

**WALTER T. ROACH AMERICAN LEGION POST 182
165 WEST LINCOLN STREET - HUBBARDSTON, MICHIGAN. 48845
NEWSLETTER NUMBER SEVENTEEN, JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2004**



May, 2003-(East View) Bradbury Monument in foreground



The project begins summer 2003 (north west view)



November, 2003- new addition nearly completed (north view)

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.-Kurt White
 Adjutant-Bobby Ward
 1st Vice Comdr.-Neil Speckin
 2nd Vice Comdr.-Brian Stoudt
 Finance Officer-Dave Oistad
 Chaplain-Bill Cunningham
 Historian-Pat White
 Sgt. at Arms-Dale Richards

Last summer, starting with a needed new well to accommodate additional amenities, Post 182 started its building expansion to meet state required entrance and patron improvements. As always, Legion members, SALS members, local construction workers, gravel and grading companies, tree-cutters and people donating yards of needed fill of gravel and sand have volunteered to create the nearly completed and beautiful club addition. Doug Cusack and his whole crew of artisans, present and retired members, plus Bill Cunningham and his building crews have added to the expertise involved in making the improvements which will greatly aid our membership as they attend functions and dinners on a regular basis. It is a known fact that some of the best cooks in the country are affiliated with Post 182, both male and female. And the profits garnered from these activities (and don't forget Lotto) made it possible to create this beautiful addition much more comfortably. That speaks volumes of our clientele and dedicated workers. That has always been the history of Walter T. Roach Post 182 and God-willing, it continues. Service to community and veterans, always take priority, thanks to our leadership.

Fish Fry Dinners Resume February 27th

The good Lord willing and our great Fish Fry Crew on hand, our fabulous **Fish Fry Dinners are slated for the seven Friday's of Lent.** Plan to stop by each Friday for a spectacular meal where you can chat with all of your friends and neighbors, enjoy delectable fish and terrific desserts.

Calendar of Events at Post 182

- Jan. 11 Blue Grass Jam Session 2:00 PM
All Players Welcome
- Jan. 24 Open Euchre Tournaments 3:00PM
- Feb. 1 Sunday Breakfast 8:30-11:30AM
- Feb. 1 Super Bowl Sunday (Come and Enjoy)
- Feb. 8 Blue Grass Jam Session 2:00PM
All Players Welcome
- Feb. 14 Valentines Day Party 9:00PM
- Feb. 27 Fish Fry Dinners 5:00-7:00PM
- Mar.5, 12, 19, 26 Fish Dinners 5:00-7:00PM
- Mar. 6 Annual Winter Golf Tournament
3 mile-1 hole-par 99
Registration at Post 182 9:00AM
- Mar. 7 Sunday Breakfast 8:30-11:30 AM
- Mar. 14 St. Patrick's Day Party at 182-12:00 Noon
Hubbardston Irish Dancers 3:30 PM
Lew McKenna Band (?) 4:00-8:00PM
- Mar. 17 St. Pat's All Day in Hubb 12:00 Noon
- Apr. 2, 9 Fish Dinners 5:00-7:00PM
- Apr. 4 Sunday Breakfast 8:30-11:30 AM
- May 9 Mother's Day Breakfast 8:30-11:30AM
- May 22 Grand Marshall of Memorial Parade?
Send your nomination soon to:
tandkmelton@cmsinter.net
or irvjne@iserv.net
- May 29 HAHS Annual Dinner 11:30-3:00PM
St. John the Baptist Parish Hall
- May 30 Decorate Veteran's Graves 10:00AM
- May 31 East Plains Cemetery 12:00 Noon
Naval Memorial at Bridge 12:30PM
Memorial Parade 1:30 PM
Masonic Chicken Dinner 11:00AM
Hot Sandwiches Post 182 12:00 Noon
Tractor Pull (after the parade)

Do you have a high chair or booster seat you'd like to donate to Post 182 for our many breakfasts and dinners. We are in need of three or four at least. Drop off at club.

Walking into a bar, Henry said to the bartender, "Pour me a stiff one, Eddy. I just had another fight with the little woman."

"Oh, yeah," said Eddy. "And how did this one end?"

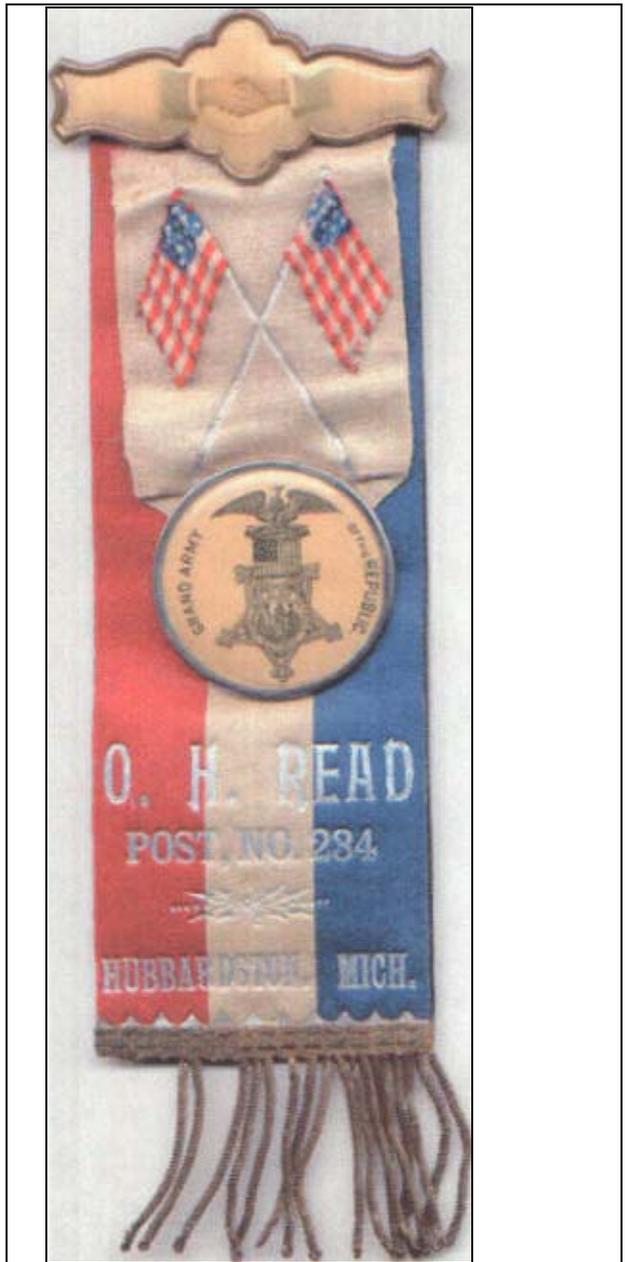
"When it was over," Henry said, "she came to me on her knees."

"Really? Now that's a switch! What did she say?"

"She said, 'Come out from under that bed you little chickenshit!'"



Two good and faithful friends who frequent Post 182 on a regular basis are Louis Hearld and Rosaline McMillan. Rosie is a long time senior and active auxiliary member.



GAR Post #234 Badge, Hubbardston on "Ebay"

This badge appeared on 'ebay' for sale on September 26, 2003. There were seven bids starting at \$69.99 and the winning bid for \$143.51 cents came from a person in Woodstock, Georgia. This badge was worn by members of the O.H. Read Post #234 from Hubbardston, Mi. (How it came to be on 'ebay' is a mystery. Duane Fahey saw it and alerted me. Apparently we have some 'kin' in Georgia).

Two women met for the first time since high school. One asked the other, "You were so organized in school, did you manage to live a well-planned life.

"Oh, yes, my first marriage was to a millionaire, the second an actor, the third a preacher and now I'm married to an undertaker."

"What do all those marriages have to do with a well-planned life?" said her friend.

"One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go."

We Remember the namesake of Post 182:

Walter H. Roach, ASN 2, 045,062. White. Residence General Delivery, Hubbardston, Mich. Born Hubbardston, Mich. Age 31 10/12 years. Inducted Ionia, Mich., April 26, 1918. Served as Pvt in 13 Co 4 Bn 160 Dep Brig: Co E 38 Inf to Oct 13/18. Engagements: Meuse-Argonne; Defensive Sector. Served overseas July 21/18 to killed in action Oct. 13, 1918. Person notified of death: Mrs. Mary Cahalan, Sister, Hubbardston, Mich. (State Archives, Mich. Historical Center, Lansing-sent by Gordon Shipley, St. Johns)

Boudreaux and Thibodeaux worked together and both were laid off, so they went to the unemployment office. When asked his occupation, Boudreaux answered, "Panty stitcher. I sew da elastic onto da ladies' cotton panties." The clerk looked up Panty Stitcher. Finding it classified as unskilled labor, she gave him \$300 a week unemployment pay. Thibodeaux was asked his occupation. "Diesel Fitter," he replied. Since diesel fitter was a skilled job, the clerk gave him \$600 a week. When Boudreaux found out he was furious. He stormed back into the office to find out why his friend and co-worker was collecting double pay. The clerk explained, "Panty stitchers are unskilled and diesel fitters are skilled labor."

"What skill?" yelled Boudreaux. "I sew da elastic on da panties, Thibodeaux puts dem over his head and says: "Yeah, diesel fitter."

Membership Alert – We can add dollars for 182

As of this date, December 23, 2003, we are 2 members short of our 100% membership goal which is a great accomplishment for our post. We have also signed up 7 new members. By renewing our dues early each member helps our post to hold on to an additional \$1.00 per member of our dues. Over the course of a year, \$125 dollars extra for our post can do a lot of work. Thank you to all members who have renewed their Legion membership for the next year. If you know a person who is eligible to become a Legion member, do Post 182 a favor and sign them up. Our post remains strong and we welcome and can always use new blood.

At Post 182 we are standing at 117 members with our goal being 123. There are another 10-13 senior members to sign on yet. Thanks to all of our members. Hope that your Christmas and New Year are blessed with friends, family and good health.

(Dan Heckman, Adjutant.)

Last year when the power mower was broken and wouldn't run, I kept hinting to my husband that he ought to get it fixed, but the message just never sunk in. Finally I thought of a clever way to make a point. When my husband arrived home that day, he found me seated in the tall grass busily snipping away with a pair of sewing scissors. He watched for a while and then went into the house. When he came out he handed me a toothbrush. "When you finish cutting the grass," he said, "you might as well sweep the sidewalks."

He will be just fine when they take the casts off.

Letter from a farm kid now at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego

Dear Ma and Pa,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell brothers Walt and Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell em to join up quick before all the places are filled. I had a hard time at first staying in bed until 6 a.m., but I am getting used to sleeping late. Tell Walt and Elmer, all you got to do before breakfast is smooth your cot and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing. Men got to shave but it's not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmin's like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc. but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food. But you can always sit by city boys that live on coffee and their food plus yours holds you till noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much. We go on "route" marches which the Platoon Sergeant says are long walks to harden us. It's not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks. The country is awful flat. The Sergeant nags like a schoolteacher and the Capt is like the school board. Majors and Colonels don't bother you none. They just ride around and frown. Walt and Elmer will die laughing over this, but I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bull-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move. And it ain't shooting at you like the Higgett boys at home. All you do is just lie there all comfortable like and hit it. You don't even have to load your own cartridges. Then we get to wrestle with those city boys. They call it hand to hand combat. You have to be real careful though, because they break real easy. It ain't like fighting the ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got except for that Tin Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and weighs near 300 pounds dry. Be sure and tell Walt and Elmer to hurry up before those other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter,

Gail (sent by Jack Billings)

A Saranac Soldier's Letter from Iraq

Dear Mom,

It's still difficult to think of this as being the Holiday season. It still feels as though it is late fall. (The temp has changed from 103 to about 68 in the day and the 40's at night). Further, it's funny to think of Iraq as the Babylon of old. It's difficult to think of these people as being able to build anything on the scale of the Tower of Babylon and yet on any day you can see women in long robes riding small donkeys heading to who-knows-where. It's easy to imagine that somewhere in the distance there are three fellows traveling from far off lands and passing through on the way to the north. Although it's hard to think of any of these fellows being wealthy, let alone a King of anything, I know why Frankincense is so popular. No one seems to take a bath over here and they needed something to cover up the stink of themselves. All in all things are going all right, despite getting frustrated with one thing and another nearly daily.

Dan Zander, Capt. US Army, Iraq (Dan is a 1990 graduate of Saranac High School and a 10 year veteran of the US Army. He has served in Bosnia, Korea and Panama) Sentinel Standard, Dec. 2003.

Postscript:

(Dan's grandfather, W. Clarence Reed, 96, died Dec. 26, 2003, the day after Christmas. He was a long-time grocer in Ionia with Meijer, retiring in '73. He married Mabel Osborn in 1941)



Gerry Boomer, 100th Birthday (October 27, 2003) Party. Bud Howard, Regan Heckman and friends at Post 182 on Oct. 18.

John Smith was the only Baptist living in a large Catholic neighborhood. Every Friday of Lent there was John out there grilling a huge juicy steak and all his neighbors were eating cold tuna for supper. The men decided to get together and try to see if they couldn't convert him, so they went to see him and he happily decided to join the neighbors and convert to Catholicism. They took him to church and the priest sprinkled water over him and said, "You were born a Baptist, you were raised a Baptist, and now you are a Catholic." The men were relieved that their biggest Lenten temptation was resolved.

Next year, first Friday of Lent, there's John out there in his yard grilling a big juicy steak. The neighbors decided they had better go over and remind him that it was the first Friday of Lent.

The group arrived just in time to see John standing over his grill with a small pitcher of water. He was sprinkling the steaks on the grill saying, "You were born a cow, you were raised a cow, and now you are a fish."

Taps

Gerald K. Osborne, aged 73, passed away Sunday, November 23, 2003 at Holland Home Hospice Center in Grand Rapids. Gerry was born November 6, 1930 in Matherton to Frank and Iva Fenn Osborne. He served in the armed forces during the Korean War and shortly after was honorably discharged in 1955. On April 16, 1955, he married Patricia Stoddard at St. John the Baptist Church in Hubbardston. To that union came five children: Dave (Brenda) Osborne, and Cindy Osborne Ward of Hubbardston. Rose (Pat) Cunningham of Carson City, Thomas Osborne of Fowler, and Nancy (Mark) Dykstra of Grand Rapids. He leaves fourteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; one brother Stanley of Hubbardston and one sister Betty (Bill) Buchanan of Arizona.

Gerry was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia in 2001, two brothers and two sisters.

Funeral services were held Wednesday November 26th at 11:00AM at Lux-Schnepf

Funeral Home in Carson City with Rev. Reid Martin of the First Congregational Church in Carson City officiating. Paul Bearers were Slade, Shiloh, and Cody Cunningham, and Brad, Matthew and Travis Osborne. Military Honor Guard was provided by Post 182 and graveside military services were performed by his fellow Legionnaires. John Stoddard was Chaplain, Leo McMillan was Sgt.-at-arms and Michele Cashen played "Taps." Internment was in East Plains Cemetery, south of Matherton, beside his wife, Patricia. Memorial contributions may be made to Holland Home Cook Hospice Center. A dinner for his many friends and family was provided by Walter T. Roach Post 182.

Lux-Schnepf funeral home was filled to capacity for the moving ceremony celebrating the well-lived life of Gerry Osborne. He was loved by all, a friend to many, and a caring family man who found a way to help whenever the need arose. Many were the evenings spent singing and listening to the music of his guitar while we listened to the wonderful stories of family and happenings. Grand daughter Jessica summed it up perfectly when she told of her grandfather's love of the outdoors and of the time he spent reading. "What will heaven be like for Gerry?" Rev. Martin asked. "His mansion will probably be a small cottage on the edge of a forest with a stream running nearby where he can fish and hunt to his heart's delight."

John (JP) Phillip Davis, 47 of Muir passed away Wed. October 8, 2003 at his home surrounded by his family. He was born October 10, 1955 in Ionia, the son of Ronald J. and Nancy L. Ritchey Davis. He grew up in Lyons, Muir and Ionia area and attended Ionia schools. He graduated from Ionia High School in 1973, Married Julie Funkey on April 7, 1979. They divorced in 1994. John enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1974 and served in the reserves until 1980. He was a member of the American Legion in Ionia, worked at Fuller Furniture, the Shell Station in Ionia, Chrysler-Lyons Trim Plant, Caswell Ford-Mercury and since 1984 was employed by Riverside Correctional Facility as a corrections officer. John loved all things concerning cars and was an avid racing fan and driver. He is survived by his daughters, Stephanie Lynn Davis and Michele Louise Davis of Ionia; sister Kathy Wesley Dodds of Morenci; brother Roger Davis of Ionia; step-mother Bette Davis of Muir; step-brothers Frank (Mildred) White of Barryton,

James White of Muir and Robert (Sue) White of Portland.

He was preceded in death by his parents and baby sister, Karen Davis. Funeral services were held at Lake Funeral Home in Ionia with Rev. Varian Bauman officiating. Internment was in Oakwood Cemetery. Walter T. Roach Post 182, along with Color Guards and Legion members from Chesaning and Ionia American Legion Posts conducted the military grave side service. The ceremony, according to the Post 182 Honor Guard, was especially impressive with participants numbering close to 25 veterans. They provided the traditional military tributes for the funeral ceremonies and final commendation.

**“Life is mostly froth and bubble
Two things stand as stone.
Kindness in another’s trouble ...
Courage in your own.” (M. Luther King, Jan 19)**



Elmer T. Cunningham, 84, of Ionia, passed away on December 5, 2003. He was born September 16, 1919 in Hubbardston, the son of Patrick and Sarah Welsh Cunningham. He served in the United States Army during WW II. Elmer worked many years in the Ionia area as a carpenter. He went to work for the Michigan State Police as a carpenter in 1967 retiring in 1982. Elmer was a member of American Legion and served as Post Commander at the Walter T. Roach Post 182 in Hubbardston from 1951-1953. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and a member of SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Ionia. He married Alice Jean Ward on May 22, 1954 and then later married Donna McGinn on September 19, 1992. She preceded him in death in 2002. Elmer was also preceded in

death by his parents and a brother, Albert Cunningham of Hubbardston. Surviving are six children, daughter Sharon (Kevin) Van Ett of Ionia, Nancy (Dave) Smith of Portland, Carol (Randy) Hoppes of Muir; three sons, Ken (Linda) Cunningham, of Pinconning, David (Denise) Cunningham of Ionia, Gary (Dawn) Cunningham of Muir; thirteen grandchildren, Melissa and Laura Van Ett, Ryan (Raychel) Smith, Rachel Smith, Stacey, Nicholas and Wesley Hoppes, Evan Cunningham, Kelsey, Trenton and Devon Cunningham, Brandon and Brent Cunningham; two great grand-daughters, Emily and Caelyn Smith; brother, Clare Cunningham of Grand Rapids; sister-in-law, Billie Cunningham of Hubbardston. He also loved Donna’s six children.

Mass of Christian burial was celebrated by Rev. Melvin Fox at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Ionia. Rite of Committal was in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Hubbardston. Military honors were provided by the American Legion Post 182, Hubbardston. Schrauben-Lehman Funeral Home completed funeral arrangements. For those wishing, contributions may be made to the American Legion Post 182, Hubbardston, Mi. 48845 in memory of Elmer T. Cunningham.

Memorial response has been overwhelming in Elmer’s name. So many thanks! Memorials continue to be accepted in memory of a wonderful couple, Elmer and Donna, staunch members of Post 182. Such good friends, we miss!

After A While

After a while, you learn the subtle difference between holding a hand and chaining a soul. And you learn that love doesn’t mean leaning and company doesn’t mean security. And you begin to learn that kisses aren’t contracts and presents aren’t promises. And you begin to accept your defeats with your head up and your eyes open with the grace of an adult and not the grief of a child. And you learn to build all your roads on today because tomorrow’s ground is too uncertain for plans. And futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight. After a while you learn that even sunshine burns if you get too much. So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul, instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers. And you learn that you really can endure...that you really are strong and you really do have worth. And you learn and you learn...with every good-bye you learn. **(Veronica Shoffstall)**

“Girl, every important journey is scary, and the big ones, you usually take alone. But if you got faith in the Lord, you gonna find that He’ll pack your bags with enough courage to get you where you need to go.” (Queen Esther, 93 years old)

“There will be white blackbirds before an unwilling woman ‘ties the knot.’ ”



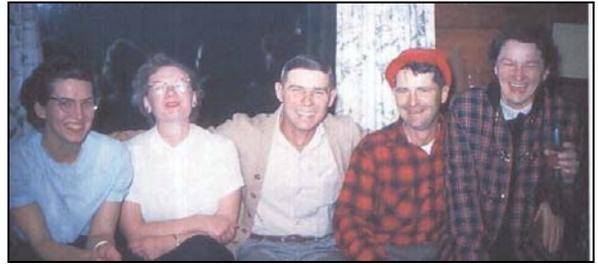
March 17, 1967, found Harold and Winnie Roach Cunningham, Dorothea Jo Griggs Ward and Eva Welsh Burns at Post 182. Looks like cards are in the works!

Our Own TV Personality

Were you lucky enough to catch Dr. John Lattimer, a member of Post 182, on the Peter Jennings ABC Kennedy Assassination Special on Nov. 20, 2003. It replayed on the history channel on December 30th also. He explained the very same material that he presented to our members at the Chicken Barbecue last August as he showed how Oswald was able to fire his rifle three times in the attributed time to wound Sen. Connelly and kill President John F, Kennedy. All of the ballistics and forensics work John did for the Warren Commission (of which he was a sought after member) was completed at the Lattimer farm on Jones Road east of Hubbardston. John was ‘looking good,’ the professional expert that he truly is! God speed, John!

A dentist noticed that his patient, a little old lady, seemed very nervous so he decided to tell her a joke to put her at ease. “Do you know how they make these latex gloves?” he asked her. “No, I don’t,” she replied. “Well, there’s a building in Mexico with a big tank of latex and workers with hands of all sizes walk up to the tank, dip in their hands, let them dry, then peel off the gloves and throw them into the boxes of the right size.” She didn’t crack a smile. “Oh, well, I tried,” he thought. But five minutes later during the procedure, she burst out laughing. “What’s so funny?” he asked. “I was just envisioning how condoms are made!”

Senior Member and the oldest living Past Commander in Michigan (and quite possibly the nation) at age 92, our friend, Jim Herald is temporarily confined to his bed at his home in Ionia. Cards can be sent to Jim at 23 Lovell Place, Ionia, Mi., 48846. He would appreciate hearing from his friends at Post 182. So much of the early renovation on the present club in the 1940’s was done by Jim. Today his nephew, Bill, and our talented and generous members continue in his example. Get well Jim. It’s a pleasure to see you around and hear your stories.



Beverly Skinner Langdon, Genevieve and Bud Tabor, Dick Langdon and Lucille Geller Burns—from years past.

Dick and Beverly Langdon were active with their many friends at Post 182 from the late 1940’s and beyond. Bud Tabor, a war hero and Navigator in the Air Force, flew countless bombing missions over Germany and returned unscathed to become an active member and Chaplain of Post 182. Above, they enjoy a typical Saturday evening at Post 182. Lucille is the wife of funeral director, Ford Burns and lives in Big Rapids, Mi. (sent by Kathy Tygesen)

Recently a routine police patrol was parked outside a local bar in Minnesota. Late in the evening the officer noticed a very intoxicated man leaving the bar. After trying his keys in five different vehicles, he finally found his own car. He fell into it, started it, switched the wipers on, flashed the hazards, tooted the horn and switched on the lights. He moved forward a bit, reversed and finally pulled out on the highway. The police officer being patient, started his car, put on his flashing lights and promptly pulled the man over for a breathalyzer test. To his amazement, there was no indication of alcohol at all. “You’ll have to accompany me to the station, sir. This Breathalyzer equipment is apparently broken.”

“I doubt it,” said the man. “Tonight I’m the designated decoy.” (Jim Hansen)

Post 182 ‘Historian and 50 year member’, Jack Stoddard, has Grand Valley Champion Grandsons in Chris and Greg Stoddard

And the tradition of perfection continues through the generations. Jack Stoddard’s grandsons, Chris and Greg Stoddard are now attending Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids where they received five year scholarships and were red-shirted their freshman year. Both are studying Law Enforcement and have promising careers ahead of them. But, the story today is of their football prowess and three years of championship playoffs. This year, 2003 they won the championship over North Dakota who ‘foiled their goal’ in 2000. Having Mom Christy, and Grandpa Jack there to cheer them on was especially sweet. There are 97 football players on the team and Chris and Greg play Offensive Tackle positions. You just wouldn’t want to run up against those two in a game. Nice, handsome, quiet young men, but determined opponents on the field. They also work in recruiting for Grand Valley where they are presently sophomores (I believe). I’d call that a very smart move on the part of the hierarchy of the college athletic department, wouldn’t you? Right on young men. You make us all proud!

God Bless our fighting men and their wonderful sense of humor. Have you heard what the troops used for the Call Sign on the Sikorsky Blackhawk helicopter used to transport Senator Hillary Clinton during her Afghanistan visit? “Broomstick One.”