

The Beginning . . .

The White Lake Veterans of Foreign Wars Post was instituted in April 1935 through the efforts of William Wentworth, Marcus Dahl, and Wilfred Thoma who was a member of the William Beal VFW Post 446 of Muskegon. He later transferred here and was active for many years. These three men gave many hours to this project. Each World War I man approached had to be convinced that a post was needed in this area. With perseverance and determination twenty-five men had signed the membership cards. The meeting was held in the Odd Fellows Hall in Montague. The Department of Michigan VFW Chief of Staff Mr. Anton Koblbeck of Muskegon was the installing and instituting officer with the aid of the degree team of Post 446 and several guest from that post, as well as from Whitehall, Montague, Hart, Kalamazoo and Ludington. After the instituting ceremonies were held and the new officers elected they were installed into office.

The first officers were: Commander William Wentworth, Senior Vice Commander Raymond Mac Rae, Junior Vice Commander Francis Mason, Quartermaster Marcus Dahl, Adjutant Carroll Noble, and Chaplain Louis Eilers.

The National VFW Commander in Chief gave them the name and number of White Lake Post 3256 Montague, Michigan, 7th District Department of Michigan. In the 1950 the State Department re-mapped all of the state and the district was changed to the 12th District. This was due to the membership growth.

In a few short weeks the Post decided there was a need for an Auxiliary and by the vote of the members they asked the Department of Michigan, Ladies Auxiliary President Mrs. Pearl Musser of Kalamazoo to institute this Auxiliary, which she did with the assistance of Mrs. Anton Koblbeck of Muskegon and the degree team of 446 Post. On June 10, 1935 in the Odd Fellow Hall in Montague, the ceremonies took place with a nice crowd attending from Montague, Whitehall, Muskegon, Kalamazoo, Ludington, Hart and Fremont. There were fourteen ladies signed for membership. Later two more joined to make sixteen names on the Charter. The new and first officers were President Elizabeth Eilers, Senior Vice President Mable Wentworth, Junior Vice President Violet Nichols, Treasurer Henrietta Dahl, Secretary Penelope Mae Rae, and Chaplain Christine Alison.

Post Charter Members - April 1935

Herman Noordhoff	Ralph G. Alison	Carroll A. Noble	Ray E. Hutson
Wm. A.C. Wilkinson	Marvin Beeman	Wm. Wentworth	Henry Schneider
Raymond Mac Rae	Charles Eilers	Louis Eilers	Marcus Dahl
Ernest Weisse	Otto Ocks	Francis Matson	Walter Nichols
Henry Sikkenga	Erma D. Todd	George Fehrenback	Edward Butzer
Arthur Degan	Arthur Heitman	Louis Troughton	Francis Eilers
Richard H. Van Plee			

Ladies Auxiliary Charter Members - June 1935

Kristine Alison	Henrietta Dahl	Elizabeth B. Eilers
Ethel E. Eilers	Mabel Fehrenback	Verna M. Huston
Penelope M. Mac Rae	Violet Nichols	Alice M. Noble
Lillie A. Noble	Adaida Noordhoff	Edity Beaman
Maude VonPlees	Gladys Schneider	Mildred Troughton
Mabel Wentworth		

The First Years:

The first years were sort of easy going, as the Department and National programs were not so many nor so competitive as they became in later years. Membership increases were necessary to survive and give more workers. The yearly dues was \$2.00. Many paid in installment of \$.10 and \$.25 at a time, as money was not plentiful. Nevertheless there were very pleasant times enjoyed by the parent post and it auxiliary.

The auxiliary put on a pot luck supper to celebrate the post first anniversary in the Odd Fellows Hall, with cards and dancing for the enjoyment of everyone present. Then it was the Post's turn to be host for the Auxiliaries first anniversary which was held at Greys Landing with a pot luck and a good time for all.

The First Buddy Poppy Sale:

During this first year it was a time for the Buddy Poppy sale. This was almost unheard of here and the sale had to be explained many times over. The purpose of the sale, how the poppies were made, by whom the poppies were made and what the proceeds were to be used.

By hard work the salesmen approached each merchant, manufacturer and house. Also poppies were sold on the streets. The total for that first year was \$9.75. World War II made a big difference in how Buddy Poppies are perceived. Media attention helped to inform the public that each poppy is hand made in a Veteran Hospital and that the funds are used only for the relief of the veteran and his family.

Early Meeting Places:

In these first years meeting places were not ideal. The Odd Fellow Hall, for example, was on the second story with a long, narrow and treacherous stairway. Fuel, supplies and equipment had to be carried up those stairs.

Other upstairs buildings were used, but the stairs became a big problem for everyone involved. Along with these bad features were the stifling heat of summer and the penetrating

cold of the winter. With stoves for heat that had to be had fired with wood and coal things were a bit primitive in the beginning. At times the stoves refused to cooperate in spite of coaxing and threats. Sometimes the members had to leave the hall and go to one of their homes to hold the meeting.

Also, meetings were held in the social rooms of the old City Hall or in part of the Fire Barn or in doctors offices, or in the Wonders building or in the St. James Church and it's social rooms. Rent for meeting space was \$1.00 per month.

Later meetings were also held in Royal Neighbors, Whitehall American Legion Hall, members homes, the Old Dutch Reformed Church (Old North Church), The Sportsman Club (a log cabin type building) on the causeway, which was to be used for many years and eventually the new permanent post home on Walsh Road in Montague.

Comradeship ...

During these early years almost everyone knew everyone else. Many families had ties with other families and some had grown up together. Many had met before in school and in churches and by being neighbors. There was much loyalty and deep friendship as the social contact continued. In addition to dances and card parties there were sleigh rides through heaps of snow. There were bad storms and blizzards which isolated families for three or four weeks. A thaw was the best cure.

Friends were brought closer in 1937 when a scarlet fever epidemic hit almost every family. But those who were well helped those who were sick until finally the epidemic ran it's course. The Post and Auxiliary helped a family which had a sick husband and father over a period of several weeks with food, money, fuel and clothing. Baby layettes were given to several families in need of infant clothing.

The members helped the ill and the elderly not only by care and getting them food and fuel, but by repairing porches and roofs and painting homes, building fences. Fences were made and mended and gardens were planted, trees felled, and other things were done that they couldn't do for themselves.

In these first years, wages were low, work was scarce and in general times were bad. Although prices were low it was difficult to raise even the amount for everyday needs. A pound of good coffee was \$.23, three loaves of bread for a quarter and gasoline was \$.10 per gallon. Once the Auxiliary purchased a ton of coal for \$9.00 and sold raffle tickets on it for \$.10 a ticket or three for \$.25. To date no one can remember who won the coal. The Rituals were \$.15 each. A life membership to the VFW National Home was \$10.00, and the outgoing presidents pin was \$8.00.

The Money Raisers...

Where there is activity there is always a need for money. So, many activities were used in hopes of raising those needed funds.

Starting back in 1935, this organization sponsored a musical comedy called "Listen to Me". Of course many of the local people took over the acting rolls; in this one Lyle Lipka was sing chorus, Phyllis Funnell (who later became Phyllis Ohrenberger) was in the dance chorus.

In 1947 another show was sponsored based on the then popular radio show from WLS in Chicago. The program was call the WLS Prairie Farmer Program and the local people took over for Uncle Ezra, Skyland Scottie, Patsy Montana, and Lulu Belle.

In 1948 came - "Down Memory Lane", followed by the last of the show business ventures, "Chief Pontiac and His Varieties. The proceeds from these venture were donated to the VFW National Home at Easton Rapids and to three Veterans Hospitals.

There were also two or three circuses that came to town sponsored by the Post. By reports, not to much money was raised, but everyone involved had a good time.

Raffles always seemed to bring out the gambler in many, so tickets were sold on boats, motors, trailers, radios, TV's, fishing gear, electric washing machines, guns and hunting equipment.

The auxiliary sold dish cloths, kitchen cutlery, spices, shampoo, candy, fruit cakes, Christmas tree ornaments, bumper stickers, date books, cook books and flags. Bake sales ere held, fashion shows, card parties, dances, and raffles of afghan, and jewelry boxes. The funds were used for helping the community wherever there was a need. Also, many things were bought or donated such as: \$50.00 each year for three years to the Handicapped Children Society (later lowered to \$20.00), many dollars sent each year to the Jerry Lewis Telethon.

The Post presented history books to the Montague City Library and school libraries. The Auxiliary gave money each year to the City Library to build up their book supply. One book in particular was given entitled "Masters of Deceit" which told of the German build-up.

The post gave out 3 medals to high school band members who played "Taps" for veterans funerals. Later on cash was given.

Each year funds were given to the local Boy Scouts, and for three or four years money was donated for the Scouts to attend the National Boy Scouts Jamboree in Colorado. Money was also given to the Little League and Junior League. A boxing group was sponsored by the Post in cooperation with other community organization.

Scholarships have been given to deserving seniors in the high school to further their education.

The West Shore Community Hospital needed fund for expansion, so a dance was held and the profits of \$531.65 was given to them.

The Auxiliary has over several years given large sums of money to the White Lake Ambulance Service. Money was used for beepers, instruction for the medics, new equipment, and toward a new ambulance. Several hundred of dollars have been given as gifts to local people injured in all kinds of accidents.

A public address system was purchase and given to the Montague School to be used on the athletic fields and wherever else needed. The Montague High School Bowling Team was sponsored during the season in addition to money for the play-offs.

VFW Programs ...

Membership:

To organization to continue on the local, department (state), or national level must continue the drive for eligible men and women to become members. Without members there would be no VFW and every eligible person is invited to join the organization. The pensions, compensations, medical aid hospitalization and education, has been fought for, by our VFW men in Washington D.C. and it has been in most cases a hard fought battle - you can enjoy what they declared you have earned serving your country.

Hospital:

The veterans hospitals are supported by the U.S. Government. Michigan has several, in Ann Arbor VA, Battle Creek VA, Allen Park VA, Saginaw VA in the lower peninsula. Marquette and Iron Mountain VA is in the upper peninsula - and the State maintained Grand Rapids Veteran Facility - There are hospital quotas the Auxiliary pays to help make out hospitalized veterans more comfortable and a little happier away from family and home - And money & workers giving of their time and efforts free to help in any way - Reading, writing letters - giving out comfort items - and here we have free to the people in this community, hospital beds, wheel chairs - crutches and sick room equipment.

Cancer:

The Auxiliary for several years has carried a cancer insurance, to help pay hospital bills, and a Cancer Grant to help pay for cancer treatments. This also covers Polio, scarlet fever, small pox, diphtheria, spinal meningitis, Encephalitis, rabies, tetanus tularemia and typhoid - The Auxiliary pays the premiums from the dues, and moneys are sent to help in aid and research - and donations are made to the Pow Wow and Department Convention Cancer Sales, the money is given by the Department into National, to be used to pay the cancer expenses to it ill members, and to further research for a cure.

National Home:

The National Home is a former farm homestead know as the Grand River Stock Farm by Jackson millionaire Corey Spencer and opened to the first family March 2, 1925. It accepts widow and orphans of veterans, giving them love, care and education. This is completely

supported by the VFW and its Auxiliaries. The original size was 472 acres, but more has been added - there are now 34 homes, built by 24 states, Community Center, Guest Lodge and Chapel, Housemother's Cottage, Woodside Center and Administration building, fire department and garages. The children and widows are housed, clothed and fed. Medical and dental care would go to the church of their families. There are quotas on this also to support the needs.

Buddy Poppy:

The Poppies that grew on Flanders Fields are the known flower, and symbol of the blood shed. The poppies are hand made by hospitalized veterans the Department purchases them, the Post & Auxiliaries purchase them from Department and sold every May to refund the relief fund. That can be used only for the relief of the Veteran and his family.

Rehabilitation:

This Chairmanship is also for aid and help to the ill, and those in need. Senior Citizens and the Veterans that needs transportation for necessary needs. Food funds for the needy. Funeral dinners and flowers and food to the families, cards and visits to the shut ins. Also to assist in finding jobs for the unemployed.

Community Service:

Is to help our community in any way we can to make it a better place to live.

Youth Activities:

Is to help the scouts, camp fire, church groups, sports for the youth and sponsoring the annual Voice of Democracy essay and speech contest on a patriotic subject with very good awards to the winners.

Americanism:

Flags, flag etiquette books, pledge of allegiance pencils are given to schools, civic, public buildings, youth groups and churches, to teach patriotism in the schools, to the young - and to our citizens.

Junior Girls:

This is sponsored by the Auxiliary for girls of the age of 6 thru 16 when they can join the Auxiliary.

The Service Work:

This supplies aid to the veteran to apply for pensions, compensation, medical and hospital admittance, education funds, aid to the family at the death of a veteran. Such as funds from the State, County and U.S. Government-lot allowance and the Veterans grave marker which is furnished free by the government.

In 1977 the Post wrote a letter of protest to President Jimmy Carter against his granting pardons to draft dodgers during the Viet Nam conflict. The post lost their protest.

Working for Ourselves:

The war years changed our routines, from the easy going pace to one with a purpose. Many of the families faced their young sons and daughters changing from the young to adults, as they enlisted, or were drafted, and they entered all lines of service. To those in service all over the world Christmas and Easter boxes were packed and sent to them, each one containing about \$6.00 worth of writing materials, toilet articles, socks, hankies, cigarettes and candy. A lot could be bought for \$6.00 at that time. But it was gratefully received whenever it caught up with them - it came from home. The boys took time to answer these gifts and the following is a list of names and the letters are saved from:

Leslie Munson	Robert Buttleman (Navy)	Richard Von Plee (Navy)
Stuart Armstrong (Army)	Albert Troughton (Air Force)	R.W. Edwards (Marines)
Robert Slate (Navy)	Lyle Lipka (Navy)	Harris Olson (Army)
George Hunt (Paratroops)	T.W. Hines (Navy)	Harold Anderson (Navy)
William Armstrong	Clyde Price	Robert Boyden
Edward Benovic (Army)		

In 1945 citations were presented to the next of kin that lost loved ones in the line of duty to their country. The Post needed rifles for funeral services of veterans, also for ceremonies and parades, in March 1946 - 10 rifles were ordered through the war department Washington D.C. as these were war surplus the only cost was \$10.00 for shipping cost of 6 Eddystones and 4 Remington, 30 caliber, M1917. These were stolen and never recovered. In 1956 another order was made for 10 rifles. Again these were stolen but recovered - Due to the location of the building it was a vulnerable spot for breaking in - and there were several losses including theft of \$700 which was to be used to buy Christmas gifts for the Children Christmas party. Finally a robbery system was installed, this has stopped the thievery.

The war casualties started coming back to the states and the hospital in Battle Creek in the old sanatorium building was used for the young men-The Auxiliary women made trips there carrying cases of cigarettes and this Post sent one home made lap robes, bibs and scuffs, bandage materials, candy, gum and home made cakes to help ease the hospital chow.

The Korean and Viet Nam hospital work continued with those wars, but the VA hospitals had room for them - many are still in government hospitals and always will be.

War Memorials:

In 1944 an unusual call went out all over the U.S. to communities in various population numbers to compete against each other for the best war memorial, finished. The City of Montague and the Chamber of Commerce accepted the challenge - But they needed much more help than they alone could do. So, the VFW voted to support this great idea, and to work with all the committees of the supporting organizations. The VFW committee was made up of Otto Ochs, Robert Kinney and Marcus Dahl, and Auxiliary members Mrs. Alvin Anderson, Mrs. William Wentworth and Mrs. Harry Block. The committee decided to purchase a new car and sell raffle tickets at \$1.00 each. 4,500 were sold. The city donated \$600.00, the board of education \$500.00, the combined funds totaled \$1600.00 and the city gave another \$500.00.

Land had to be purchased, which is the Montague Athletic field. The memorial cement work and stone work was done by John Leman, there are 3 bronze plaques bearing all the names of the Montague area men and women in the World War II. It is a very impressive memorial. The dedication ceremonies were held on September 19, 1947. The speaker was Brigadier General Joseph A. Cranston of the Michigan area. The color guard was Leonard Hunt, Army; Roger Hanson, Navy; Arthur Dahl, Air Force; William Degen, Marines; Fern Christorpherson Mason, Waves; Lillian Parker, WACs; Mrs. Jean Meinert wife of late Private Roger W. Meinert who died on Luzon July 3, 1945 unveiled the memorial placque - All this work to raise funds, and build and set up a program such as this was worth it, as this outstanding project was chosen best in the nation in it's category. An article with pictures about Montague and how this was accomplished appeared in the July 1947 issue of Holiday Magazine and is on file in the Montague Museum. The Memorial Day services have been held here every year since it's dedication.

In 1946 this Post donated \$25.00 towards fireworks and participated in the VJ celebration in Muskegon.

In 1980, Commander Larry Painter a Viet Nam Veteran, talked about a Memorial for Viet Nam Veterans, this idea took some time to take root, it takes time for these things, the American Legion, the VFW and Howmet Corporation came up with a plan for this, and all joining forces it began to become a reality - The Howmet Corp. furnished the metal material and made the cast of 5 stars depicting the 5 branches of service, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard and a block with Korea in one and a block with Viet Nam in the other and the middle block roads - Dedicated to all from the White Lake Area who served our country. The field stone monument is a beautiful piece of work put up by a young man of the American Legion. This was dedicated in 1982 with Roger Schultz as Master of Ceremonies, and the VFW State Commander James Goldsmith the speaker. The combined school bands were an impressive part with many marching units from several posts, auxiliaries, and Junior Girl and Sons of the VFW present and many dignitaries.

The drill team has appeared in many parades, and other events, the Memorial Day parades and services, Veterans Day and in parades in Muskegon, and the services at Hackley Park, Settlers Day over the 4th of July, Scottsville Harvest Festival and Pentwater Parades.

On October 2, 1944 the Post and Auxiliary participated in the dedication of the Memorial Shaft on the causeway in North Muskegon. This is now called Memorial Park and the most beautiful mile in Michigan, with the World War I Polar Bears Red Arrow Division, DAV. World War II, Korean and Viet Nam memorials. Many services have been held here with representatives of this Post participating or just being present. There was representatives from the Post and Auxiliary and officers of the now defunct United War Veterans Association of Muskegon.

Bethel Eddy served 5 years as secretary of the Greater Muskegon County Memorial Day Committee. The object was to place an American flag on every veterans grave in Muskegon

County to have a Memorial Day Parade in Muskegon city and of the outlying towns and cemeteries, with a program, the membership consisting of the VFW, American Legion, DAV, Gold Star and Blue Star Mothers, American Red Cross, Coast Guard and Naval Reserve and National Guard. The Building Committee was an appointed group of members at first, then it became elective - these were more interested in the future. Many men and women have served on this - it grew from a 5 person committee to twice that many - money responsibilities rested on them - uppermost, a place to have the meetings, then the finding of a permanent home - by their diligence and foresight we have the beautiful home we have today. They had rules they had to abide by, the same as the other members - In 1971 it ruled that a husband and wife could not be on the committee at the same time, except if they happened to be the Post Commander and Auxiliary President the same term. No equipment from the kitchen can be loaned out to outsiders of the organization.

The Post must have a 2/3 vote of its members present at a Post meeting to overrule the building committee on any matter. The building committee will host the steak fry on the 3rd Saturday of each month and the proceeds will be placed in the committee treasury. A member of the organization will have the privilege of renting the hall for half price. The Ladies Auxiliary have the chance to cater the meals ahead of other caterers.

Price changes will be voted upon by the committee as it see fit. The Building Committee now plans most of the social affairs and the hiring of bands and entertainment, as most the maintenance and upkeep now.

The New Post Home:

Soon after the Post and Auxiliary was instituted, and they were having problems of finding a satisfactory place for the meeting, the idea of owning their own post home began to grow - as I mentioned so many of the places were not satisfactory at all - The Building Committee came to see that they had a job to do - over the several future years. There was many qualified and interested members, on this committee; they found the so call (North Church) Old Dutch Reformed Church was for sale, so plans were set in motion to purchase it; after conferences with the representative of the owners, an agreement was reached, a few hundred dollars was paid down on it, and several meetings were held there, and the usual repair and rebuilding started, it was found that, due to the abstract not of clear title, it would be held up in the courts for a long time, and one of the names on the abstract lived in a northwest state. Their money was refunded, and they looked elsewhere.

The Sportsman's Club, a log cabin type of building on the causeway could be rented, this was on City of Montague land, where the Comerica Bank in Montague is today. The Committee met with members of the Sportsman's Club and after much discussions, and many meetings finally settled the VFW would pay the \$25.00 per year for its use. The building was in need of lots of repairs so the members did the work themselves of new plumbing, better electrical wiring, a new roof was put on - and insulation of the ceiling area - new floors, and some of the post holding up the ceiling were removed and another method used to hold up the ceiling. New linoleum on the kitchen floor - these were all good needed improvements, but the building

proved to be too small in size for the various activities the post wished to have - and the building was expensive to heat. Then the legal part came into sight. The building committed leased the building, to find that the Sportsman's Club - by rules set down and signed by them with Montague City forbade them to sub-lease the building, so their lease was broken by them, and the City took the club back. The VFW Committee of Jim Mason, Lyle Lipka, Roger Hanson and Ralph Dillabaugh drew up a new lease and submitted it to the City of Montague. After 2 years of court hearings etc. the city accepted their lease and the Sportmans Club was leased to them for \$1.00 per year for 25 years. The dedication of the new Post was on April 23, 1953. The VFW stayed there for 9 years and during these years used and improvements it cost them a total of \$14,993.43. The Post membership was enlarging and there was a need for a much bigger building in the future, so again the committee began to look around for a different site, one where there was room to grow. During the 9 years, many dinner receptions, dances and money making projects had been adding money to the building fund, and there was the "G" bonds maturity that helped also. It came about that the committee heard of a site of land owned by the Menard and Lil Kroll on Walsh Road. Henry Eicke, Lyle Lipka, Jean Silvis and Phyllis Ohrenberger looked over the land and its possibilities and reported favorably. Theodore Peters and Frank Burt investigated the abstract and deed which proved to be clear, they also made a visit to the township board meeting, stating their intentions and inquired of them, if, after the building was build and in working order, if a liquor license would be granted by their approval. No record shows their answer, but it must have affirmed. John Eilers took on the job of the water situation, and the soil right for sewage disposal - After all had made their reports, at the Post meeting of August 21, 1963, Clarence Streblov made the motion to purchase the acreage from Menard and Lil Kroll, seconded by Frank Burt, and the motion carried. The Ladies Auxiliary presented the Post with a check for \$3,600.00 for the land purchase.

The plans were drawn up, but of course there was the ever present problem of enough money. Some local people offered to lend them the money, as well as the bank, but the high interest rates held the committee back. Finally charter member George Fehrenbach on August 14, 1968 lent the Post \$10,000.00, the loan to be paid on a monthly basis and never paid off in a lump sum, which was followed by the Post until it was paid off in full.

Robert Rabe was Post Commander. He, members of the Post and committee members attended the ground breaking ceremonies in October 1968. Activities really started. Bulldozers and equipment moved in to dig a good size basement. Lyle Lipka arranged for most of this earth moving machinery. Work began in earnest. Robert Kroll and his crew did the masonry work, putting up basement walls, the men worked all the 4th of July putting in the heating pipes in to the floor for the furnace, and the cement was to be poured July 5th. The work had to be ready and it was. That July 4th was no celebration day. This was a time when electricians, plumbers, heating men put their know how to work. Masons and cement work - Carpenters didn't buy the ready made roof trusses but built their own, and they are set 2 feet apart, so the roof is solid against winds and snow. Every spare hour, holidays and week ends were used to build, the men worked and their wives brought food baskets and combined pot lucks were held to feed the workers - Their time away from home was a sacrifice to their home life and their children - so a thanks should go to them - These members combined their know how, time, and hard work for a

project they all wanted. I don't know all that gave so much, but I do know that Robert Kroll, Lyle Lipka, Earl Silvis, Scott Russell, James Mason, Chuck Ohrenberger, Jim Garwood, Al Wentworth, Harold Nelson, Fred Kortase and Ralph Dillabaugh, William Degen, Harold Anderson, Harvey Moore, Bill Thomas worked hard on this - no doubt there are others and all thanks goes to them also. It takes team work to plan and build a beautiful Post home we are all enjoying today.

In 1974 another addition was added on the back for a back bar and store rooms - and a pole barn was built to house the fire truck and jeep and hospital equipment. Cost \$3,380.00. The Auxiliary purchased everything in the kitchen to the tune of several thousand of dollars, and a deep freeze in the basement. They also purchased the wall paneling in the large meeting room - the wind drapes. Carpeting for the band stand, purchased 2 pianos and gave the Post \$1,000.00 a year towards the blacktopping of the parking lots. The lawn was graded and seeded.

The bar room is a cheerful room and many happy hours are enjoyed there, just talking, playing pool or singing the old tunes, with Ruthie Lipka furnishing the piano music. Every Post member, and Auxiliary member, enjoys this beautiful Post home and feels a deep pride for it.

The mortgage was burned in Larry Painters year as Commander, with Robert Rabe and June Russell doing the honors. Smoke arresters, the back bar finished in paneling and a Bar-B-Que set in a lovely brick frame with a fire proof hood and smoke vents - air conditioner at a cost of \$6,925.00, which is much appreciated by members and guest.

Branching Out:

Some of the members served well their offices elected and appointed and by their knowledge advanced into the District Offices. Norma Halwack, Margaret Eieke and Beatrice Brown became 12th District Presidents, and Roger Schultz became District Commander. He brought Department and National honors for his dedication and work by earning District Commander of the Year and was also awarded National District Commander of the year. While Roger was Post Commander he was awarded the honor both years as Post Commander of the Year.

James Kruzel and Kenneth Dahl followed in Rogers footsteps and became Post Commanders of the year. These awards are given out annually at the Department Convention, for their leadership, increase in membership, awards to chairmen for their years labors, participation with other organizations. The office is not one of glory alone, but by hard work and visible results.

During Roger's year as Post Commander, he started the Bingo games, held every Monday night, their good attendance has made it possible for the air conditioner, paving of the parking lot and drives, as well as other improvements and ability to pay the bills - Roger also started the giving out of Christmas food boxes. By purchasing and packing these and the Auxiliary paying

half the expenses a good dinner is provided. These were delivered to the ill and needy and to the Charter members - At the same time of delivery the Auxiliary gives a nice poinsettia plant to widows, secretary and treasure in gratitude of their years work.

Roger has also been Department Chairmanship of Americanism, Community Service, and Buddy Poppy this 1982-83 year. He hit the high sales of over 1 million poppies sold.

Several of the Auxiliary members have held chairmanships in the district, and Jean Silvis and Barbara Simila have been Department Color Bearers.

Floyd Eddy served as District Chaplain 2 or 3 years, also County Council Chaplain - He was named Post Service Officer by Past Commander Schultz and held the office 6 full years, and he was also Service Officer of the District and County Council - By his dedication to the needs of veterans, his many miles driven to their homes as they were unable to travel, his many hours used to fill out papers and driving time and the large number of veterans helped in one year. He was the recipient of the coveted LaVan Trophy presented to the service officer doing the most work. Raymond O'Neill made the presentation at the Department Convention in Traverse City - Ben Cuperus submitted his name. This award is not presented every year, only to those that have earned it. It is now on display on the Post trophy shelves.

Bethel (McDougall) Eddy, transferred from the Eaton Rapids Auxiliary 1283 in 1969. She didn't come without having served in many offices over the years. She joined the Charlotte Auxiliary in 1943. She held several offices and became president, the family moved to Eaton Rapids in 1950, where she again became active and the President; Then she became President of the 8th District, she was national home chairman 2 years, Department Membership 1 year, became Department Chaplain, Junior and Senior Vice-President and Department President 1962-63. In the 3256 Auxiliary she has been active in Chairmanships, Auxiliary President and Secretary. - In the 12 District, she has become Chaplain and Patriotic Instructor and held Chairmanships.

The Post and Auxiliary have hosted many activities, the District 12, meetings with a nice noon dinner - drug abuse and safety programs, service officers school of instruction put on by the Department, VFW office. Auxiliary schools of instructions, put on by the Ladies Auxiliary Department Officers - County Council meetings.

One of the outstanding social gatherings was the building dedication on August 2, 1969 with a banquet dinner. Ralph and Bernice Dillabaugh was the Commander and President, John Eilers was the Master of Ceremonies with Department Jim Milliron Commander, and Janet Cuperus Auxiliary President, with their spouses. Rita and Ben and a good crowd of members - a few years later when Larry Painter was Commander and Marion Bruesch President the ceremony of the burning of the Mortgage was held, with another good turnout to see Robert Rabe and June Russell do the honors as they were Commander and President at the time of the borrowing of the money - Needless to say these were both festive occasions.

This and That:

Many things have transpired over the years and should not be left out - Stanley Hall was first returned World War II Veteran to become a member on December 1, 1943 and Fred Smith was the second one, on March 15, 1944.

In 1959 the Auxiliary put on a dinner-dance to celebrate their 25th Anniversary. October 8, 1966 was the last steak fry at the old hall

In 1978 - 18 Framed awards were presented by Commander Krugel and Floyd Eddy to banks, factories, businesses, and individuals for flying the American flag day and night for at least a year. This was under the National Americanism program.

Each year there are several things that take place for the enjoyment of the members and their families - The children annual Christmas Party, with singing, live entertainment, Santa and lovely gifts that are supplied by the Post and Auxiliary - and with home made cookies, ice cream and pop. The pig roast, with a pot luck dinner. The picnic for everyone - The New Years Dance. For the adults is the annual Past Post Commanders and Past Auxiliary Presidents Banquet, with a catered dinner, program, awards, and membership pins of the years of belonging - and usually an interesting speaker - and Department Representatives.

When Roger Schultz was District Commander we gave a banquet for him. Also we hosted the District Past Commanders and Presidents Banquet.

Marcus Dahl, Past Commander of 9 years, had the honor and pleasure of installing his son Kenneth Dahl as Commander in May of 1981 and again in 1982. This does not happen often.

Each year names are submitted to the Post and Auxiliary of children that will be sponsored to attend Camp Trotter for a week. Usually 2 from each are sent, and the reports back are they had a wonderful time and wish to go again. - Camp Trotter is owned and operated by the VFW Department of Michigan at Bills Lake Newago.

In 1964 an old fire truck was purchased for \$100.00, after some engine and other minor repairs, a paint job and lettering, it was ready for many parades. A true show piece. Now a jeep has been added for the same uses.

The post purchased new colors with carrying cases in 1978. The Auxiliary has done likewise so that our colors are clean and bright and carried with pride in parades. The Auxiliary also purchased their banner in 1957.

The hall is used for many purposes - our meetings- the Post the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, and the Auxiliary the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays; the Monday night bingo and the Wednesday day bingo. The Junior Girls meeting once a month on Sunday p.m., likewise the Fleet Reserve meeting and the Red Cross Blood mobile once every three months. The Sudden Infant Death

Syndrome (SIDS) sponsored by the Auxiliary and conducted by member Terry Smith once a month.

The hall is also rented out for many activities. The 4th of July (settlers day) dance is held here. The steak fries/dances, family reunions and class reunions.

In 1978-79 New glass display shelves were installed in the bar room to hold and show the many awards and trophies won by this Post and Auxiliary through the hard work of their various chairmen. It has meant a year of work finished by each winning chairman.

Eugene and Shirley Degen arranged to have all the Past Commanders, and Past Presidents to have their pictures taken, and these will line the wall of the meeting room. We received \$500 from the estate of George Fehrenbach and by vote decided to use the money for this project.

Shirley Degen also started the ladies Wednesday Bingo with the receipts given to the building committee.

The Post and Auxiliary work together on almost every project, the many banquets and dinners, weddings and anniversaries, steak fries, sno-faris, dinners and dances. They both give a lovely Bible of the family's faith to the next of kin when we lose a veteran or auxiliary member. If the family request we conduct our services and serve a lunch.

In 1985 this White Lake Post and its Auxiliary was 50 year old. Many things have happened in these years - We have survived 3 wars. We have received our Perpetual Charter, we have built this Post Home - we have paid off our loan and burned our mortgage. We have honored our veterans and given aid to the people of this Community. We have sponsored our youth. We have offered the helping hand to all that needed it. We have stood firm on the doctrines and beliefs of our nation and answered the call of our nation in all her needs. We may have made a mistake now and then but there wasn't many and those were corrected. We won't quit yet, as long as there are veterans, widows and veterans orphans our work will continue.

CONTINUING WITH THE NEXT 25 YEARS

1985 - 2010.....

White Lake Post 3256 and Auxiliaries

Camp Ground Pavilion - 1986

In 1985 - 1986 Larry Painter cut off trees, Ken Tutak hauled out sand, the National Guard cleared the land and electrical boxes were built by Fred Kortase and Scott Russell. In September 1993 the camp ground and the pavilion were build by members Red Jacobs, Scott Russell, Lyle Lipka and non members Harold Osborn, Al Clary, Kyle Hamann, Glen Miller, Laura Nichols, Jr. Carey John Vincent, Brian Steinberg.

Walk in Cooler - 1993

Walt Powell designed the cooler on his computer, then Marlin Shultz used his contractor's license to acquire a building permit, which lead the Post and the Township into making a blue print, that took six times to be completed by an architect. Glen Hammond proceeded to Shelby State Bank to borrow money from the CD. The project started that summer of 1993 and finished that Fall. Involved in this project was Walt Powell, John Burrow, Tom

Lovejoy, Jimmy Temberg. Many were involved in the this project, but Walt Powell was there every day until it was completed.

Teen Talent Shows - 1988 through 1994

Our VFW Post sponsored a teen talent show under the guidance of Post Commander Larry Painter. During this time more than 150 teens participated and more than \$2,000.00 was given out in prize money. Many of these teens went on to bigger things in life, two became medical doctors, one became a music teacher, one was Miss Michigan and a top ten finalists in the Miss America pageant. Others went on to perfect their talents and performed in places such as the Grand Ole Opry, Dolly Partons Dollywood and New York City Carnegie Hall.

White Lake Woodstock - Late 1990

Plumb's Grocery Store was a big supporter of the Michigan Special Olympics. Evelyn Lovejoy was employed by Plumbs and was the coordinator of fund raisers for this event. Lance Karum a friend of Evelyn's was a member of a Blues Band and one of the members of the band also worked at Plumbs. One day the three of them were brain storming as how to have a "free" concert with additional activities to raise money. The problem was where to have it, so Evelyn talked with the members of the post to see if they could have it here. "The rest is History" The VFW welcomed the idea with open arms. A stage was built and was placed out by the baseball field. The first year there were two or three bands that volunteered their time and came and played. Along with VFW members Evelyn planned a Chicken Dinner and the fun began. The first year was a learning experience, the second year games for the children were added, along with the bands and the dinner. The third and last year we expanded and decided to try a "Beer Tent". Special licenses were obtained and we partied into the night!!!!!! It was a good time and we earned quite a bit of money for the Special Olympics.

VE-VJ 50th Anniversary Commemoration - July 6th-8th, 1995

World War II was a time our country was filled with patriotism and sacrifice. In honor of this heroic era in our nations history and of the men and women who sacrificed their bodies and lives on the world battlefields and home front, the Post was approached by Lyle Lipka to have a 50th anniversary commemoration of this historic event.

The post approved of this ideas and past Post Commander Larry Painter was appointed chairman in early July 1994. In the ensuring months many sub-committees were formed. It was decided to call this special occasion VE-VJ Day 50th Anniversary. A date of July 6th through July 8, 1995 was approved by the Post members and things began to roll.

In April of 1995 a call went out to the Post members and the community for any personal war memorabilia and artifacts to display in the post home during this time, and did they respond.

The banquet room of the Post was filled from end to end and wall to wall.

A 40'x120' tent was rented and erected on the north side of the Post home to hold the many activities planned. Activities featured for this VD-VJ 50th anniversary included a teen dance and karaoke contest on Thursday July 6th. Then on Friday July 7th there was non stop music in the big tent provided by Mike Snell and Westwinds, followed by the band Sugar Creek. Food was provided by the Ladies Auxiliary such as hotdogs, chips, beef and pork barbeques and onion rings. On Saturday July 8th food again was provided by the auxiliary with an added feature of a complete fish dinner for \$4.50. Other activities for the day were a horseshoe tournament, a children trout pond sponsored by the White Lake Steel Headers. Also, military vehicles and military static displays were provided by the Michigan National Guards of Montague, antique auto display for the 30's and 40's which were proved by the Muskegon Puddle Jumpers of Muskegon. At 11:00 A.M. a commemoration service was held with the Tolling of the Bells for the 22 men of the White Lake area that was killed in action or missing in action. Bag pipe music was provided by our own ladies auxiliary member Linda Silvis. The featured speaker for this commemoration was Joe Beyrle. Joe, a former POW in Germany, who was assumed killed in action, but escaped and fought with the Russians until the end of the war and came home to read his own obituary. The rest of the day was filled with music provided by the Jack Videtich Orchestra, a five piece polka band. The rest of the evening was filled by Bob Warners Bank, which provide big band and swing sounds of the 1930's and 1940's.

As you read this it becomes quite apparent that many volunteer hours went into this event, in fact over the three day event over 100 dedicated post and auxiliary members donated their time and efforts to make it the success it was.

World War II Veterans
KIA/MIA

Robert Andrews
Russell Cripe
Walt Haupt
Robert Lafaunce
Tauro Maki
Robert Pulsipher
Raymond Runzel
Robert Zatzke

James Bayne
Earl Gingrich
Harry Johnson, Jr.
Kenneth Leighton
Roger Meinert
John Radics
Wayne Stiles

A. Christenson
Otto Grunewald
Raymond Kissling
Edward Lindsey
Dr. B. W. Morse
Lyle Rolph
H. Strandberg, Jr.

Bike Run - 2001 to present

Ron and Sue Falconer started the first bike run the Sunday of Labor Day weekend in 2001 with a total of 27 bicyclers. They have continued to plan, organize and run the bike run every year on the 1st Sunday of September (Labor Day weekend) through 2009. As of the 2009 bike run there was a total of 98 bikers with the youngest being 25 years old and the oldest being 84 years young. Over the last five years the poker run, a scavenger hunt, a pie auction (selling for as much as \$40.00 per pie), 50/50 and bucket raffles (items donated by many of the local businesses) have been done to raise money for the Christmas Angel Tree for our Vets in Grand Rapids. Other fund raisers for this benefit have been a breakfast served prior to the bike run in 2008 & 2009, which was organized and run by Larry Painter, and for many years enchilada dinners were held in October. In 2008 an article was published in the Michigan Overseas paper reporting about the bike run and its purpose. The 2009 event raised more than \$3,000.00. There was enough raised and that we were able to donate to the local food pantry as well as the Angel Tree.

VFW Post 3256 Men's Auxiliary - April 2004

The Men's Auxiliary was established through a "gender Bias" issue in a Court of Law. A man, at a post somewhere, wanted to join the auxiliary and was told he could not because like all posts at the time, the auxiliaries were consisted of women only. He decided to use the legal system to do something about this gender bias issue. His efforts worked and the VFW Men's Auxiliaries was born.

White Lake VFW Post 3256 Mens Auxiliary Charter was established April 14, 2004. It started with 36 members and as of October 2009 it has doubled with 72 member strong.

VFW Post 3256 Men's Auxiliary - Charter Members:

Chad Bartlett	Robert Belinger	Matthew Bosses	Ross Bosses
Alfred Burgess	Robert Burgess	Richard Chenard	Jack Dean
Edwin Flood	William Flood	John Gillan	John Hudak
Michael Hudak	Kevin Johnson	Kyle Johnson	Michael Kieft
Randall Mikkelsen	Rickie Moneyhun	Brian Mulnix	Lawrence Paggeot
Shane Patton	Mark Riggs	Michael Rossiter	James Temberg
Patrick Temberg	Timothy Temberg	Thomas Terryn	Paul VanBeukering
Danny VanHuizen	Frank Ward	Mark Wilkins	William Winger

First Officers:

President: Mark L. Riggs Sr.	Chaplain: John (Pete) Hudak
Sr. Vice President: Paul VanBeukering	3 rd Year Trustee: Mike Hudak
Jr. Vice President: John Gillan	2 nd Year Trustee: Frank Ward
Treasurer: Rickie Moneyhun	1 st Year Trustee: Pat Temberg

The first thing completed was getting a federal identification number, so a bank account could be opened. Since then, the Men's Auxiliary became incorporated and bonded. The post is paid \$100.00 per month for utilities and other expenses. The Men's Auxiliary has donated to causes like the Grand Rapids Angel Tree, Relay for Life, Rescue Mission, American Cancer Society and Special Olympics. They also donated to local causes such as people in emergency need. Annual dues and fund raiser are the means of funding the Men's Auxiliary. Over the years to raise funds raffles, Halloween party, golf outings, and burger Sundays have been done.

The Men's Auxiliary is here to assist our Post anyway they can.

Fall Festival - 2005

It was a day of family fun starting with a Pig Roast, kids games, face painting, a cribbage tournament and our famous "Chicken Drop." Who can forget Gabby trying to capture a runaway chicken down the hill behind the campground!!!

VFW Antique & Collectable Show - 2005 & 2006

In 2005 and 2006 our Ladies Auxiliary hosted an Antique and Collectable Show. This venture was chaired by Tracy VanGeisen. There was a lot of time and effort put into this. Tracy and her helpers contacted antique vendors from Ludington to south of Holland and across to Grand Rapids. Contracts with the vendors had to be obtained, advertising was put out in various papers and flyers were put around area towns. It was quite an event with the VFW having a booth of their own where members brought some of their treasures!! It was a two-day event with lots of hard work and lots of fun!!! Like all of our activities it was only able to happen because of members willing to donate their time for our Post.

Old Fashion Chicken BBQ -Summer 2005 & 2006

It was decided to try an old fashion Chicken BBQ the weekend of the 4th of July. Tables were set up outside and a tent was rented so shade would be available. The menu consisted of BBQ chicken, potato salad, baked beans, with apple pie and ice cream for desert. It went over well and we served about 125 dinner which was not bad for a busy holiday.

Thanksgiving 2006 - VFW Style!!!

The idea for a Thanksgiving Dinner at the VFW was kind of a group effort. Quite a few of the members tossed the idea around, but never really made a plan. It was one of those things that always sounds good, but you wondered if anyone would be interested, or how many would be willing to give up their family holiday for "strangers." Then one day, Evelyn Lovejoy mentioned it in the canteen and Scott Kroll was there. He said, "I think that would be a great idea and I will help with whatever you need." That started the ball rolling. From there people approached me to volunteer help, cook, donate food, whatever was needed. We had about 25 volunteers that work and 14 members that donated two or more pies. It took a lot of planning because if we were going to do a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner it had to be right!!! And with

the wonderful members of our VFW, it was. It was a huge success!! We served over 200 dinners. It was a sit down, family style meal with plenty of food, and left over's for each family to take home. A total of 25 turkeys were cooked which many of them were donated by members as well as the home made pies for desert were donated. The cost was a donation only—hoping to just cover the cost of food that had to be purchased. Well, we covered it in excess of \$1200.00. The money was used for the VA Hospital Christmas gifts, some went to the kids Christmas Party and some went to gift certificates for a few local families for food items for Christmas. It was something that just reinforces what a great Post we have and how generous our members are with something far more important than money, their time.

South Parking Lot - December 2007

The VFW and Master Tag pulled together and resurfaced the south parking lot. Master Tag agreed to help with the expense because it would require 4" of asphalt to bear the weight of their large trucks coming and going. VFW portion of the expense was \$12,000.00, which was borrowed from the CD's at Shelby State Bank, the Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary donations.

Commander Office - Completed 2009

In 2008 Tom Lovejoy as Quartermaster and past Commander decided after several flood incidents in the basement office that a new commander office was needed. He presented the idea to construct an office in the back room area, but the Post floor was apprehensive, therefore, he started Nacho Grande dinners every other Tuesday to off set the cost. The dinners continued for a year and the office was completed.

Sprinkler System - May 2009

Thanks to Garry Armstrong, Shane Patton and Vic Patton labor our irrigation system was install in May 2009. The crew rented a trencher for two days and was able to complete the installation. This project was funded by Garry Armstrong, Marian Bryce and Vic Patton.

Pre 75th Anniversary Dinner - October 17, 2009

At 5:30 P.M. a pre anniversary dinner was held in the hall of our Post, with a total of 106 members attending. Evelyn Lovejoy the President of the Ladies Auxiliary cater the food. The dinner menu was pork loin, Golumbki, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, rolls and sherbert for desert. The history of the first fifty years, pictures and other history memorably was available for all members to look through. The members were asked to go through the history and add or correct any information, so it could be updated for the upcoming 75th Anniversary. The goal is to have an accurate and complete history of our VFW Post 3256 for it's 75 years from 1935 - 2010. The 75th Anniversary celebration is schedule for June 12th and June 13th, 2010 with different events and activities.

A contest was held to come up with a design for a new emblem for our Post 75th Anniversary. The cost of the contest was \$25.00 to enter and the winner would win the proceeds of the entry fee. The winner of our new emblem was Brian Bentz. His designed will be used for pins, decal and patches.

Club Room Table and Stool Project - 2010:

During the September 2009 visit at the VFW Post 8846 in North Muskegon for the North Side parade some members made comment on how nice the high-top table where and it would be nice to have something like that in our canteen. Pictures were taken of the table and given to a local cabinet maker and asked for a price and a demo table to be made. A table was made and put in the canteen for opinions. The comments were favorable and presented to the In House committee in December 2009, which was then presented at the Post meeting for approval in January 2010. The cost \$350.00 per table has been donated by members and a plaque will be put on the tables with the donor's name. With each table six stools are needed plus replacements for the bar stool that are in bad shape. A local bar in Muskegon was closing their business and would sell their bar stool for \$350.00 for the 33 almost new stools. This covered most of the need for the high top table, but more would be needed as well as the replacements for the bar. Again, the idea of stools to be donated by members was presented, that a set of six chairs for \$150.00 donation would cover the cost of the additional stools needed. A plaque would be put on the each table with the donor name. The tables are decorated with the new 75th emblem (designed by Brian Bentz), the VFW Post, Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary emblem and Post 3256 in red, white and blue lettering.

Veterans Memorial Park Dedication - November 8, 2009

On November 8, 2009 a dedication of the Memorial located at the north end of the Veterans Memorial Park on the causeway in North Muskegon was held. Our VFW Post donated \$1,000.00 for the pole and the army flag, which was placed at one point of the star.

Parades:

The Memorial Parade the Post, Ladies and Men's Auxiliary march. This parade starts at the WWI Memorial located at Knudsen and Bowen, then continue to the Memorial located in Montague old football field, then to the causeway for the final memorial service. The Whitehall marching band leads the American Legion member from Whitehall and Montague marching band leads the VFW members from Montague, which meets at the causeway memorial park. A full service with a guest speaker along with the musical tributes to all department of service and taps. After the parade alternate years a luncheon is served at the American Legion Post 69 or our VFW Post 3256.

The Asparagus Parade is the second Saturday of June in Shelby. Our post has

participated in this parade since it began. Everyone meets at the post, loads up the fire truck and jeep and travel to Shelby. Our post does the salute to the troops along with the Scottsville Clown Band.

The 4th of July parade is the largest parade, which the Post, Women Auxiliary and Men Auxiliary continues to march in each year. After the parade a luncheon is provided for the American Legion and VFW members that marched in the parade. After the 2006 parade the Ladies Auxiliary started a shirt auction (shirts donated by members) to raise money for the following years flags. The 4th of July 2009 parade the Ladies Auxiliary purchased and handed out over 2500 flags. After the luncheon the shirt auction along with pies being auction and selling 50/50 tickets this event raised over \$990.00, which will be enough to purchase at least 3000 flags for the 2010 parade.

The North Side Summer Spectacular Parade is the 1st Thursday in August. Everyone participating in the parade meets at our Post at 4:00 P.M. to load up the fire truck and jeeps. Everyone is transported in the fire truck and jeeps to the VFW Post 8846, where they serve us a nice meal. Then we proceed with Post 8846 to the starting point of the parade on Ruddiman Road.

The Annual Christmas Parade is the first Saturday of December at 2:00 P.M., that members of the VFW Post, Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries ride in the fire truck and jeeps and leads the parade with the Ladies following handing out candy to the children. After the parade a luncheon is served and enjoyed by all those who participate in the parade.

Kids Christmas Party

The Christmas party for the children continues every year. The date varies depending on the availability of the hall. Members children and or grand children up to the age of 12 are welcomed. The event starts with cookies, punch and ice cream, followed with Christmas caroling and then comes Santa and Mrs. Claus arrival. Each child is call and able to go up and sit on Santa lap and receive a candy cane and gift. The number of children has varied over the years from 30 up 80.

Dinners:

1st Friday of the Month - All you can eat fish dinner. This dinner is the largest money maker of the dinners at a cost of \$8.00 and serving anywhere from 250 to 400 people. The dinner is served with cole slaw, baked potato or french fries and a dinner roll. A bake sale is also run by the Ladies Auxiliary selling desert for \$1.00 to raise money for the Ladies Auxiliary.

2nd Friday of the Month - Shrimp and chicken dinner is from April through November The dinner is \$8.00 for shrimp with a choice of boiled shrimp, fried shrimp or a combination of the two and the chicken dinner is \$7.00 and serving 80-150 people. This dinner is also served

with choice of baked potatoes or french fries and cole slaw. Often a Polka band is hired to play through part of the dinner and afterwards for all to enjoy the music and dancing.

3rd Friday of the Month - Steak Fry which is charcoal grilled in the back bar. The dinner includes salad, baked bean, green beans, baked potatoes and garlic bread for \$9.00. This dinner 100-200 people are served.

4th Friday of the Month - Nacho Grande for \$4.00, which just recently began and serving from 80-100 people.

All these dinners helps to keep our Post running and the bills paid. These dinners take a lot of hours and volunteers to put on, and without them they would not be as profitable or as much help in keeping our post running.

This and That:

Pull tab machines came into our club room some time in the early 1990. Prior to the pull tab machines tickets were sold out of a bucket during Bingo only. Octavius Bosse was the first Chairman of bingo and the pull tabs. The total pay out for 2009 was \$304,813.00. The proceeds of the pull tabs has been a big help in keeping the bills paid and our post running.

Bingo continue every Wednesday from 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M., with a luncheon supplied by the Ladies Auxiliary.

June Russell has managed the selling of Rada knives and other kitchen tools for the past 10 years which has helped with the Ladies Auxiliary expenses.

New in 2009 the Nudge Master game was brought into the canteen as another means for raising money to help with expenses along with entertainment.

In 2006 a VFW cook book was put together with 400 favorite/speciality recipes from members. These cooks book were put on sale for \$9.00 as means to raise money to help with expenses.

In September 2009 Priscilla Clementsen and Evelyn Lovejoy completed a face lift on the ladies bathroom. They painted, put up a red, white and blue flag border with some patriotic decorative wall hangings. Their creative talents and touch made a big difference to the appearance and cleanliness of the bathroom. The remodeling of the bathroom was started on 3/15/10 and to be completed at a cost of \$6,000.00.

The Poppy sales continues to be sold on the street of the city of Montague and intersections of Montague Township on the first Friday of May and has raised as much as \$3,200.00.

Post Commanders & Presidents Pictures-2010

The pictures of all our Post Commanders and Presidents that are hung in the meeting room has continued to be updated through the years. In preparation of our 75th Anniversary, Ron Falconer with the help of many has manage to get pictures of most of our Commanders at the time they serve our country in their service uniform. These pictures have been hung above their picture as Commander along with an American flag. The service pictures is a great addition to the wall and has become quite a conversation piece.

Then and Now

Post Member	25	334
Ladies Auxiliary Member	14	255
Mens Auxiliary	didn't exist	72
Dues Post Members	\$2.00	\$30.00
Post Life Member	\$10.00	\$425.00 (30 years old & younger)
Dues Ladies Aux.	\$2.00	\$25.00
Dues Men Aux.	\$0.00	\$30.00
President Pin	\$8.00 each	\$25.00 each
Ritual	\$0.25 each	\$3.50 each
Poppy Sales	\$9.75	\$3,000.00
Coffee	\$.23 per lb.	\$3.50 per lb.
Bread	\$.25 for 3 loaves	\$1.50 a loaf
Gasoline	\$.10 per gallon	\$2.75 per gallon

75th Anniversary Party - June 12th and June 13th , 2010

*And here we are today celebrating our
Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 3256 75th Anniversary*

Thank you for coming and being a part of this wonderful event .

In Closing

As we look back over all of our Post's accomplishments since our 50th Anniversary in 1985, we can thank the many, many members from the past to the present for their relentless days, months and years they have contributed to achieve these accomplishments.

Unfortunately, our Nation is once again at war. Our Post will continue to be here to help returning Veterans, spouses and families as needed. Our Post also will continue to support our area communities when their needs arise.

Our Post has proven that anything brought forward can be accomplished with the cooperation of all our members. We are not only strong physically, but more importantly our

Post is extremely strong in our patriotic spirit.

We have been here in the past, we are here in the present, AND will continue to be here for the future.

Continuing with the next 25 years: 2010 - 2035.....