

Autumn 2009

VOL. 23 NO. 3

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2009

The staff of the Museum and the Board of Advisors wish each of you a wonderful Holiday Season and a prosperous 2010.

The following article was written as a school project by the daughter of a new member of the friends.

Value of Veterans



VETERANS DAY

To serve your country in a time of war means to unselfishly commit yourself to the ideals of freedoms that our country is founded upon. When I was in the eighth grade I wrote this paper to reflect my family's involvement in the peacekeeping activities throughout our country's history.

Benjamin Pigglesley, Joseph Haverfield, Lorenzo Stedman, Rudolph Syverson, Oscar Syverson, Ernest Pittsley, Helmer Pittsley, Lyle Stedman, Vernon Starnes, Bob Allen Sr., Henry Bittmann, Joe DeJoie, Wayne Olsen, James Syverson, Gary Stedman, and Monte Allen. These may be only names to you, but for me they represent the veterans of my family.

Benjamin Pigglesley fought for the right to be part of an independent country, free from British rule, during the Revolutionary War.

Joseph Haverfield fought in the war of 1812 in the continuing battle with the British over the right to trade.

Lorenzo Stedman was a soldier in the Union Army and fought for the preservation of our country during the civil war.

When we were fighting for democracy in World War I, Rudolph and Oscar Syverson and Ernest and Helmer Pittsley fought for our country against Germany. During World War II my grandpa, Lyle Stedman, my great uncle, Vernon Starnes, James Syverson, and my grandpa, Wayne Olsen, all fought in the U.S. army against the Germans and Japanese. My grandpa Bob Allen Sr. and Great uncle Henry Bittmann served on Navy ships in the South Pacific. Joe DeJoie, my mom's dad, was in the U.S. Army Air Corps. They all served our country to help stop the Germans and Japanese and returned home to their families except for James Syverson, who died on the Bataan Death March.

My Grandpa Joe DeJoie also fought in the Korean War as an Air Force Fighter Pilot. During the Vietnam War, when the U.S. was fighting to prevent Communism from spreading world wide, my dad, Gary Stedman, and my uncle, Monte Allen, were a part of the Army fighting overseas in Korea and Vietnam for us.

Wars and battles started out as just words and pictures in my history book. The men and women who fought and died were just numbers on a page. The dates were just more numbers and words on the page that I had to memorize. Until I got to see the monuments that have been dedicated to these men and women and the wars that they have fought.

The monument at Bunker Hill in Boston is a reminder of the men who died in battle while fighting in the Revolutionary War.

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**The Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum
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The Banner is printed four times a year and is mailed to all members of The Friends of Fort Lewis Museum. Articles may be submitted to the Editor or left with the Curator of the Fort Lewis Museum. The Friends assume no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts or other materials submitted for publication.

Editor.....Paul Knoop
 Assistant Editor.....Don Simpson

President's Report

AT LAST!! After many delays, much waiting, and even uncertainty about whether or not it would happen, the much needed renovation of the Fort Lewis Military Museum will soon commence. Myles Grant, our Museum Curator, has more details in his column, but the Museum will be closed to the public starting 16 November 2009 and is scheduled to reopen in the Spring of 2011. It is fitting that the building be maintained for the future. This 90 year old, historically significant building is part of early Fort Lewis history and now serves to preserve the legacy of the events, the units and the men and women who served here. The renovation will insure that the Museum remains a true treasure of Fort Lewis and can be enjoyed by visitors for years to come.

Museum artifacts will be packed and stored. Cannon Shop inventory will also be packed and stored. The Museum staff will move to Building 7913 during the renovation. We will also move *The Friends* files as well as some Cannon Shop material to Building 7913. During the renovation, we will continue to hold our Board meetings, and will continue to have our periodic brunch meetings. **The Banner** will continue to be published as well, and will serve as a means to inform members about progress of the renovation.

Although the Cannon Shop will be closed, the on-line gift store will remain open. Please keep the Cannon Shop in mind as you do gift shopping for the holidays. The on-line store features a

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Curator's Report

The Fort Lewis Museum achieved a number of significant milestones since the last issue of "The Banner." On Veterans Day, the Fort Lewis Military Museum played host to the news team from TV Channel KING5 for a special live broadcast to honor our veterans past and present. The news show was produced on site and filmed live from the lobby of the museum. The broadcast was well received by the public and helped to showcase our historic building while paying a superb tribute to our veterans.

In addition to the Veterans Day newscast, the museum staff participated in Veterans Day public outreach programs at Patriots Landing in Dupont and at Graham-Kapowsin high school. The museum also hosted 21 large tours from off the installation to include seven military reunion tours and three professional development programs. The museum also played host to the 3/864th Engineer Change of Command ceremony and supported twice daily Task Force Pride new soldier in processing tours.

Lastly, the long awaited restoration of our historic Red Shield Inn is imminent. The museum will close to the general public on 16 Nov 09. Some aspects of the artifact storage and renovation plan schedule are still being refined, but the expectation is that the museum's grand re-opening will be in the spring of 2011 with the exact date to be determined as work progresses. I want to recognize and thank the installation leadership, the Center for Military History, and *The Friends* who have helped make the restoration of our historic building possible. *Myles Grant*

Membership

If you are not a Life or Honorary member, January is the time to renew your membership in the Friends. Send your check now to continue supporting the Museum at Fort Lewis.

ANNUAL FEES

Individual.....\$ 10
Family.....\$ 15
Sustaining.....\$ 25
Benefactor.....\$ 50
Life.....\$100

(Please make checks payable to *The Friends* and send to Fort Lewis Military Museum, P.O. Box 331001, Fort Lewis, WA 98433-1001).

While I was in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Petersburg, and Fort Stedman in Virginia, I could feel the presence of the men who had died here. I could hear the sound of horses dying and the guns and cannons going off all around me. These battlefields have kept the memories alive of how battles were fought and how lives were given up for our country.

As I flew over the U.S.S. Arizona on my way to Hawaii when I was ten, the monument didn't mean much to me. Now, four years later, it symbolizes the men and women who died in World War II fighting overseas and in Pearl Harbor.

The Vietnam Memorial was the one memorial that touched my family and me the most while we were in Washington D.C. Some of the names were of people that my parents had grown up with. For me the wall was overwhelming, seeing all those names, and people with tear stained faces leaving letters to their uncle Willie, engagement rings to their fiancés, Medals of Honor that were never received in life, and other mementos beneath the names of their loved ones. Names are still being added after all these years.



Even our small version of the Vietnam Wall here in Olympia and the new Field of Wheat for all the soldiers in World War II makes me realize how many people were involved in the preservation of our country just from our town.



The one memorial that most people don't think of and that covers most of the major wars, is the Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. Watching the changing of the guard at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, I thought about the soldiers buried there, soldiers that will always have a face but never a name. I saw row upon row of graves and it hit me that many of those men and women died in the service of our nation.

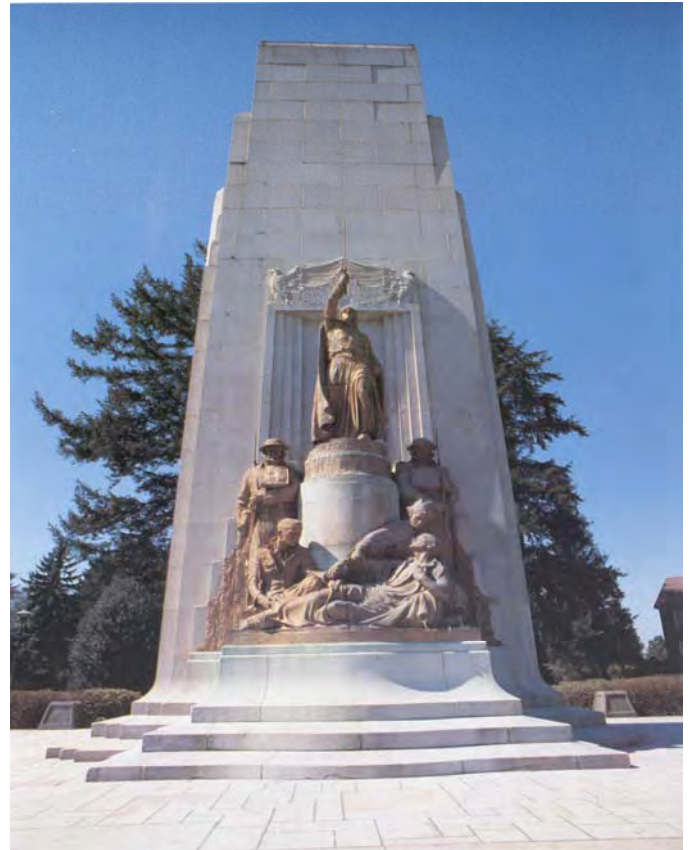


We all look forward to Veteran's day because it gives us a holiday and a day off from work and school, but we must remember that it is the one day that has been set aside to remember. To remember not only those who gave their lives in the service of our country, but to those who have survived and are still serving also.

Beth Stedman Capital High School Olympia WA.

Ed Note:

Since she updated this article in 2000 which she wrote several years earlier when she was 14, two of her brothers have also been in the military. An older brother Casey is a Captain in the Air Force Reserves, a navigator in C-130's flying out of Youngstown AFB in Ohio, and her younger brother Andy just finished four + years in the Army, including two tours in Iraq as a SGT combat medic in STRYKER Brigades. Photos added.



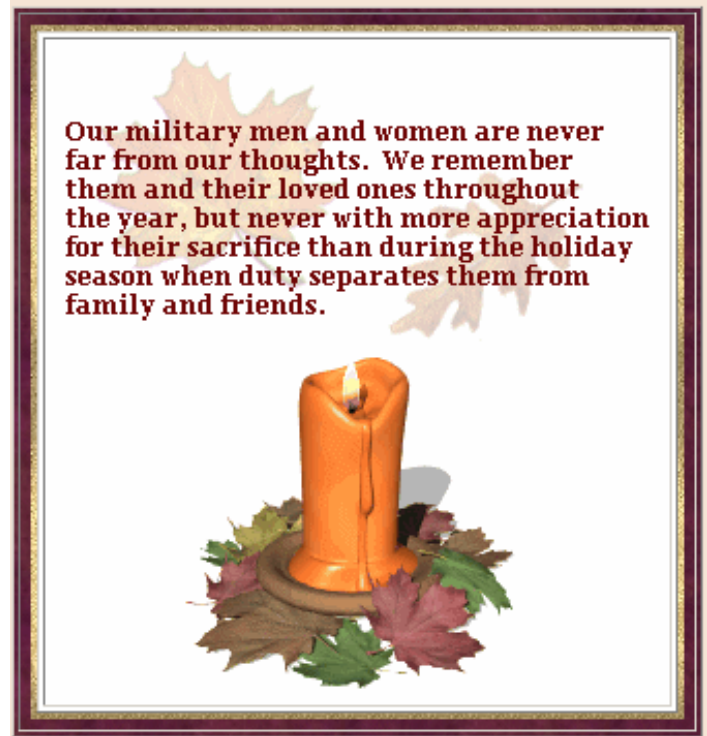
The 91st Infantry Division was the first unit to deploy and fight from Fort Lewis during World War I. This monument to the men of the Division stands at the West end of Watkins Field, and was unveiled on Memorial Day in 1930. The Division fought in the St Mihiel Offensive, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, and the Ypres-Lys Campaign.

variety of items that would make excellent gifts. You can access the store by going to www.fortlewismuseum.com.

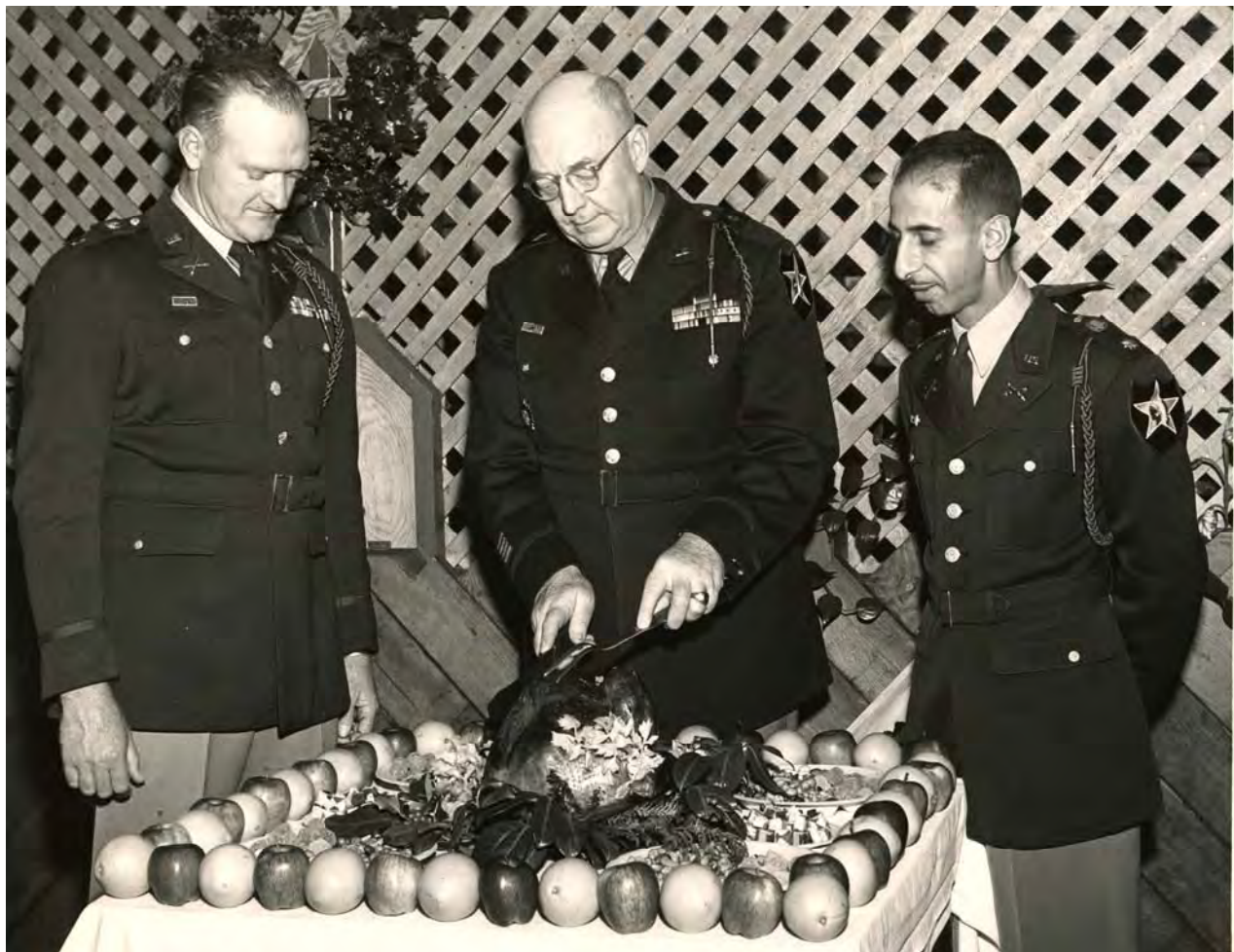
This issue of **The Banner** will be the last one this year. It has been an excellent year for the Museum and the Cannon Shop. As the year comes to a close, thanks to Myles and his staff for their dedication to the mission of the Museum and for the close working relationship they maintain with the *The Friends* Board of Directors; to the dedicated group of volunteers who operate the Cannon Shop volunteers week in and week out (you are the Best!); and to each one of you once again for the loyal and continuing support you provide to *The Friends* and the Fort Lewis Military Museum. Have a safe and happy holiday season! *Ian Larson*

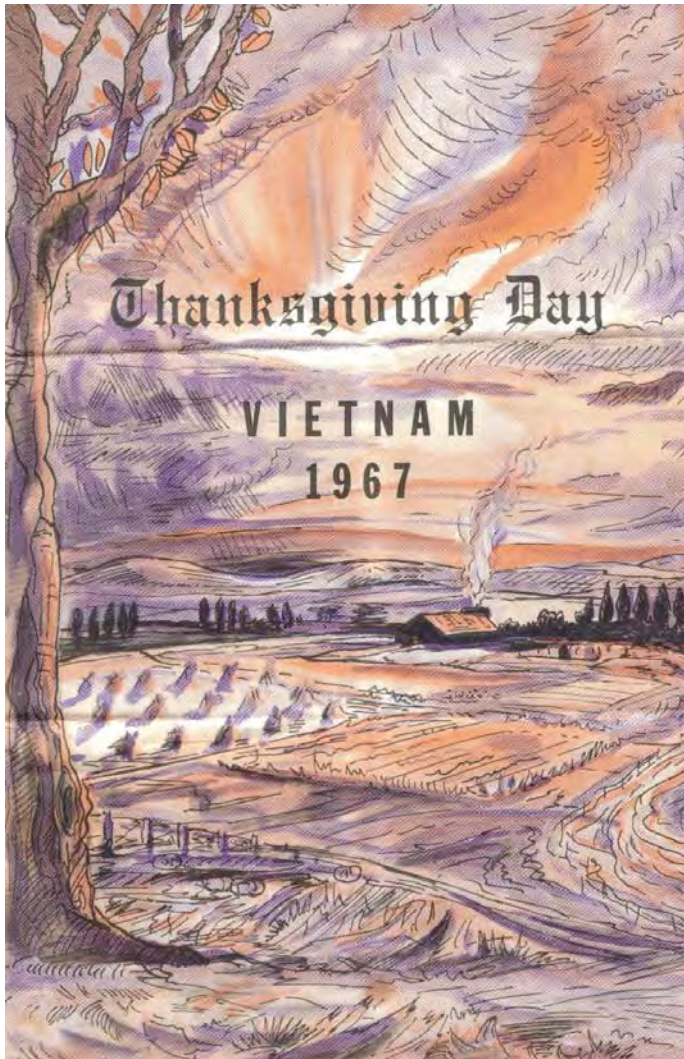
Welcome to the following new members of *The Friends*!!

Wade & Kavita Au, Life Member, Vancouver, WA
 John D. Chambers, MD Anacortes, WA
 Gary & Constance Farnsworth, Denver NC
 Nick Garrish, Arvada, CO
 Gary Stedman, Olympia WA



**Carving The Turkey, Circa 1955
 Remember the "Pink & Greens"?**





PRAYER

Father of mercies and giver of all good, by whose power we were created, by whose bounty we are sustained, and by whose spirit we are transformed, accept, we beseech Thee, our prayer of thanks.

For those who love us and of whose love we would be more worthy; for those who believe in us and whose hopes we cannot disappoint; for every good gift of healing and happiness and renewal, we bless Thy name, we thank Thee for our homeland, for all that is just and true, noble and right, wise and courageous in our history. We praise Thee for our place in the community of nations and we invoke Thy blessings on men of good will wherever they may be and who labor for a world of justice, freedom and fraternity.

Most of all, Eternal Father, we thank thee for Thyself, the nearness of Thy presence and the warmth of Thy love, whereby our minds and hearts find joy and peace. Freely we have received, O God; freely let us give ourselves in Thy gracious purposes. For Thy love's sake, Amen

Courtesy of Don Simpson

The First National Thanksgiving Proclamation, issued by The Continental Congress, November 1, 1777

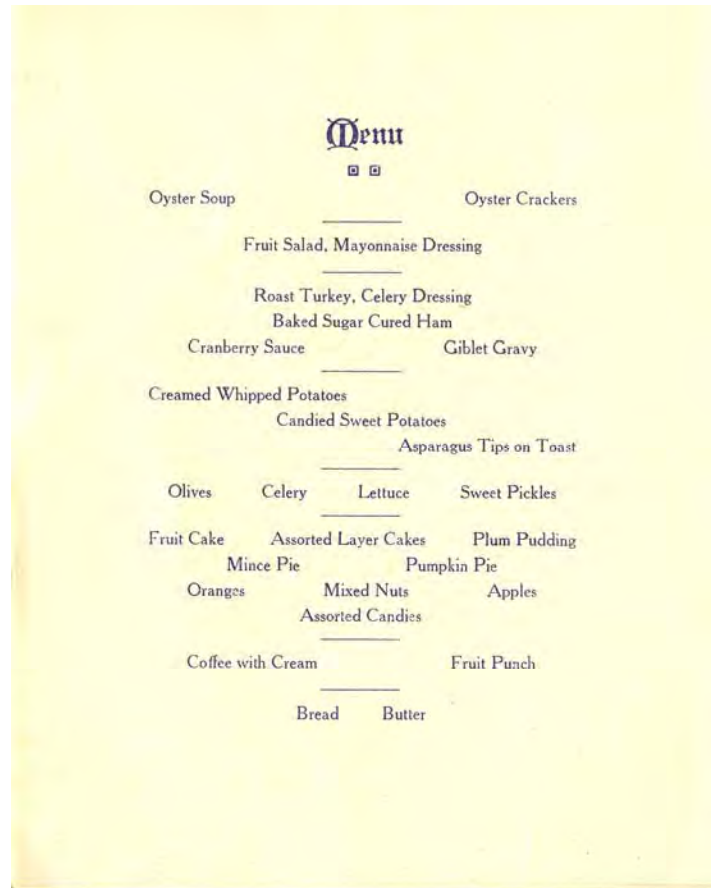
FORASMUCH as it is the indispensable Duty of all Men to adore the superintending Providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with Gratitude their Obligation to him for Benefits received, and to implore such farther Blessings as they stand in Need of: And it having pleased him in his abundant Mercy, not only to continue to us the innumerable Bounties of his common Providence; but also to smile upon us in the Prosecution of a just and necessary War, for the Defense and Establishment of our unalienable Rights and Liberties; particularly in that he hath been pleased, in so great a Measure, to prosper the Means used for the Support of our Troops, and to crown our Arms with most signal success:

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive Powers of these UNITED STATES to set apart THURSDAY, the eighteenth Day of December next, for SOLEMN THANKSGIVING and PRAISE: That at one Time and with one Voice, the good People may express the grateful Feelings of their Hearts, and consecrate themselves to the Service of their Divine Benefactor; and that, together with their sincere Acknowledgments and Offerings, they may join the penitent Confession of their manifold Sins, whereby they had forfeited every Favor; and their humble and earnest Supplication that it may please GOD through the Merits of JESUS CHRIST, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of Remembrance; That it may please him graciously to afford his Blessing on the Governments of these States respectively, and prosper the public Council of the whole: To inspire our Commanders, both by Land and Sea, and all under them, with that Wisdom and Fortitude which may render them fit Instruments, under the Providence of Almighty GOD, to secure for these United States, the greatest of all human Blessings, INDEPENDENCE and PEACE: That it may please him, to prosper the Trade and Manufactures of the People, and the Labor of the Husbandman, that our Land may yield its Increase: To take Schools and Seminaries of Education, so necessary for cultivating the Principles of true Liberty, Virtue and Piety, under his nurturing Hand; and to prosper the Means of Religion, for the promotion and enlargement of that Kingdom, which consisteth "in Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost."

And it is further recommended, That servile Labor, and such Recreation, as, though at other Times innocent, may be unbecoming the Purpose of this Appointment, be omitted on so solemn an Occasion.



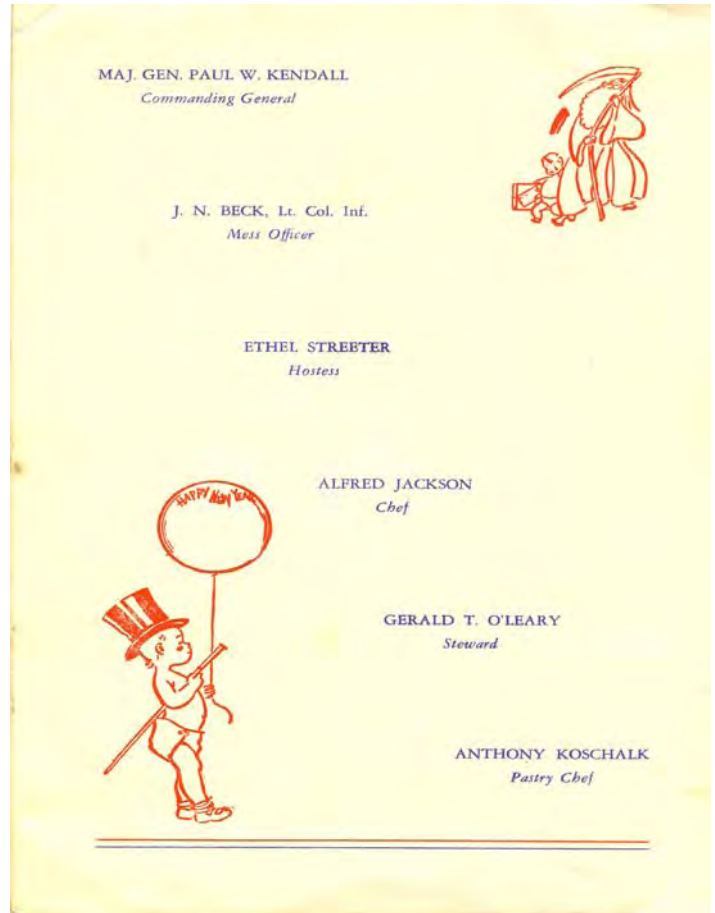
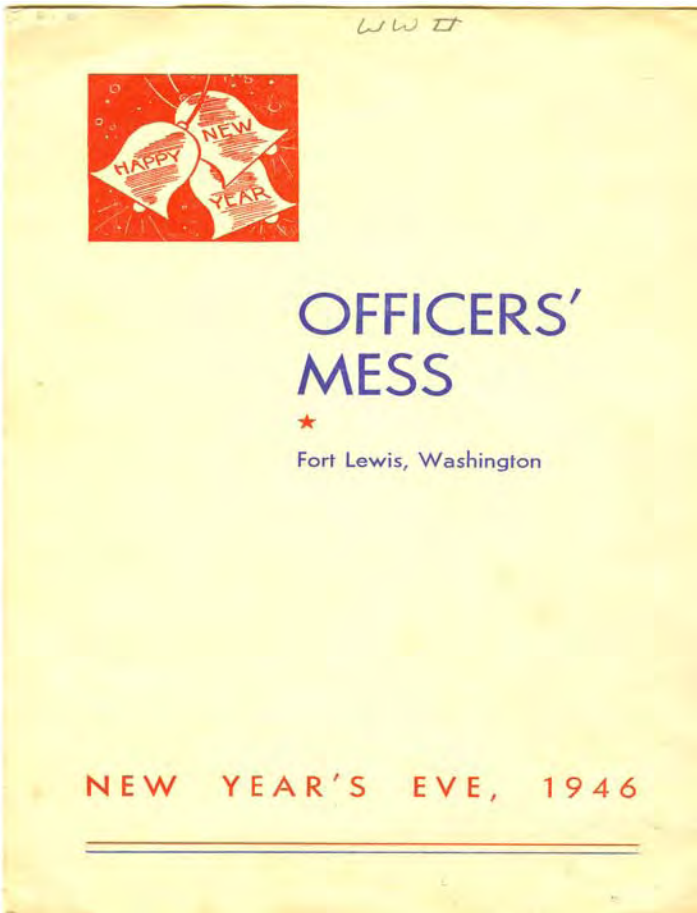
Thanksgiving, Iraq, GEN Casey with the 3d Infantry Division



Another Holiday Menu from our interesting historical past



Happier times with the 3d Infantry Division at Fort Lewis



ALL THE BEST TO OUR FRIENDS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, AND OUR WISHES FOR A HAPPY, SAFE, AND PROSPEROUS 2010

General History and Background of Fort Lewis

Fort Lewis, originally Camp Lewis, was named in honor of Captain Merriwether Lewis of the famed Lewis and Clark expedition. The site was made possible by the donation of a tract of land by the people of Pierce county.

As the camp was activated in 1917, an immediate construction program was inaugurated and within four months, at a cost of over seven million dollars, a total of 1,873 buildings were constructed.

When the post was ready for occupancy, the 91st Infantry Division, followed by the 35th, 4th and 13th Divisions, trained at Fort Lewis for combat in World War I.

After the Armistice was signed the victorious Third (Rock of the Marne) Division returned from France and was assigned to garrison Camp Lewis.

In 1927 Camp Lewis became a permanent installation and the name was officially changed to Fort Lewis.


During the training period for World War II the Third, 33rd, 40th, 41st, 44th and 96th Divisions all trained at Fort Lewis.

But there was still another historic movement underway and in July, 1944, Fort Lewis was relieved from the responsibility of the AGF and redesignated as an ASF training center. This change vital to the ASF was accomplished quickly but with little change in the many facilities available. Fort Lewis became the largest ASF training center in the country — training medical corps and engineers exclusively.

April 15, 1946, the Fort began a slow transition from an Army Service Force post to its original designation as an AGF post with the arrival of the 2nd Infantry Division.

Today, Fort Lewis looks forward to the peacetime days of training and sustaining a fighting army.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MENU

★


\$2.00

TOMATO JUICE COCKTAIL

CELERY OLIVES ASSORTED NUTS

BEEF BOUILLON WITH NOODLES

CLUB STEAK

BAKED VIRGINIA HAM, FRUIT SAUCE

NEW GARDEN PEAS DUCHESS POTATOES

WILTLED LETTUCE SALAD

ASSORTED CHEESE, TOASTED WAFERS

COFFEE

REMINDER:

The museum will be closed for about a year to complete a major restoration and renovation project. Publication of **The Banner** will continue, as will the periodic brunch meetings.

A limited supply of items from the Cannon Shop will be available by ordering from our web site, www.fortlewismuseum.com. And, remember that past issues of **The Banner** are available there also.

**Help Us Defend Our
Military Heritage-
Please Continue to be a
Friend of the Fort Lewis
Military Museum**

**If you are not a life member, 2010
Dues are payable in January.**

*Friends of the Fort Lewis
Military Museum
PO Box 331001
Fort Lewis, WA 98433-1001*



SAVE POSTAGE AND PAPER!

Receive **The Banner** by email. Just send us your name and email address, and we will add you to our growing newsletter email list. Simple, quick, and effective. Take care of this now, please! Email us at: friends.museum2@gmail.com.

