



Legion holds Flag Burning Ceremony

On June 14th, the American Legion held a formal ceremony to dispose of damaged American Flags. This was the first time in 20 years that this burning had been done here. June 14th is the official Flag Day, and at 6:00 PM the ceremony began outside the Legion. Marvin Prior read the script while the other participating Legion members stood at attention. Then the ceremonial damaged flag to be burned was displayed. The members then set it aflame in an aerated bin. Taps were played. There were approximately 200 damaged flags turned in to the Legion for disposal; however only one was burned. The wind was very high and safety precautions were taken. Refreshments were served afterwards, and it was a very memorable ceremony.



Are you ready for some Football?

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Ok, Football Fans: Last year's first ever summer alumni football game drew A LOT of interest and attention. Are you ready for some MORE?

If you remember, the game was played here on a beautiful night in July, and our boys beat the Camanche alumni team. It was a lot of fun to watch; it was obvious the players were having a grand time; and there was real joy here in CJ dur-

ing and following the game. The team and fans rehashed the game and celebrated for hours afterwards, and by golly, CJ had a right to celebrate!

Now it is time for this year's game. It will not be played at home, so be prepared to travel—not far, mind you—just to Wapello. It will be played on Saturday night, June 30th, at the Wapello High School playing field with kickoff at 7:00 PM.

Warren Woepking will once again be coaching, and right now our home

team has around 40 people practicing. According to Andy White, player this year and last, "Our team is ready!"

When asked if there would be any different players this year, White answered, "Yes." Some of them new to this year's squad are Jake Sands, David Milder, Brian Clark, Bryan Hoback, and Cristian Gutierrez.

So put June 30th on your calendar and buy your tickets now. They are available from any player, the

Gazette office, and the Thirsty Camel. If you buy them in advance, the team gets a percentage of the presale money, and last year they donated this money to further athletic programs at Columbus. Pack your cars that night and get ready for another fun night. You might even throw in some food for a pre-game tailgate. Whatever happens, it is bound to be another great football night! Go Cats! We believe in YOU!

The Story of Lawrence Herrick - Chapter 3

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

At the end of chapter one of our story, Pilot Lawrence Herrick departed for World War II, leaving his wife Jeannette with one child and another on the way. We all know that Lawrence never returned from the war to his wife and children, the last child being born three weeks after his death.

Today's article is the story of Lawrence, the basic facts. Some of this information I know. Most of it I do not, especially the years and information on training and the various planes. Obviously, also, I have no idea what Lawrence said or thought or what other pilots thought of him. Thus, I want to give credit where credit is due, and that is to

Forced Landing, the group that helped us find Lawrence's story and then researched and compiled this information. The wording is theirs, not mine. Only THEY could have gotten this information or have known it. Our family will be eternally grateful to them and all the research that has been done on Lawrence and other pilots of the war.

Lawrence Herrick is born the 14th of January 1920, in Letts, Iowa, the son of Charles and Leta Herrick. He has two sisters, Harriet and Miriam. (They later become Harriet Lewis and Miriam Hafner.) He studies at the Letts High School, then at Muscatine Jr. College and at Iowa Wesleyan College. He attends Wesleyan until his enlistment in the American Air Force in December 1940, which is just a few weeks before his 21st birthday.

Herrick enlists as a Cadet at Fort-Des Moines. He receives his commission at Craig Field AFB in Alabama on the 15th of August 1941. While there he becomes an officer and then he is promoted to Captain in September 1942. At Craig Field, the U.S. Army Air Corps is training fighter and bomber pilots. The cadets fly the AT-6 Texan. After Lawrence completes individual training, then training sessions are in combat groups.

Now Captain Herrick, or Larry as his friends call him, has been serv-

ing in the Army Air Force for two and a half years, when he moves to the Westover Base Massachusetts from the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics based at Eglin Field, near Orlando, Florida (where he had married Jeannette Helmick on January 2, 1944.)

On July 1st, 1943, the 370th Fighter Group was officially formed. Lt. Col. Howard Nichols favored the use of fighter bombers to provide support for advancing ground troops and he chose to fly the P-47 Thunderbolt for this type of operation rather than the "Texan" plane. The P-37 plane was fast, could dive fast and had a huge engine protecting the pilots. This was quite a change from their "AT-6 Texan school plane".

It is reported, "When Larry sat down behind the controls of the Thunderbolt he was very impressed. The cockpit was huge and he could unfold his map completely in it. His instructor wished him well as Herrick took off for the first time in this aircraft. Herrick soon became a Thunderbolt specialist."

Training intensified and Lawrence and his squadron were moved to Groton, Connecticut. The squadron now had shooting training sessions at Suffolk Army Air Base at Westhampton Beach, New York. The pilots became familiar with ground attack and air combat tactics. There they trained for six months before being sent to Camp Shanks (called Last Stop USA) before they were to embark to England. Larry had said goodbye to Jeanette and his son (who had been to see him before his leaving for Camp Shanks) and wanted to write or call them, but no information was allowed to leave the camp.

On January 30th, the Group embarked on a ship liner, which had been converted into a troop transporting ship. "There were 14,000 men who stared at the Statue of Liberty and the New York skyscrapers as the ship sailed away. They were fully aware that many of them would never see the Great Lady again. It symbolized the liberty they were going to fight for in the country that gave them this present in 1886." They arrived in Liverpool, England on February 8th.

The pilots expected to find the P-47 planes upon their arrival. Instead they found that plane was with another group and they would be using the P-38 Lightnings. (More on this plane in another chapter.) The group now had to become familiar with a

two-engine plane.

There are problems getting the pilots trained in this P-38 plane and there are some losses. "Training on the Lightning accelerated in March and April as the group had to be operational for the support of the large offensive on the continent. On the morning of May 1st, 1944, the 370th

Fighter Group entered the war. They flew missions, escorted B-17 Flying Fortresses, B-24 Liberators, and they also became familiar with the French topography", which would later play a major role for Lawrence Herrick.

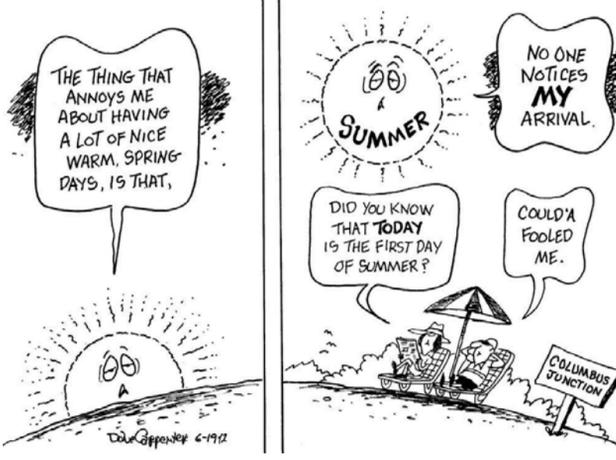
(This story will be continued in another paper. Once again: credit to **Forced Landing**.)

Adopt a Garden Quilt Square



Jim Everett, master gardener who created and maintained the quilt garden located by the Columbus Senior Center, is looking for volunteers. He would like people in the community to adopt quilt squares. This would involve planting or watering squares. Right now the squares are planted, but occasion may rise for more to be put in if needed. There are 17 squares available and it is hoped that different groups or people could work on one square. Contact Jim Everett at 319-728-3466 or Megan Leyden at Columbus Community Development at the Civic Center, 319-728-7971 if interested. This is just another way to keep Columbus Junction beautiful.

Summer is finally here



Briefly -

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Senior Center

Amateur Radio Demonstration

Come see a demonstration of amateur radio emergency communications. The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will be participating in the annual ARRL Field Day Simulated Emergency Test at 1:00 pm on Saturday, June 23 through 1:00 pm on Sunday, June 24 at 1344 Vine Avenue, just South of Stockton, Iowa. (Follow the signs from Highway 61 and Pleasant Prairie Road) For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

Ice Cream Social at Kingston Church

The Kingston United Methodist Church, 5513 - 205th Street, Mediapolis, IA, will be holding an ice cream social on Sunday, July 1st, from 5-7 pm. Bluegrass and Western music provided by Highway 99 Band. The menu includes: Maidrites, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips, pies, beverages and HOMEMADE ICE CREAM. A Free Will Donation will be accepted.

County Fair dates set

The Louisa County Fair dates for 2012 are a July 22 kick off and the fair is July 23-28.

Head Start signups

Head Start in Louisa County is looking for children to attend classes starting in September. Head Start not only works with children to get them ready for Kindergarten but also works closely with families to help them reach their personal goals. Children must be at least 3 years old by September 15, 2012. Head Start is a free preschool program. Transportation is provided. Applications will be taken in Columbus Junction on June 26 at the Community Action office from 9-3. To schedule and appointment please call Jeanette Brockert at 319-752-5692 ext. 107.

Vision Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Vision Support Meeting will be held on the third Thursday of June at Corner Market, 340 North Main. We will meet at 1 p.m. on the 21st. Betty Hason from the Department for the Blind will be our guest speaker. She will be bringing aides and devices for the hard of hearing. Everyone is welcome to come and see what is available. For more information, call Lois Richers at 527-2630.

Historical Society Tractor Ride

The Louisa County Historical Society will hold its Tractor Ride on Saturday, June 23. A registration fee of \$25 will include driver's meal at the end of the ride. Additional meals will be available for only \$10. Pre-registration is a must for meal planning. All proceeds will go to benefit the Louisa County Historical Society. For more information call Dick McCormac at 319-728-8818.

LDG Annual Dinner

The Louisa Development Group's 9th Annual Dinner will be held on Thursday, June 28th at the Morning Sun Community Center. Featured speaker for the event will be Teri Rich President/CEO Iowa Lottery Authority. Social hour will begin at 6:00 pm with dinner served at 6:30 pm, the annual meeting will follow. Tickets for the dinner are \$20 per person. Tickets may be obtained by sending a check to: LDG, Box 171, Wapello, IA 52653. After June 20th, tickets may be held at the door if reservations are made by June 22nd. To make a reservation, either email ldg@louisacomm.net or call Sherry at 563-260-4022.

McGill/Kemp Reunion

The annual McGill/Kemp Reunion will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 24th, at Academy Park in Grandview, Iowa. There will be a potluck lunch, a family picture taken, and an auction. Playground equipment is available for the children. All descendants of John Lee and Jesse Belle McGill, descendants of John's grandparents William and Elizabeth McGill and descendants of Walter Kemp are welcome. For more information, contact Rondalyn K. Weyrick, 13685 105th Street, Wapello, IA 52653; Telephone: 319-523-5252.

Morning Sun 5K Fun Run/Walk

The Morning Sun Youth League will be sponsoring the Firecracker 5K Fun Run/Walk on Sunday, July 1. The run will start at the Morning Sun Community Center at 106 N. Main. There will be a 5K run/walk; a mile run for kids 8-12 and a 1/2 mile run/walk for 7 yrs. and under. Registration will start at 7:00 a.m. with the races to start at 8:00 a.m. The fee to enter is \$15 for the 5K if registered before June 15. \$20 after June 15th. Age groups include: 12 and under; 13-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50 and older. There will be T-shirts for all who register early. Medals will be awarded for the top 2 times in Male/Female categories. For more information or to enter contact Mike Crow at 319-868-7699 or email mcrow15@hotmail.com.

Habitat For Humanity at Farmers' Market

Habitat for Humanity will be this week's farmers market sponsor. Stop by their booth to learn about the different projects they are currently working on. Feel free to ask about the application process and requirements. We have had several community members benefit from Habitat for Humanity. They will also have free items to hand out. Reminder, the farmers market is every Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 at the American Legion parking lot. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, homemade noodles, jams and jellies, and plants. Some vendors accept Iowa Farmers Market Nutrition, WIC, and Senior Program coupons. Buy fresh and local and taste the difference! For more information, including how to participate as a vendor or sponsor, contact Mallory Smith at 319-728-7971.

Correction

Corey Leonard's name was inadvertently omitted from the article on the Alumni Banquet and was also omitted in the picture caption showing the number of Leonard family members who were present at the Banquet. The Gazette regrets the error.

Visit

www.thecolumbusgazette.com

