. Russ Cunningham
Finance Officer-Michael McGinn
Chaplain-Terrence Peiffer
Historian-Timothy Ward
Sgt. at Arms-Shiloh Cunningham
Chaplain-Terrence Peiffer
Historian-Timothy Ward
Sgt. at Arms-Shiloh Cunningham

Fellow Legionnaires:

We are currently at 70% of our membership goal for the year and that is a very good thing for our post. **If we can achieve 100% membership dues paid by December 1, 2003 Legion Headquarters in Lansing will cut us a check for a rebate of \$1.00 per member.** This helps our Post 182 finances when they send us additional money. Please consider paying your dues as soon as possible. Thank all of you for your efforts so far.

Another note also, if you are aware of a person who could join our ranks, please extend to them an invitation to join us. We remain strong with new blood in our organization.

Dan Heckman, Adjutant

Senior Member Gerry Boomer and Friends



Agnes Bradbury, Rosie McMillan, Gerry and Mary See

On October 18, Friends and Family of Gerry Boomer will host a "Birthday Party to be treasured." It is her 100th! From 1:00-4:00 PM you can stop by and greet her on her special day. **Eighth District Auxiliary President Pam Clements will stop by to confer an honor on Gerry for her loyalty and faithfulness to the cause.** Various groups will present her with tokens of their gratitude for her years of volunteer work, especially in the interest of veterans and their families. Gerry joins the centenarians on October 27, 2003. She is also a 50 year member of Post 182 and has been Auxiliary Historian for 40 years retiring from the position in 2000 at the age of 98. Gerry still attends meetings and keeps right on tack with what transpires. Save the date October 18th.

A few months ago some 'jam sessions' were held on Sunday night at Post 182. Pat Woods from County Armagh, Ireland was one of the participants. So impressed with him were Post 182 members and friends that they arranged for him to come back to Hubbardston for a **Benefit for Pat Baese's Irish Dancers on October 18th from 6:00-11:00 PM.** This could be a really great day to be in Hubbardston folks. **Catch Gerry's Party and then scoot on up to the Parish Hall at 6:00 PM for 'Happy Hour' and get a good seat for the Pat Woods Show which starts around 7:00.** Lunch will be served there also. See Auxiliary member **Pat Baese for advance tickets which are \$10. for the Pat Woods Show.**

Every woman should have...a set of screwdrivers, a cordless drill and a black lace bra.

...a past just juicy enough so that's she's looking forward to telling it in her old age.

Taps

Harold Peter Stoddard, Post 182 member, was laid to rest at St. John the Baptist Cemetery with full military honors performed by his friends at Post 182. Born May 26, 1925, he died August 14, 2003. He was the son of Edgar and Julia McKeone Stoddard and had 14 brothers and sisters. He graduated from St. John the Baptist High School in 1942 with Alvin Bozung, Johnny O'Brien and Anna Marie Schafer. He joined a quartermaster Co. at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois on April 5, 1944. Then he was transferred to Camp Bowie, Texas and from there, overseas to New Guinea. He managed to visit his brother Alton in New Guinea before he was sent on to Manilla in the Phillipines. In April of 1946, he sailed for home on the "Sims" and was discharged May 13, 1946, from Camp McCoy in Wisconsin. On October 23, 1948 he married Dorothy Cunningham in Hubbardston and their children are: James Michael, Marlene Louise, Richard Harold and Catherine Marie. A dinner for family and friends was served at Post 182 following the graveside service. Our deepest sympathy to all of the family.



Harold Stoddard in 1944. Picture by Mary Caris

One Nation Under God

It is said that 86% of American's believe in God. Therefore I have a very hard time understanding why there is such a mess about having "In God We Trust" on our money and God in the Pledge of Allegiance. Why don't we just tell that 14% to Sit Down and Shut Up!!!

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won't survive the week.

If you never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish somewhere in your house, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

Francis and Margo, as they were in May, 2003 in the Memorial Day Parade in Hubbardston.



Francis Joseph Schafer died Monday September 15, 2003 He was born August 23, 1927 in Hubbardston, the son of Joseph (a W.W.I. veteran and member of Post 182) and Marie Schafer. He was a veteran of Korea, receiving two Bronze Service Stars and a Purple Heart. He loved restoring Model A's, gardening and fishing. He was Mr. Fix-it, able to fix anything. He retired from the Dept. of Health as an electronic technician. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers (Father Bernard and Joe Pete) and sister-in-law Jean Ann Burns Schafer. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Margo, three brothers, Eugene and Priscilla, John and Sharon, all of Hubbardston, William of Fowler; two sisters, Anna Marie of Eagle and Rita of Mount Plymouth, Florida. The funeral was at St. Jude's on September 18, with the Rev. Dwight Ezop officiating. Burial was in Dewitt Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the St Jude Building Fund, 801 N. Bridge St. Dewitt, Mi.

Last Memorial weekend, Francis and his wife joined all the other Senior Members of Post 182 for breakfast at the club and certificate presentations for years of service prior to being special guests of the annual parade. Francis was a 51 year member of Post 182 as of July, 2003. He was so pleased to be asked and all of the guys and gals really enjoyed a nice trip down memory lane as they looked out over the village and Fish Creek, while enjoying Charlene Ward's hot cinnamon rolls and coffee. We had notes from most of the attendees including Francis thanking Post 182 for the opportunity to congregate and be so honored. Our condolences to Margo and the family on this very sudden and unexpected loss.



Post 182 members and friends take a sojourn to the tropics.

What do you do when that beautiful Michigan summer wanes and the autumn leaves give the hint of the approach of colder weather. You find a neat Travel Agent, Mrs. Tim Fitzpatrick, and you call all of your friends and 'book a trip!' These folks left on September 26 and returned tanned, smiling and full of exciting memories on October 6, 2003. Following is a rendition of the highlights of the Caribbean Cruise.

This photo had all of the local cruisers together at one time. We flew to San Juan. Over the next seven days the ports of call visited were St. Thomas/St. John, Martinique, Barbados and Aruba, before returning to San Juan. Pictured above, we were getting ready to board the Pirate Ship, The Jolly Roger for a party cruise that lasted approximately 3 hours.

My only comment about the cruise is, "Everyone needs to go at least once. If you're looking for luxury, relaxation, pampering, seeing people of all different cultures and so many beautiful beaches, sunsets, and above all FUN, then go on a cruise." From left to right above: Katie Cashen, John and Sherry Heckman, John and Carol Fitzpatrick, Mark and Delores Schmitt, Leo and Diane McMillan, Scott and Lisa Schmitt, friends of Tim and Dixie's, Tim and Dixie and pert and vivacious narrator, Yvonne Boomer.

The lowest temperature ever recorded in Michigan was 51 degrees below zero on February 9, 1934 in Vanderbilt, Mi.



John, Tim and Carol Fitzpatrick, Scott Schmitt, Katie Cashen, Diane McMillan, Lisa Schmitt and Dixie, Tim's wife, enjoying a 'deck break.'

A lonely guy, hoping to put more fun in his life decided that he should have an unusual pet. After some discussion, the pet store owner convinced him to buy a centipede. Once home, he decided to start off by taking the new pet to the bar to have a drink. "Would you like to go?" he asked over and over with no answer. Finally he shouted, "Hey in there. Would you like to go to Frank's Place and have a drink with me?"

Finally, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time. I'm putting on my shoes!!!"

A Great True Story

World War Two produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific.

One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. When he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top it off. His flight leader, learning of the condition, told him to get back to the ship as he couldn't complete the mission with this amount of fuel. As he was returning, he saw something that made his blood turn cold. A squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding their way toward the American fleet. All the American fighters were gone on a sortie and the fleet was all but defenseless. He couldn't reach his squadron and get them back in time to save the fleet. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet. Forgetting personal safety, he dove into the formation of Jap planes. Wing-mounted 50 calibers blazed as he charged, attacking one surprised enemy plane after another. Weaving in and out of the now broken formation, he fired at as many planes as possible until his ammunition was finally spent. Still, he continued the assault. He dove at the planes trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly. Finally, the exasperated Jap squadron took off in another direction. Relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered plane limped back to the carrier. He reported what had happened and the film from his gun mounted camera substantiated his story. He had destroyed five enemy aircraft. That was on February 20, 1942 and for that action Butch O'Hare became the Navy's first Ace of W.W.II and the first Naval Aviator to win the Congressional Medal of Honor. A year later, Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His home town would not allow the memory of this W.W.II ace to be fade and today, O'Hare Airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man. Next time you find yourself at O'Hare International, visit Butch's memorial and view his Medal of Honor. It's between Terminals 1 and 2.

Now the story about Easy Eddie, Al Capone's legal maneuvering expert who kept Al out of jail for a long time. Eddie and family lived the high life; money, mansions, servants, etc. His estate was so large it covered an entire Chicago City block. Eddie paid little attention to the atrocities that went on around him. Eddie's only love was his son. He gave him everything, but he couldn't give him a good name or a good example. Eddie reached a difficult decision one day. To rectify the wrongs he had done he decided to go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al "Scarface" Capone. This was a death sentence and he knew it. Shortly after his testimony, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago street. But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer at the greatest price he would ever pay – his life.

So what do these two stories have to do with each other? Butch O'Hare was Eddie's son.

Two elderly women were eating at a restaurant one morning. Ethel noticed something funny about Mabel's ear and she said, "Mabel did you know you have a suppository in your left ear?" Mabel answered, "I have? A suppository?" She pulled it out and stared at it. Then she said, "Ethel, I'm glad you saw this thing. Now I think I know where my hearing aid is."

December 7, 1941 How U.S., Japan "Weighed In"		
United States		Japan
	Armies	
1,600,000		3,000,000
	Navies	
344	warships	262
17	battleships	12
7	aircraft carriers	8
37	cruisers	46
170	destroyers	125
113	submarines	71
	Air Forces	
3,000	planes	3,600
(1,157 suited for combat)		(all types)
We can reflect today, 62 years later and wonder!		

Two rednecks were driving down the road drinking a couple of bottles of 'Bud.' "Lookey thar up ahead Earl. It's a police roadblock. We're gonna get busted." "Don't worry Bubba" said Earl. "We'll just pull over, finish drinkin these beers, peel off the label and stick it on our foreheads and throw the bottles under the seat." "What fer?" asked Bubba "Just let me do the talking, OK?" said Earl. So they finished the beer, hid the bottles and put the labels on their foreheads. When they reached the roadblock the sheriff said, "You boys been drinkin?" "No sir," Earl said. "We're on the patch."

How Did They Afford That Land? (A Look Back)

When James Langdon arrived from Vermont in May, 1832, he promptly bought 80 acres and ten days later he purchased another 160 acres. "When Michigan was becoming a state, it was in the boom and bust cycle of the early banking system. The major reason for the land boom in Michigan in the 1830's was credit...Settlers and land speculators wanted President Andrew Jackson to make it easier to get it and he did. The deposits of the United States Bank were deposited in selected state banks between 1829 and 1837. The number of state banks rose from 329-788 and there were 149 million state bank notes in circulation. Loans from state banks went from 137 million-525 million. Of course it led to inflation. However, prices rose, debts were paid off with cheap money, and people borrowed more money to buy land in western states. The living was easy and so was credit. The government made so much money that the national debt was paid off in 1835 and the surplus money went back to the

states. Bank notes were used to pay for land, wagons, horses and spending money. Land speculators could buy cheap land with the bank's money and have the time to resell it for a profit, even before the first bank payment." (Bill Burr, 8/18/03)

The Walter T. Roach Post 182 Clubhouse, the old Langdon Mansion had no connection to this early land prospector James Langdon, as far as can be determined, but to Belle and William Langdon who purchased the property in 1902 from Sallie T. Wells. The property had previous owners before them. The first was James T. Holbrook who bought the property on April 23, 1863. Boyd Redner of "Redner's Big Store" in downtown Hubbardston built the mansion but later sold it. The credit for the beauty, maintenance and long term ownership belongs to the Belle Langdon family. The design of the building is impressive even today. Refinements, expansions, and mandated governmental codes have meant changes to the original structure, but it remains today, a sight to behold on this lofty hill overlooking the panorama of the village.

As we complete the new addition on the north, we look forward to the new bathrooms, extra space for dinners and of course continued loyal memberships ever growing. However, the early inhabitants, when Michigan was young, believed this wilderness to have such a great future with its forests of pine, potential water power, the soon to arrive railroad to provide access to market, and inexpensive land with excellent agricultural possibilities - that this town did grow rapidly to thousands of people in the late 1800's. Bribes or incentives - call them what you like - amounting to close to \$445,000 dollars (and that was a fortune in those days), didn't faze the executives determining who should be blessed with the 'mighty railroad,' and Hubbardston's dream never materialized. Hubbardston today is a quaint "Irish Town," proud of its heritage, prouder still of its record of soldiery. The youths who heeded the call to war proved conclusively that they were aptly prepared to meet the challenge. And life goes on....



The Riverside (South) View of Post 182 in 1999

Life isn't like a box of chocolates. It's more like a jar of Jalapenos: What you do today, might burn your 'bottom' tomorrow. (I cleaned that one up a bit)

Ethel and Mabel, two elderly widows were sitting on a park bench watching the people go by. Ethel said, "You know, Mabel, I've been reading this 'Sex and Marriage' book and all they talk about is mutual orgasm. It's everywhere in that book. Tell me, Mabel, when your husband was alive, did you two ever have 'mutual orgasm?'"

Mabel thought a long while. Finally, she shook her head and said, "No, I think we had State Farm."

Post 182 Chicken Barbecue 2003

On Sunday morning, August 10, Ron Fletcher and crew started boiling 5 pots of chicken at 5:00 AM. This speeded up the process remarkably. At noon all the chicken was cooked, grilled and in the roasters. It was absolutely wonderful to have a ready supply of delicious, mouth-watering chicken to present to our customers. Mary Fletcher, Kay Klein, Sally Strachan, Kelly Melton, Carol Fitzpatrick, Carla Dailey, Yvonne Boomer, Joanne Howard, Tracy Ewalt, Agnes Bradbury, Terry, Dick, Ron, Russ, and Gary Fletcher, Leo McMillan, Bill Kruger, Tom Strachan, Pat Klein, Bud Howard and other volunteers - prepared, cooked, served and cleaned up after the dinner. Great job everyone. The dinner proved to be very profitable and truly delicious!

And the day was concluded by the third annual appearance by Post 182 member, **Dr. John Lattimer of Columbia University in New York as he presented a slide presentation on "Lincoln" to a receptive crowd of about 60 people.** (John flew in to Grand Rapids on Saturday night to speak and attend a family reunion.) **A special thanks to Dr. Lattimer and his daughter Evan for their work.**

A blonde girl enters a store that sells curtains. "I would like to buy a pink curtain in the size of my computer screen."

"But, Madam, computers do not have curtains," replies the salesman.

The blonde said, "Helloooo...I've got windows."

This has been a very exciting week. I am eager for tomorrow to come so I can try out a new recipe on my husband. If we could just get a bigger oven, I would like to surprise him with Chocolate Moose.

Tentative Schedule of Coming Events

October 18	Gerry Boomer Day	1:00-4:00 PM
October 18	Pat Woods Concert	6:00-11:00 PM
	St. John the Baptist Parish Hall	
October 31	Halloween Masquerade	9:00-12:00 PM
November 2	Sunday Breakfast	8:30-11:30 AM
November 9	Andy Cooney Concert	1:00-6:00 PM
	St. John the Baptist Parish Hall	
November 15	Veterans Day Dance	9:00-12:00 PM
December 7	Sunday Breakfast	8:30-11:30 AM
December 21	Kids Christmas Party	2:00-4:00 PM
December 31	New Years Eve Party	9:00-1:00 AM
January 4	Sunday Breakfast	8:30-11:30 AM
	Euchre Tournaments (to be announced)	
January 25	Super Bowl Sunday (Come and Enjoy)	
February 1	Sunday Breakfast	8:30-11:30 AM
February 14	Valentines Day Party	9:00PM
February 27	Fish Fry Dinners Resume	

If you have questions about the calendar, call 989-981-9890 for confirmation of events.

Questions about the Hubbardston Concert Series at the Parish Hall, call Auxiliary member Pat Baese at the Celtic Path 989-981-6066

The Wisdom of a Navajo Woman

A saleswoman is driving toward home when she sees a Navajo woman walking along a northern Arizona road. The trip had been long and quiet so she stops the car and the Navajo woman climbs in. During their small talk, the Navajo woman glances at a brown bag on the front seat between them. "If you're wondering what's in the bag, it's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband."

The Navajo woman is silent for awhile, nods several times and says, "Good trade."

How Old Is Grandma?

One evening a grandson asked his grandmother what she thought about the shootings at school, the computer age, and just things in general. grandma replied, "Well, let me think a minute. I was born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill. There were no credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens. Man had not invented panty-hose, air-conditioners, dishwashers, clothes-dryers and the clothes were hung out in the fresh air to dry and man had yet to walk on

the moon. Your grandfather and I got married first and then lived together. Every family had a father and a mother. Until I was 25, I called every man older than I, "Sir" and after I turned 25, I still called every policeman and every man with a title, "Sir." We were before gay-rights, computer-dating, dual-careers, daycare centers and group therapy. Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment and common sense. We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions. Serving your country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege. Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins. Draft dodgers were people who closed their front doors when the evening breezes started...We had 5 and 10 cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents. Ice-cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcar, and a Pepsi were all a nickel. Or you could spend your nickel to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600 but who could afford one? Too bad, because gas was 11 cents a gallon. In my day, "grass" was mowed, "coke" was a cold drink, "pot" was something your mother cooked in and "rock music" was your grandmother's lullaby. "Aids" were helpers in the principal's office, "chip" meant a piece of wood, hardware was found in a hardware store and software didn't exist. And we were the last generation to believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby. No wonder people call us "old and confused."

After listening, the grandson asked, "Just how old are you, grandma?"

"Honey, I'm 58 years old." (T. Burns)

How could so much go wrong in such a short time?

A police recruit was asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?"

He answered, "Call for backup."

Christmas is just plain weird. What other time of year do you sit in front of a dead tree in the living room and eat candy out of your socks.

A man and his wife were having a tiff and giving each other the silent treatment. The man suddenly realized that he needed his wife to get him up at 5:00 AM for an early morning business flight. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence, he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 AM." He left it where she would see it.

The next morning he woke up to discover it was 9:00 AM and he had missed his flight. Furious he was about to go see why his wife hadn't awakened him when he saw a piece of paper by the bed. It said, "It's 5:00 AM. Wake up."

Men are not equipped for these kinds of contests. God may have created man before woman, but there is always a rough draft before the masterpiece. (Marlyce B.)

Meet A SALS and Auxiliary Family



Rusty and Carolyn O'Grady Cunningham and their three beautiful daughters; Corey, Cassidy and Chelsea

Rusty is Second Vice Commander of the Sons of the Legionnaires and the son of William (Bill) and Virginia Russell Cunningham who served in the U.S. Army following WWII. Carolyn is the daughter of Cliff and Vera O'Connell O'Grady. (How's that for an Irish name). Cliff was severely wounded in the Korean War, awarded the Silver Star for bravery on July 26, and on the following day, July 27, the Bronze Star for bravery, when, being wounded himself, assisted other wounded until he lost consciousness. Returning after the war he married his home town sweetheart, was proprietor of Cowman's Market and when the kids were grown, Carolyn and her sisters Jan and Sheila and brother Shaun assisted Cliff and Vera in successfully managing this small town supermarket. Carolyn is a Special Education at Hubbardston Elementary, and is Poppy Chairman for the Post 182 Auxiliary. The Irish traditions in Hubbardston will never die as long as Carolyn is around. Their lovely daughters follow in their example.

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought for a minute and then said, "Why is the groom wearing black?"