



Mary Singleton named First Conesville Distinguished Citizen

By Sue O'Donnell

I would respectfully like to nominate Mary Singleton for the first Conesville's Distinguished Citizen Award. She is and has been a citizen of Conesville for over 50 years.

Mary exemplifies the meaning of good citizenship. She worked many years as post master relief in the Conesville post office. This gave her the opportunity to welcome new residents and provide community support to all Conesville residents, treating them all as friends, family and neighbors.

While raising her five children in the Conesville community she and her husband Don Singleton were "truck" farmers, raising potatoes, watermelons, strawberries, cantaloupe and other vegetables on their 30 acres of ground contained in the Conesville city limits.

Mary has been active in both Conesville Churches, the United Methodist Church for several years, and recently the Grace United Church of Christ.

For several years in the late 1970s and during the 1980s, she and several of her friends from the Conesville community formed the Jolly Twelve Sewing Club. The group cooperatively sewed quilts to raffle at the annual watermelon days celebration, as well as baby quilts to gift to local new Conesville area arrivals.

Many years Mary played an active role in the Conesville Watermelon Days celebration by organizing the kid's games held on Saturday morning in the Shellabarger Park.

Mary has always had great interest in the city parks and typically has volunteered time to take care of necessary painting and organizing vol-



Conesville Mayor, Matt Storm presents first Distinguished Citizen Award to Mary Singeton

unteers for major projects. She was also one of the major organizers of a local chapter of Trees Forever which helped to plant many trees in and around Conesville.

Mary's love for local youth went to another level, when in the late 1990s she began to volunteer at the elementary school. Many kindergarten children have come to know of Mary's interest in education and community, as she has helped them through that primary year in Julie Smith's classroom.

Also in the 1990s, she and several neighbors organized a new community service group called the

Hometown Team. The group would collect soda cans and bottles to raise funds, as well as pick-up garbage along ditches and in the parks in town. The group also was known to organize Easter Egg hunts, Santa visits and kids games for watermelon days.

Mary's interest in her community also has found her in service as a member of the Conesville City Council. She has served in this capacity at least two different times.

Not only does Mary enjoy volunteering with youth, but she has been a dedicated Hospice volunteer for many years. She has been honored with at least one Governor's award

for her dedication to the sick and elderly, through Hospice.

There are so many community and civic endeavors in Conesville, which Mary Singleton has been a part of in her 80 plus years of life. The Conesville Cemetery, the Conesville High School reunion, the list goes on. In neighboring communities like Columbus Junction and Lone Tree, I suspect people there think of Mary Singleton, when they think of Conesville.

It is very fitting for Mary Singleton to be honored as Conesville's first distinguished citizen.

The Story of Lawrence Herrick - Chapter 4

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

In our continued story, we last left Major Lawrence Herrick as leader of the 485th squadron in Andover, in the south of England, flying the P-38 Lightning bomber. On May 31st, 1944, Herrick was awarded the Air Medal with five oak and bronze palms by General Commander of the Ninth Tactical Air Command, who declared "for exceptional meritorious service in his taking part in bombing missions to Germany and enemy occupied territories in Europe."

In June of 1944 Major Herrick is credited with a victory over a German Messerschmitt 109. The following are excerpts from Major Herrick's report of this mission:

"The 1/A hit my second section first, and I heard Blue Blight call a break. I immediately broke right with my flight to give assistance, in the meantime jettisoning my bomb and belly tank. At that time I observed an Fw-190 closing in from six o'clock. I again broke right and the E/A flipped over on his back and started down. I immediately rolled over after him, but lost him when my right prop ran away. The prop quieted down after a little tinkering and by that time I was up and in the middle of the scrap. I then observed two Fw-190 and a P-38 at about twelve o'clock in a right Luftberry*, so I started to close in on one and began firing from approximately 350 yards at an angle of 45 degrees with two radii lead. After firing a short burst I again had to break, as another Fw-190 was closing on me from behind. No strikes were observed on the E/A upon which I was firing.

Up to this time I had my wingman, but lost him in the maze

of Fw-190. Everywhere you looked there appeared to be E/A and a P-38 now and then. The sky was filled with white bursts of 22mm self-destroying shells. I continued a steep right turn and was soon coming around on his tail, but out of range. He immediately broke for the deck and I started to follow, but had to break again as I saw another Fw-190 in my mirror coming up on my tail. I proceeded to get on the E/A's tail, but when he saw that I was getting around into firing position he also broke for the deck. (Rest of battle report omitted; Herrick downed the enemy plane and returned 'home'.)

Herrick's report continued: *In conclusion, I would like to add that at low altitudes a P-38 aircraft will outrun, overtake, and dive with the Fw-190... especially when they have you outnumbered...*

From July 24, 1944, Major Herrick is based at the Cardonville Air Field in Normandy near Caen. He becomes known as a "fearless pilot who enjoys his profession." Colonel Seth McKee who commanded the 370th Group in 1944 tells of Herrick as a "daredevil pilot." Here is McKee's report:

"Andover was a rolling sod field. There was no runway, but it had these little rolling hills. If you took off over this hill just a little below flying speed, you would fly a little bit and settle back in, roll some more, and then go on again like on a roller coaster.

Some pilots dubbed the first hill "Suicide Hill" and the second hill "Christ's Hill" because when they got to it they said to themselves, "Christ, I hope I make it." The two slight valleys between them were "Dead Man's Gulch" and "Auger Valley". The really hot pilots would try to take off on the first little hill and they could do it with a light load but not if the planes were full of fuel and bombs. Bill Davis, Herrick's buddy, was in line waiting to take off and just knew what Herrick was about to do. Bill sat there pumping the brakes on his P-38 thinking, "Herrick, don't do it!" but it was too

late. Herrick had made up his mind to lift off on the first hill.

Herrick was sort of a hot shot pilot and when he took off he went over one of those bumps and got airborne a little bit. He jerked his gear up and settled back down and bellied that airplane in right in front of the VIP's. Dust was flying. Those bombs were rolling loose. Iran down to his Squadron, but Herrick had already beat me there.

There was so much dust on this sod field that I couldn't see the aircraft after it bellied in. While the aircraft was sliding, Herrick got out with his parachute still on and jumped off the wing. I got down there and here was Herrick, right in the middle of all of these pilots. I gave him the biggest boot in the butt you've ever seen in your life. I was tickled to death to see him alive, but I was really teed off that he'd hot-shotted and bellied in that airplane in front of all our bosses."

Lawrence Herrick was involved in other battles. Suffice it to say, "ca-



sualties were mounting, the war was picking up in intensity," and still the war went on for Lawrence Herrick and all other soldiers. (To be continued: Again: credit to **Forced Landing** for this information and wording and also to Daniel Seillier of Reungy, France.)

*A Luftberry is an air combat maneuver named after the aviator Raoul Gervais Lufbery, a WWI pilot, credited with 17 victories.

County Officers to participate in "Drive Sober or get Pulled Over"

The Louisa County Sheriff's Office will be participating in a "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" crackdown beginning July 2nd and continuing through July 8th. The goal is to find and arrest impaired drivers who put themselves and others at risk.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Fourth of July is one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to alcohol-impaired driving crashes.

Law enforcement agencies across the state are strongly urging all motorists to buckle up; slow down; and if you decide to drink, be responsible and designate a sober driver so all of us can enjoy a safe 4th of July holiday.

For more on the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over mobilization, please visit www.nhtsa.gov.

Briefly -

County Relay For Life set

The Louisa County Relay for Life is set for Saturday, August 4th at the L&M High School.

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Tuesday, July 10th at 7 p.m. Elizabeth Miller will be hostess. Officers for the new year will be installed. Please remember to bring a ditty bag for the Veteran's Hospital. Dues are \$20, and are due now.

Class of 1982 plans reunion

Attention Columbus Community Class of 1982 (and parents): Some of us have been making plans for our 30th year class reunion. We still need some addresses; if you can help - that would be great! We want to find as many classmates as possible. Our plans are: Columbus Day Weekend - Friday, October 12th at 7 p.m. meet and greet at Rumors and Excuses; Saturday, October 13th watch parade at Rumors and Excuses, 5-8 p.m. dinner at the Thirsty Camel, then go to excluded location for a night of fun. Any questions or addresses please call Deb (Sands) Halstead at 319-750-2636.

County Fair dates set

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

Floral Hall participants sought

The Louisa County Fair Board and the Community Development Center are seeking organizations and businesses to have displays at the Expo Hall at the Louisa County Fair. Information and a registration form are available at www.louisacountyfair.com, find them by selecting Expo Hall Info from the list on the left.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for Louisa-Muscatine School District will hold a public meeting at the Administrative Offices on Monday, July 9, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Ainsworth Opera House breakfast

Ainsworth Community Center/Opera House will hold their monthly breakfast buffet on Saturday, July 7th, 2012. Hours are 7 am to 9 am. Cost is \$7 per person, children 12 and under are free with adult. We are located at 284 Railroad St. Ainsworth, IA. Menu items include biscuits and gravy, bacon, ham, sausage links, casserole, scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, rolls and drink. Come see what the cooks came up with for red, white, and blue 4th of July items. Hope to see you there.

United Methodist Women to meet

The United Methodist Women, Columbus Junction, will meet on July 11, 2012 for a 12:00 p.m. (Noon) picnic potluck at Chinkapin Park. Hostesses are the Program Committee. Program: Sing-a-long. NOTE: Change of date.

United Methodist Women to serve tacos at Farmers. Market

The United Methodist Church Women will be serving walking tacos at the Columbus Junction Farmer's Market Friday night.

Washington Conservation Board

The Washington County Conservation Board will hold its monthly meeting on July 11, 2012 at 4:30 pm in the Conservation Education Center.

Bill Riley Talent Show in Winfield

Winfield's Crooked Creek Day committee is looking for area talent to participate in their CCD Bill Riley Talent Show. The event will be held at 9:00 am, Saturday, August 4th in the Winfield High School gym. Contestants are asked to arrive by 8:15 am. Winners will be eligible to advance to the Iowa State Fair. There are two categories, Sprouts: ages 2 through 12 years, and Seniors: ages 13 through 21 years. Acts are limited to three minutes. The committee welcomes a variety of acts and will accept a limited number of acts on a first come-first serve basis, as the time is limited due to the parade, which will follow the talent show. We invite local youth to come and showcase their talents at the annual Winfield Crooked Creek Day celebration. For more information call Sharon Jennings at (319) 259-6632 or email smjen@iowatelecom.net.

July 4th, a Simple Holiday

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

In the past, I thought Thanksgiving was the easiest of all holidays: no gifts to buy, eggs to hide, or presents to wrap—just a big meal and family time. However, on rethinking this issue, it now seems as if the Fourth of July deserves this title.

What could be simpler? Just wake up in the morning and enjoy the day. There are also options available—just waiting for you, if you want to go. Do you want to go to a parade? Participate in a run? Go to a pie-baking contest? Take your children to some rides or other events? Hit the local swimming pool? Go to a nearby lake? And last, and best of all, do you want to see some fireworks? It's all out there IF, and only if, you want to go!

Then, too, you can just stay home. Enjoy a day off work. Eat and/or cook a meal outside. Play games in the backyard. Take a long nap. Talk to your neighbors. Turn on the garden hose and watch the kids run through it. Grill a hotdog—the all-American food. Watch the sun set and the stars come out in the sky.

It's a great day to be an American. Enjoy.



True 4th of July temperatures hit the community last Thursday as temperatures reached 103 degrees. Fortunately, 2 inches of rainfall was reported in areas over the weekend.

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