

A loyal friend returns to duty

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

In 1941 Bud Garrett drove a new Chevrolet chassis and cab to New Orleans to have a firetruck body installed. He returned with more than just a firetruck, he returned with a member of the Fire Department that has loyally served our community for nearly seventy years.

The 1941 truck was removed from active service in 1971, however it was used for a period of time in area parades. But due to a lack of room, the truck has recently resided at the Historical Society in Wapello.

However, the firemen have recently mounted a campaign to restore their old friend and return her to active service. Although the truck will probably not be called upon to fight anymore fires, it will be used to represent the Fire Department in parades and special events.

"Our goal is to get the truck back in service, and keep her in service. She is a part of our history, and all of the firemen are very proud of her," said fire chief, Lynn Mincer.

The truck is presently at George Bell's and he has begun the restoration work. A fender that was damaged by snow chains has been removed and repaired, and the truck has been rewired, the brakes are new, and new tires have been installed. Mark Shear is replacing the wood deck on the rear. Bell says that he hopes the body can be removed and completely sandblasted. It is also planned to replace the upholstery, install an original floor mat, and get the pump back into working order. Many of the original hand tools are still in the truck. All labor is being donated by Bell, and materials are being purchased at cost.

The cost to restore the truck is



1941 Chevrolet Fire Truck in service in 1950. Firemen pictured, front row: Bob Hynes, Earl Frisk, Harry Enslin, R.L. "Cotton" Hamilton, Kenneth Lukins, Harry Smith, Cecil Billings, Albert Cline, Robert Thomas, Lyle Wasson, Glen Hankins, Jesse Schrier and Bob Oberman. In the second row: Chief M.E. Fisher, Tom Marton, Dick Dircks, Ray Hendrickson, and W.M. Jeide. Pictured below is the truck today as it awaits restoration.

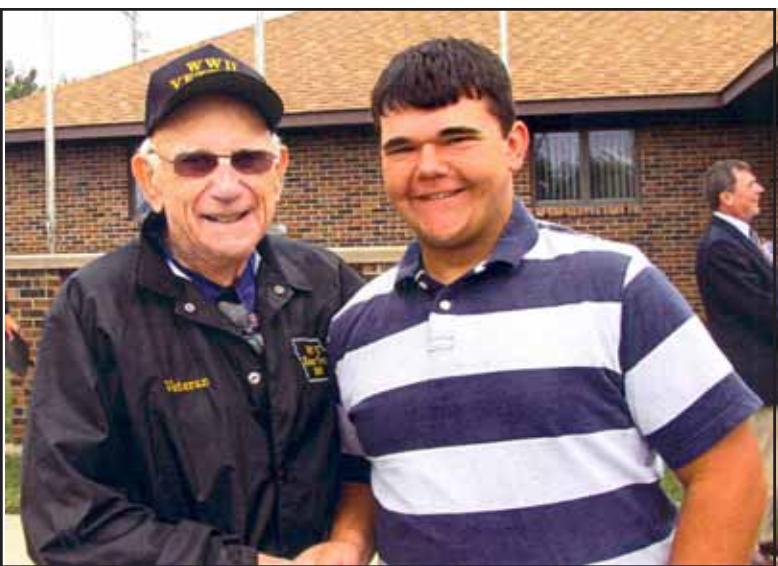
estimated at \$6,500.00. The firemen are now in the process of raising the needed funds. A number of individuals have already come forward with donations, but more help is needed.

A fireman's boot will be placed at both banks, in the Gazette Office, and at Lynn's Hy-Way Service. If you would like to help bring an old friend back to town, please consider donating to the cause by placing your contribution in one of the boots.

Longevity is a rare thing in today's disposable world, but with your help, we can bring an old friend back to continue serving the Columbus Community for another seventy years.



Area Veteran has new memories



Dwight Clark and Tanner Travis

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

At age 82 Dwight Clark has a lot of memories from his time served during WWII. Dwight served in the United States Navy 3rd Class Yeoman from 1945 to 1946. He served aboard the USS Nicholson DD442. One memory that has stayed with him over the years is the memory of the two buddies he lost, Rex Orris, a Marine Pharmacist 1st Class killed in action February 22, 1945 at Iwo Jima and John "Jack" Duncan, Seaman 2nd Class Gunner killed in action aboard the USS Franklin in 1945 during a kamikaze attack by the Japanese in Okinawa. "Those are just memories you don't forget, my good friends made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, my life moved forward but I never forgot those guys" states Clark.

On September 28th Dwight was one of the 31 WWII Veterans chosen to be a part of the Honor Tour traveling to Washington D.C.

The send off for the veterans was a big celebrated event held at the American Legion in Columbus Junction. There Dwight was honored to have so many family members present to watch the tribute and the send off. Dwight's brother and sister-in-law, Don and Arlene Clark, Ron and Judy Scheef, Sue Clark, Cindy Skubal and grandson, Brayden Reighard, Bill Clark Tom

Clark, Tina Travis. Another heartwarming honor for Dwight was that his great-great nephew, Tanner Travis was among the Columbus Community High School group, the Jailbyrds that honored the Veterans with Patriotic Songs. "I was so pleased that a large group of my family was there and even more special that Tanner was a part of the singing, it was a very meaningful moment for me," smiles Dwight. "We were thrilled that Dwight and the other Veterans were being honored in such a special way that we wanted to be there to pay tribute to our very special Uncle and Vets," smiles Sue Clark and Cindy Skubal, Dwight's nieces. As the Honor Tour left the American Legion to begin their heartfelt journey they traveled past the Columbus Community School where another great-great nephew of Dwight's, Austin Edwards was among the kids paying tribute as the Veterans made their way out of town. "I was so proud of the kids that day, as they all cheered and hollered when the bus went by and some of them had signs that they held up. It was pretty cool," says Sue Clark.

"I was honored in so many ways, the opportunity to go to the Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., my family being there made it even more special and to know that the WWII veterans have not been forgotten even the ones that made the ultimate sacrifice," proudly smiles Dwight.

School Board discusses early start

By Jim Rudisil

The Iowa State Fair is scheduled to begin next year in mid-August and that could mean more complaints from Columbus Community School District parents.

Local residents complained this year over the school's early start date after the fair switched dates and began earlier than in past years. Several parents indicated the conflict prevented them from attending the fair, although the district apparently excused students who missed school. Complaints over the calendar also surfaced because the end of the first semester did not come until early January, creating a two-week break for students right before the semester tests.

Superintendent Rich Bridenstine asked the board during its regular monthly meeting Monday if it wanted to set the procedures for determining next year's calendar and hopefully escape some of the complaints that developed this year. Bridenstine told the school board the calendar had been reviewed by the school staff, an advisory committee of parents, staff and other district residents and then eventually approved by the board. Since the calendar had called for classes to start before the week in which September 1 occurred, the school board had also been required to hold a public hearing. However, all the planning fell apart after the state fair date was changed. (**Editor's Note: There is now some disagreement as to whether the State Fair changed their date.**)

Bridenstine said the same situation over the state fair would happen again this year, since the fair is scheduled to begin in mid-August. He asked the board to provide him feedback on the calendar-setting process. "Do you want to set certain parameters?" he asked.

He said the board could make its own decision on whether to wait until the state fair was over to begin classes, have the semester break before Christmas or other issues. If it did not want to make those decisions on its own, he said the process used last year could be implemented again.

"My hope is we create a process that has a lot of people having input and when it comes to you, you approve it 5-0," he said.

Sandy Martin, who was elected to the board earlier this year after retiring as a teacher for the district, said she supported starting school later, but still finishing the semester by Christmas. She also said student efforts in May often dropped and suggested the school provide more short courses and other educational programming during that time that would keep student interest up. "Nothing productive happens after May 1," she told the board.

Bridenstine acknowledged he had talked with Martin before about her ideas, but said he disagreed with her claim over the May 1 drop. "I think a lot of good education goes on in May," he said.

Board member Dan Peters said he agreed with Martin on ending the semester before Christmas. Bridenstine eventually said he would develop a process and present it to the school board next month.

In other action, the board also instructed Bridenstine to return next month with details on a possible early retirement program. The board has offered early retirement to its teachers for the past two years, but some members have indicated they do not support offering a program this year. Peters said he did not support it, explaining that by offering it every year, the program was simply evolving into a retirement program.

The board also agreed to authorize fundraisers to support the prom, science and math club and girls basketball. The science and math club request generated the most discussed, after Martin pointed out the fundraising would violate a long-standing informal policy. The club was planning to sell T-shirts, with the Columbus Wildcat emblem on the front.

However, Martin said selling clothing with that emblem was traditionally restricted to athletic teams and support groups. The board finally agreed to approve the fundraising, but not allow the T-shirt sale portion.

Briefly -

Area Trick or Treat hours

Trick or Treat hours for Columbus Junction, Columbus City, Fredonia and Cotter will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and for Conesville from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31st.

Trick or Treat at Colonial Manor

Don't forget to stop by for some special treats on Saturday night, October 31st from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. The residents will be ready with candy and they look forward to seeing you in your costumes.

Turkey Supper in Lone Tree

Lone Tree - The United Presbyterian Church in Lone Tree will serve a Turkey Supper Saturday, November 7th from 4 to 7 p.m. Roast turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, home grown sweet corn, salads, rolls, beverages and pies will be served. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 5-10 years.

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

FFA Haunted Barn

The Columbus FFA will be holding a haunted barn this year at Tanner Davis' home (19172 Highway 92, east of Columbus Junction). The dates for the haunted barn will be: October 30th, 31st, and November 1st, 7th, and 8th. The hours of operation will be from 7:30-10:30 p.m. on those nights. The cost will be \$5.

Embroidery Club to meet

Embroidery Club will meet on November 2nd at 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to finish the temari balls. The afternoon group will meet on November 4th, at 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm to do Hardanger bookmarks. There will be a \$7.00 charge for the book and material. You will need one ball or two skeins of Pearl Cotton #8. A magnifying glass may also be helpful. Phone 319-728-5648 or stop in at Our Shop, 106 Main Street, Columbus Junction.

FCCLA Fundraiser

The Columbus FCCLA will be selling personalized cakepans and Klean Kanteen Bottles, as well as, personalized cutting boards, mugs, and photo frames. If you need something special for a Christmas, wedding or birthday gift this may be just what you need. If interested call Lois Mincks at Columbus Community School 319-728-2231 Ext. 3332 or email her at lois.mincks@columbus.k12.ia.us and she can have a member take your order. Orders will be placed on Oct. 30. Orders will arrive in plenty of time before Christmas.

FCCLA Pringles Project

The FCCLA are collecting empty Pringles cans so they can send cookies to active service people from the Columbus Junction area. They are also wanting address for these active duty people. Please drop off empty Pringles cans at the high school office and e-mail address to Lois Mincks at Lois.Mincks@columbus.k12.ia.us or call 319-728-2231 ext. 3332. Thank for your help with this Christmas project. We would like to send them by mid-November.

FFA available to rake leaves

The Columbus FFA will be raking leaves on Saturday, November 7th. If your leaves need raking and you are unable to do so, please contact the Columbus FFA or Katie McWhirter at 728.2231 x 3621 after Monday, October 26.

JCAB looking for yard work

The JCAB 4-H club is looking for yard work jobs. It is for donations for our club. Please call 319-657-3054.

P.E.O. to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Emily Bell on Monday, November 2 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be co-hosted by Marilyn Ortberg. All members are encouraged to attend.

Ruffled Wings Ladies Banquet

The Ruffled Wings Ladies DU 26th annual banquet and auction will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2009, at the Briggs Center in Wapello. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., and the auction will start at 7 p.m. Any questions, call Niki at 319-759-9179.

St. Joseph's Fall Fiesta

You are cordially invited to attend Columbus Junction's St. Joseph's Catholic Church Fall Fiesta on Sunday, November 1, 2009, from 11-1 p.m. It will be held in the student center of the Columbus Community High School. Lasagna, tossed salad, green beans, French bread, and assorted desserts, iced tea, lemonade and coffee will be served. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 3-13 under 3 are free.

WMU Haunted Hayrack Ride

The WMU Facilities Enhancement Committee will be hosting a Haunted Hayrack Ride on Saturday, October 31, 2009. Rides will depart from the Commons (youth baseball diamonds) on the north end of town from 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm. Prices are \$2.00 for children 12 and under and \$5 for adults. There will be glow-in-the-dark sticks and necklaces for sale, as well.

"Taste of Wapello" cancelled

The Louisa County Habitat for Humanity "Taste of Wapello and area," which was planned for Friday, November 6th, has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

Medicare Part D Check-up to be held at Senior Center

Every Fall Medicare prescription drug plans (Part D) announce changes to their premium, co-pays and the drugs they cover. Stay on top of these changes. You may be able to save money by choosing a different plan. November 15th through December 31, 2009, you can change your Medicare Part D plan for 2010 or enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) if you haven't done so. The Columbus Junction Senior Center is hosting a Medicare Part D Check Up Event Wednesday, November 18th from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 319-728-3148 for an appointment with a SHIIP counselor. Appointments are required. You will need to bring your Medicare card, current Part D plan card and a list of your medications from your pharmacy, which includes drug name, quantity and dosage.