

# The American Legion



## POT POURRI OF FACTS AMERICAN LEGION POST 207 STRATFORD S.D. 57474

Post 207 was granted a Charter on 2-5-1921 to 15 Veterans of WW1

One family has had continuous membership in Post 207 since 2-5-1921; William Jark-Kenneth Jark.

93 Veterans of WW1 were members of Post 207 from 1921 to 1946.

7 families had three sons serving in WW2 at the same time.

- (1) BUNNESS: Joseph W., Kenneth J., Mark
- (2) CARMINE: Darrel, Duane, Lee
- (3) DAYTON, Dale, Earl, Robert
- (4) ERDMANN: Lynn, Richard, John (Jack) Holcomb
- (5) FLOAN, George, Melvin, Raymond
- (6) MISSLITZ, Curtis, Donald, Vernon
- (7) SCHLICHTING; Delbert, Lloyd, Orville

59 persons from the Stratford area served during WW2 (12-7-41 to 12-31-46)

Sgt. Lynn Erdmann was awarded the Silver Star for rescuing a buddy from a mine field.

Brig. Gen. Laverne G. Saunders was awarded the Navy Cross for his activity in the SW Pacific. This award not normally awarded to Army personnel.

Ervin G. Wood was a prisoner of war in Germany in WW2.

Three area residents were killed in action (KIA) during WW2. All were pilots. Albert SVARSTAD Navy Pilot; Harvey SWENSON B-29 bomber pilot; Ervin WESTBY B-24 bomber pilot. William Edgar Stange was found dead at the Brooklyn Navy Pier, cause of death unknown.

26 persons from the Stratford area, served in the Armed Forces during the Korean conflict 6-25-50 to 1-31-55.

During the Vietnam era, (2-26-61 to 5-7-75), 32 area persons served in the armed forces of the USA.

From 1978 to 2005, 37 area persons served in the following conflicts.

Lebanon, Granada, Panama, Beirut 8-24-81 to 1-31-91  
Desert Storm 8-2-1990 to Present  
Afghanistan 4-1-2000 to present  
Iraq Freedom 4-2000 to present  
National Guard service exclusive of above dates

Four ladies, making up 11% of current membership of Post 207 are:

Korrine FACE  
Tina Hansen RASER  
Deanna TAYLOR  
Wendy Milbrandt WAYMAN

Duane JARK served as Adjutant of Post 207 for 24 years from 1974 to 1997.

Family Relationships of Post Members as of 2005

Father/Son	George (Pat) Hansen-Harley Hansen Eugene Face-Steve Face
Father/ Daughter	George (Pat) Hansen-Tina Hansen Rasor Eugene Face-Korrine Face
Brothers	Michael Hansen-George (Pat) Hansen
Brothers/ Sisters	Greg Milbrandt-Wendy Wayman Steve Face-Korrine Face
Husband/	Korrine Face-Verne Prickett Wendy Milbrandt Wayman-Craig (Duke)Wayman

Member Richard ELLINGSON has participated in every funeral ceremony of the Firing Squad for a period of 45 years.

Histories of Post 207 submitted for State competition

2002	1st Place
2001-02	Honorable Mention
2003	1st Place State-Honorable Mention National
2004	2nd Place
2005	3rd Place
2006	" "
	2007 - 1st Place

Stratford Post 207 has sponsored the Fall Tractor pull of the antique tractor club for this area, under the guidance of member Ronald (Jack) GUBIN.

Plaques, identifying those from the area that served from WWI to present, are on display in the Stratford Community Center.

POST NO. 207  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
STRATFORD SD  
2001



YEAR BOOK OF  
POST NO. 207  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
STRAFORD SD  
1-1-2000 TO 12-31-2000  
BY: THOMAS E. SAUNDERS  
HISTORIAN



## INTRODUCTION

The farming community of Stratford, located in SE Brown County, South Dakota, has supplied men and women for all the major conflicts since W W I. Post 207, Stratford, has maintained an active Post since first granted a charter, with an increase of members in recent years.

The American Legion Department of South Dakota, granted Post 207 a Charter in the year 1921. A document attached to the original Charter identified those first members as; Harry Ward Ashford, Paul Henry Brown, Robert J. Carr, Joseph Alexander Coleman, Dennis F. Daly, Harry E. Falk, Rollie S. Hartwell, Rolfe Harris Hesketh, Sterling Francis Missell, Bruno Rock, Gerhard Charles Stange, Henry A. Taylor, Lawrence Walking, and Robert Wiedenbach.

There are no known decendants of the original Charter members currently residing in the Stratford community, or members of Post 207.

Post 207, through it's activities, continues to promote patriotism and respect of flag by parading the Colors at 4th of July celebrations, Memorial Day functions and Military funerals. We will continue to support worthy community programs and those items in the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion Department of South Dakota.

One family has maintained continuous membership in Post 207 since 1921. Though not listed on the original charter, William Jark and his son Ken Jark have been active in this Post. William Jark appears in the Post photograph of 1921, and the Post roster furnished by the State Department.

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**CONSTITUTION**  
**of**  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**DEPARTMENT**  
**of**  
**SOUTH DAKOTA**

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**PREAMBLE**

**For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:**

**To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and of the State of South Dakota; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, the State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.**



## POST 207 ACTIVITIES 2000

Post 207 fund raiser/stag party was held in early Spring. We were able to net approximately \$1,400. Ticket sales were good, as were choices sold on valuable donated items from Aberdeen and other businesses.

Some donations made within the community during this year were:

1. \$25.00 to Children & Youth Month, community taffy pull
2. \$105 each for two area highschool students to attend Boys State.  
Reed Johnson, son of Bill Johnson and Sheldon Schwan, son of Steve Schwan of Stratford. Schwan attends Warner High School, Johnson attends Groton.
3. \$50.00 was donated to the Tracy Luedeke Fund. She was seriously injured in a farm accident and is the daughter of Dale & Lola Luedeke.
4. \$100.00 was given to the costs of building a concession stand at the ball park complex. This will also be a rest room with running water, a much needed improvement to the park.

May 29, 2000, Memorial Day, saw the firing squad performing Memorial Day ceremonies at three local cemeteries; East Rondell, West Rondell, and the Scandanavian Church. Prior to leaving for the cemeteries, a patriotic program was presented by youth of the community, under the direction of the Legion Auxillary. Coffee & rolls were served to all Participants and observers prior to the ceremonies.

Election of Officers 3/15/2000 were as follows: Commander, Mike Hansen; Vice Commander, Duane Jark; Adjutant, Verne Prickett; Chaplin, Eugene Face; Historian, Tom Saunders; Athletic Director, Earl Shunkwiler, Sgt. @ Arms, Kenny Jark; Americanism, George Hansen Jr.; Membership, Leland Stange.



Post 207 surpassed it's membership goals set by the State. New members received into the post were; Herman Lier, Greg Milbrandt, Adam Brunen and Wendy Brunen.

The firing squad had the sad duty of performing at the funeral of Maurice Samuelson. Maurice was a long time active member of Post 207, as was his father Ed Samuelson. Maurice was a real gentleman and will be missed by all.

Post 207 will have a new, fresh appearance, It was decided by the membership that the Post would buy blue blazers for those members that had not received any from the initial purchase. Also it was decided to have grey pants and arrangements were made with a local clothing store to provide these. We will all look the same, with the members buying their own pants. In. addition, baseball type hats were purchased depicting the Post 207 logo. These to be worn to promote the Post.

Post 207 sponsored a tractor pull at the ball park on 9/24/2000. This was attended by many pullers and visitors. We ran the concession stand and made an additional \$220.00 from this activity.

In November the annual Veterans appreciation dinner was held at the Stratford Community hall in conjunction with the Legion Auxillary.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A  
 POST 207 MEMBERS  
 YEAR 2000

<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Conflict</u>
BAGGETT, Keith	Stratford	Vietnam
BARTZ, Randall	Dickinson ND	Vietnam
BRUNES, Adam	Stratford	Saudi
BRUNES, Wendy	Stratford	Saudi
DAVIS, J.H.	Groton	Korea
ELLINGSON, Richard (Dick)	Aberdeen	Korea
ERICKSON, Clarence	Groton	WW2
FACE, Eugene	Stratford	Korea
FACE, Korinne	Stratford	Saudi
GUBIN, Jack	Stratford	Korea
HANSEN, George Jr. (Pat)	Stratford	Vietnam
HANSEN, Harley	Stratford	Saudi
HANSEN, Mike	Stratford	Vietnam
HANSON, Robert J.	Aberdeen	Korea
JARK, Duane	Stratford	Vietnam
JARK, Kenneth, (Kenny)	Aberdeen	Korea
KURTZ, David	Redfield	Vietnam
LIER, Herman	Aberdeen	Korea
MILBRANDT, Greg	Groton	Saudi
MOULTON, Dale	Aberdeen	WW2
PRICKETT, Verne	Stratford	Saudi
RUPPERT, G.W.	Stratford	Saudi
SAUNDERS, Thomas E.	Aberdeen	WW2
SCHLEY, Marvin	Aberdeen	Korea
SCHLICHTING, Orville	Stratford	WW2
SHUNKWILER, Earl	Stratford	Viet/Saudi

STANGE, Leland

Aberdeen

Vietnam

STANGE, Verlin

Stratford

Vietnam

WANTTIE, Gerald

Aberdeen

Korea

LIFE MEMBER

ERDMAN, Lynn

Texas

WW2

## APPENDIX B

### STRATFORD POST 207

#### HISTORY 1999

Post 207 had an outstanding 1999. Though small in numbers, we exceeded our quota for new members and participated in many activities, outlined below.

Early in the Spring of 1999, the Post held their annual fund raiser. This was most successful. We provide our guests with lots of food and they have the opportunity to win rifles, shot guns etc.

Memorial Day 1999 the Post members met at the Stratford Community Hall. After a breakfast of coffee and donuts, a short patriotic program was presented by children of the area, under the supervision of Auxillary members. Thereafter, the Firing Squad and members performed the Memorial Day ceremony at three area cemeteries; East Rondell, West Rondell and Scandinavian Church.

Our next effort was to parade the Colors at the annual 4th of July parade and picnic at Stratford. It was interesting to note the flag bearers and color guards represented four major conflicts, viz ., WW2, Korea, Viet Nam, and Saudi Desert Storm. Other members rode in a float behind the Colors.

Post 207 sponsored a boy for Boys State and sponsored 4 to attend Brown County Government Days. Those sponsored were from the Warner High School where the majority of those from the Stratford community attend high school.

Veterans Day, a pot luck supper is held at the Stratford Community Center for veterans and their families. This is done in partnership with the Legion Auxillary. It is always a night of good food and good fellowship.

During the summer of 1999, POST 207 assisted in sponsoring a 5x5 softball tournament held at Stratford. Also, we assisted the Legion Auxillary by purchasing supplies for one of their youth projects in the community.

In October 1999, we sponsored a tractor pull held at the Stratford park. We set up a military tent at the site and sold lunches, assisted in prizes etc. It turned into another source of revenue for the Post and will probably become an annual affair.

Our firing squad did not have to perform for any fallen comrades in 1999. Our goals will be to maintain a strong presence in our community, participating in those items outlined above, promoting patriotism and respect for the flag, by those of all ages in our community.

## APPENDIX C



### ROSTER FOR STRATFORD POST 207 1921

Harry W. Ashford, Sigurd B. Arnston, Mavin Anderson, Paul H. Brown  
Robert J. Carr, Joseph Coleman, Charles Gabert, Vivian H. Criner, Dennis F.  
Daly, Walter B. Ester, Harry E. Falk, LeRoy Fuller. Rollie L. Hartwell, Rolfe H.  
Mosketh, William N. Jark, Sterling Mizell, Alex Minn, V.G. McCleory, Martin  
Nelson, Bruno Rock, W.A. Rossow, Gerhard C. Stange, Edw. Samuelson, Edw.  
Solberg, Henry A. Taylor, Robert Wiedenbach, Lawrence Welking, George  
Burke

The above photograph was furnished by Mrs. Duane Lenling, who found the photo among the personal effects of her deceased mother, Mrs. John Schuman.

The list of members for 1921 was furnished by the American Legion Department of South Dakota.

APPENDIX C

<u>1946</u>		<u>1947</u>	
COMMANDER	Sanford Gulickson	COMMANDER	Ralph Peterson
V. COMMANDER	Ervin Woods	V. COMMANDER	Earl Dayton
ADJUTANT	Tom Saunders	ADJUTANT	Earl McNeil
SGT. @ ARMS	Earl Dayton	SGT. @ ARMS	Ervin Wood
CHAPLAIN	Ed Samuelson	CHAPLAIN	Martin Nelson
SERVICE: OFF.	Herman Rock	SERVICE OFF.	Herman Rock
ATHLETICS		ATHLETICS	
CHILD WELFARE		CHILD WELFARE	
AMERICANISM		AMERICANISM	
MEMBERSHIP		MEMBERSHIP	
REMARKS		REMARKS	
Firing Sqd.=Lynn Erdman, E.G.Woods Eugene Cramp, Tom Saunders, Carol Smith; Color Guards=Bill Jark, Bernard Schley, Color Bearers= Sanford Gulickson, Ed Solberg			
<u>1948</u>		<u>1949</u>	
COMMANDER	Lynn Erdman	COMMANDER	Ervin Wood
V.COMMANDER	Wm. Sebring	V. COMMANDER	Herman Rock
ADJUTANT	Earl McNeil	ADJUTANT	Wm. Sebring
SGT.@ ARMS	Don Misslitz	SGT. @ ARMS	Verril Radke
CHAPLAIN	Ervin Wood	CHAPLAIN	Ralph Peterson
SERV ICE OFF.	Herman Rock	SERVICE OFF.	Edwin Solberg
ATHLETICS		ATHLETICS	
CHILD WELFARE		CHILD WELFARE	
AMERICANISM		AMERICANISM	
MEMBERSHIP		MEMERSHIP	
REMARKS		REMARKS	



1950

COMMANDER Ervin Wood  
 V. COMMANDER Lloyd Larson  
 ADJUTANT Wm. Sebring  
 SGT. @ ARMS Ralph Peterson  
 CHAPLAIN Herman Rock  
 SERVICE: OFF. Edwin Solberg  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1951

COMMANDER Earl McNeil  
 V. COMMANDER Dale Dunker  
 ADJUTANT Wm. Sebring  
 SGT. @ ARMS Ralph Peterson  
 CHAPLAIN Bill Jark  
 SERVICE OFF. Herman Rock  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1952

COMMANDER Herman Rock  
 V.COMMANDER Lloyd Larson  
 ADJUTANT Wm. Sebring  
 SGT.@ ARMS Earl McNeil  
 CHAPLAIN Ervin Wood  
 SERVICE OFF. Sanford Gulickson  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1953

COMMANDER Lynn Erdman  
 V. COMMANDER Harold Larson  
 ADJUTANT Richard Francoli  
 SGT. @ ARMS Earl McNeil  
 CHAPLAIN Bill Jark  
 SERVICE OFF. Wm. Rossow  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1954

COMMANDER Dick Erdman  
 V. COMMANDER Dale Dunker  
 ADJUTANT Richard Francoli  
 SGT. @ ARMS Ralph Peterson  
 CHAPLAIN Lynn Erdman  
 SERVICE: OFF. Wm. Rossow  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1955

COMMANDER (Records missing)  
 V. COMMANDER  
 ADJUTANT  
 SGT. @ ARMS  
 CHAPLAIN  
 SERVICE OFF.  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1956

COMMANDER Carl Hafnor  
 V.COMMANDER Wm. Rossow  
 ADJUTANT Richard Francoli  
 SGT.@ ARMS Lynn Erdman  
 CHAPLAIN Bill Jark  
 SERVICE OFF.  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1957

COMMANDER Richard Francoli  
 V. COMMANDER Clarence Erickson  
 ADJUTANT Carl Hafnor  
 SGT. @ ARMS Lynn Erdman  
 CHAPLAIN Bill Jones  
 SERVICE OFF.  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1958

COMMANDER Bob Hanson  
 V. COMMANDER Richard Francoli  
 ADJUTANT Carl Hafnor  
 SGT. @ ARMS Lynn Erdman  
 CHAPLAIN Bill Jark  
 SERVICE: OFF. Clarence Erickson  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1959

COMMANDER K. Jark  
 V. COMMANDER Richard Francoli  
 ADJUTANT Carl Hafnor  
 SGT. @ ARMS Lynn Erdman  
 CHAPLAIN Bill Jark  
 SERVICE OFF. Clarence Erickson  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1960

COMMANDER Jack Gubin  
 V.COMMANDER Clarence Erickson  
 ADJUTANT Carl Hafnor/L. Erdman  
 SGT.@ ARMS Earl McNeil  
 CHAPLAIN Ervin Wood  
 SERVICE OFF. Sanford Gulickson  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 REMARKS

1961

COMMANDER Clarence Erickson  
 V. COMMANDER Richard Francoli  
 ADJUTANT Lynn Erdman  
 SGT. @ ARMS Ken Jark  
 CHAPLAIN Bob Hanson  
 SERVICE OFF. Lloyd Larson  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE Herman Rock  
 AMERICANISM Carl Hafnor  
 MEMERSHIP Ron Gubin  
 REMARKS  
 HISTORIAN Carl Hafnor

Post held pheasant and rabbit  
 drives for income

1962

COMMANDER Maurice Samuelson  
 V. COMMANDER Richard Francoli  
 ADJUTANT Lynn Erdman  
 SGT. @ ARMS K. Jark  
 CHAPLAIN Robert Hanson  
 SERVICE: OFF. Lloyd Larson  
 ATHLETICS K. Jark  
 CHILD WELFARE Herman Rock  
 AMERICANISM Carl Hafnor  
 MEMBERSHIP Ronald Gubin  
 HISTORIAN Carl Hafnor  
 REMARKS Sponsored midget  
 baseball and held horse show 9/16/62  
 which netted \$174.19

1963

COMMANDER Earl McNeil  
 V. COMMANDER Dale Dunker  
 ADJUTANT Wm. Sebring  
 SGT. @ ARMS Ralph Peterson  
 CHAPLAIN Bill Jark  
 SERVICE OFF. Herman Rock  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 HISTORIAN R. Ellingson  
 REMARKS  
 Spent \$279.07 on youth baseball

1964

COMMANDER R. Ellingson  
 V.COMMANDER R. Francoli  
 ADJUTANT Lynn Erdman  
 SGT.@ ARMS Carl Hafnor  
 CHAPLAIN Bob Hanson  
 SERVICE OFF. Lloyd Larson  
 ATHLETICS K. Jark  
 CHILD WELFARE Eugene Face  
 AMERICANISM Maurice Samuelson  
 MEMBERSHIP R. Gubin  
 HISTORIAN Bob Hanson  
 REMARKS 1964 baseball  
 expense for youth baseball was  
 \$132.59

1965

COMMANDER  
 V. COMMANDER  
 ADJUTANT  
 SGT. @ ARMS  
 CHAPLAIN  
 SERVICE OFF.  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMERSHIP  
 HISTORIAN  
 REMARKS  
 Arranged grave marker for Herman  
 Rock. Youth baseball expense

1966  
COMMANDER  
V. COMMANDER  
ADJUTANT  
SGT. @ ARMS  
CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1964)  
SERVICE: OFF.  
ATHLETICS  
CHILD WELFARE  
AMERICANISM  
MEMBERSHIP  
HISTORIAN  
REMARKS

1967  
COMMANDER  
V. COMMANDER  
ADJUTANT  
SGT. @ ARMS  
CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1964)  
SERVICE OFF.  
ATHLETICS  
CHILD WELFARE  
AMERICANISM  
MEMBERSHIP  
HISTORIAN  
REMARKS

1968  
COMMANDER  
V.COMMANDER  
ADJUTANT  
SGT.@ ARMS  
CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1964)  
SERV ICE OFF.  
ATHLETICS  
CHILD WELFARE  
AMERICANISM  
MEMBERSHIP  
HISTORIAN  
REMARKS

1953  
COMMANDER  
V. COMMANDER  
ADJUTANT  
SGT. @ ARMS  
CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1964)  
SERVICE OFF.  
ATHLETICS  
CHILD WELFARE  
AMERICANISM  
MEMERSHIP  
HISTORIAN  
REMARKS

1970

COMMANDER	Eugene Face
V. COMMANDER	Richard Francoli
ADJUTANT	R. Gubin
SGT. @ ARMS	Lynn Erdman
CHAPLAIN	Bob Hanson
SERVICE: OFF.	Lloyd Larson
ATHLETICS	K. Jark
CHILD WELFARE	R. Ellingson
AMERICANISM	Maurice Samuelson
MEMBERSHIP	R. Gubin
HISTORIAN	Clarence Erickson
REMARKS	Firemen & Legion had joint stag party.

1971

COMMANDER	Eugene Face
V. COMMANDER	Richard Francoli
ADJUTANT	R. Gubin
SGT. @ ARMS	Richard Harris
CHAPLAIN	Bob Hanson
SERVICE OFF.	Lloyd Larson
ATHLETICS	K. Jark
CHILD WELFARE	R. Ellingson
AMERICANISM	Duane Jark
MEMBERSHIP	R. Gubin
HISTORIAN	Dale Dunker
REMARKS	

1972

COMMANDER	Eugene Face
V.COMMANDER	R. Francoli
ADJUTANT	Dale Dunker
SGT.@ ARMS	Duane Jark
CHAPLAIN	Bob Hanson
SERV ICE OFF.	Clarence Erickson
ATHLETICS	K. Jark
CHILD WELFARE	
AMERICANISM	Maurice Samuelson
MEMBERSHIP	Leland Stange
HISTORIAN	Lloyd Larson
REMARKS	Barry Jark to Boys State. Made \$48.49 pancake sale. Sold tickets on pickup truck raffle

1973

COMMANDER	Duane Kramer
V. COMMANDER	R. Francoli
ADJUTANT	Dale Dunker
SGT. @ ARMS	Duane Jark
CHAPLAIN	Bob Hanson
SERVICE OFF.	Clarence Erickson
ATHLETICS	K. Jark
CHILD WELFARE	K. Jark
AMERICANISM	Maurice Samuelson
MEMERSHIP	Leland Stange
HISTORIAN	Lloyd Larson
REMARKS	Made \$816.37 on pickup raffle, decided to do again.

<u>1974</u>		<u>1975</u>	
COMMANDER	Duane Kramer	COMMANDER	Randy Bartz
V. COMMANDER	R. Francoli	V. COMMANDER	R. Francoli
ADJUTANT	Duane Jark	ADJUTANT	Duane Jark
SGT. @ ARMS	G. Dunwoody	SGT. @ ARMS	G. Dunwoody
CHAPLAIN	Eugene Face	CHAPLAIN	Eugene Face
SERVICE: OFF.	Clarence Erickson	SERVICE OFF.	Clarence Erickson
ATHLETICS	Randy Bartz	ATHLETICS	Richard Harris
CHILD WELFARE	Dale Dunker	CHILD WELFARE	Dale Dunker
AMERICANISM	Maurice Samuelson	AMERICANISM	Duane Kramer
MEMBERSHIP	Leland Stange	MEMBERSHIP	Leland Stange
HISTORIAN	Lloyd Larson	HISTORIAN	Lloyd Larson
REMARKS	Made \$948.06 on 4/29/74. Lloyd Larson & Wm. Rossow presented lifetime memberships.	REMARKS	Charles Reinhardt new member. Steve Face to Boys State. Sponsored Nancy Jark for Sno-Queen contest.
<u>1976</u>		<u>1977</u>	
COMMANDER		COMMANDER	R. Francoli
V.COMMANDER		V. COMMANDER	Leland Stange
ADJUTANT		ADJUTANT	Duane Jark
SGT.@ ARMS	(SAME AS 1975)	SGT. @ ARMS	G. Dunwoody
CHAPLAIN		CHAPLAIN	Eugene Face
SERV ICE OFF.		SERVICE OFF.	J. Wanttie
ATHLETICS		ATHLETICS	K. Jark
CHILD WELFARE		CHILD WELFARE	Dale Dunker
AMERICANISM		AMERICANISM	Duane Kramer
MEMBERSHIP		MEMERSHIP	Randy Bartz
HISTORIAN		HISTORIAN	Lloyd Larson
REMARKS	Tim Harris reported on Boys State. Barry Jark was baseball coach. David Kurtz new member. Vets Day 11/11/76 with Auxiliary.	REMARKS	Richard Taylor to Boys State. Greg Hanson to Boys State. \$160 for 4th of July fireworks.

1978

COMMANDER Leland Stange  
 V. COMMANDER R. Francoli  
 ADJUTANT Duane Jark  
 SGT. @ ARMS R. Gubin  
 CHAPLAIN Eugene Face  
 SERVICE: OFF. J. Wanttie  
 ATHLETICS K. Jark  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 HISTORIAN Lloyd Larson  
 REMARKS Arlen Stange to  
 Boys State

1979

COMMANDER  
 V. COMMANDER  
 ADJUTANT  
 SGT. @ ARMS  
 CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1978)  
 SERVICE OFF.  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 HISTORIAN  
 REMARKS Tom Wanttie to  
 Boys State, Kent Stange, Alternate

1980

COMMANDER  
 V.COMMANDER  
 ADJUTANT  
 SGT.@ ARMS  
 CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1979)  
 SERVICE OFF.  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 HISTORIAN  
 REMARKS John Ellingson to Boys  
 State. Val Jark alternate. Lloyd Larson  
 completed 62 yrs. membership. Gave  
 \$300. to Midget baseball. \$5 to Crippled  
 Children

1981

COMMANDER Leland Stange  
 V. COMMANDER R. Francoli  
 ADJUTANT Duane Jark  
 SGT. @ ARMS Jerry Wanttie  
 CHAPLAIN Eugene Face  
 SERVICE OFF. Mike Hanson  
 ATHLETICS K. Jark  
 CHILD WELFARE Dale Dunker  
 AMERICANISM R. Gubin  
 MEMERSHIP Orville Schlichting  
 HISTORIAN R. Ellingson  
 REMARKS Post purchased blue  
 blazers. Ron Gubin to Boys State, Royce  
 Face alternate. Time Capsule buried  
 3:30 PM 7/5/81 3'N. and 2 1/2' deep  
 of NW Corner of basketball Court



<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
COMMANDER Leland Stange	COMMANDER
V. COMMANDER R. Francoli	V. COMMANDER
ADJUTANT Duane Jark	ADJUTANT
SGT. @ ARMS J. Wanttie	SGT. @ ARMS
CHAPLAIN Eugene Face	CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1982)
SERVICE: OFF. Mike Hansen	SERVICE OFF.
ATHLETICS K. Jark	ATHLETICS
CHILD WELFARE Dale Dunker	CHILD WELFARE
AMERICANISM R. Gubin	AMERICANISM
MEMBERSHIP Orville Schlichting	MEMBERSHIP
HISTORIAN R. Ellingson	HISTORIAN
REMARKS	REMARKS Spent \$225 for Fireworks Bruce Reinhardt to Boys State. Gave money to local Easter egg hunt. \$150.00 to youth baseball.
<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
COMMANDER	COMMANDER
V.COMMANDER	V. COMMANDER
ADJUTANT	ADJUTANT
SGT.@ ARMS	SGT. @ ARMS
CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1983)	CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1984)
SERV ICE OFF.	SERVICE OFF.
ATHLETICS	ATHLETICS
CHILD WELFARE	CHILD WELFARE
AMERICANISM	AMERICANISM
MEMBERSHIP	MEMERSHIP
HISTORIAN	HISTORIAN
REMARKS Todd Allbee, Warner, Boys State. \$100 to Janet Lee fund. \$225 to 4th of July fireworks. \$125 to youth baseball. Flag purchased for Elmo Ellingson funeral.	REMARKS 40 year award to Lynn Erdman. Flag pole and flat for ball park Purchased 20 chairs to community hall. Brad Rosonke for Boys State.

1986	1987
COMMANDER V. COMMANDER ADJUTANT SGT. @ ARMS CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1985) SERVICE: OFF. ATHLETICS CHILD WELFARE AMERICANISM MEMBERSHIP HISTORIAN REMARKS Shannon Hansen to Boys State \$100 Carol Hansen Benefit fund	COMMANDER V. COMMANDER ADJUTANT SGT. @ ARMS CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1986) SERVICE OFF. ATHLETICS CHILD WELFARE AMERICANISM MEMBERSHIP HISTORIAN REMARKS Donated \$150.00 for fireworks. Donated \$50.00 to Brown County Veterans Memorial fund.
1988	1989
COMMANDER V.COMMANDER ADJUTANT (ALL OTHERS SAME SGT.@ ARMS AS PREVIOUS YEARS) CHAPLAIN SERV ICE OFF. ATHLETICS CHILD WELFARE Dale Dunker AMERICANISM MEMBERSHIP R. Gubin HISTORIAN Bob Hanson REMARKS \$150.00 donated for fireworks	COMMANDER Leland Stange V. COMMANDER R. Francoli ADJUTANT Duane Jark SGT. @ ARMS K. Jark CHAPLAIN Eugene Face SERVICE OFF. Mike Hansen ATHLETICS K. Jark CHILD WELFARE G. Wanttie AMERICANISM R. Gubin MEMERSHIP Orville Schlichting HISTORIAN R. Ellingson REMARKS Larry Jark to Boys State. \$250.00 for fireworks. \$15.00 to Reed Cowie family. Purchased 6x10 flag.

1990

COMMANDER  
V. COMMANDER  
ADJUTANT  
SGT. @ ARMS  
CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1989)  
SERVICE: OFF.  
ATHLETICS  
CHILD WELFARE  
AMERICANISM  
MEMBERSHIP  
HISTORIAN  
REMARKS  
Doug Fischbach played taps for  
Memorial day services.

1991

COMMANDER  
V. COMMANDER  
ADJUTANT  
SGT. @ ARMS  
CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1990)  
SERVICE OFF.  
ATHLETICS  
CHILD WELFARE  
AMERICANISM  
MEMBERSHIP  
HISTORIAN  
REMARKS

1992

COMMANDER Leland Stange  
V.COMMANDER R. Francoli  
ADJUTANT Duane Jark  
SGT.@ ARMS Pardue  
CHAPLAIN Eugene Face  
SERV ICE OFF. Mike Hansen  
ATHLETICS K. Jark  
CHILD WELFARE G. Wanttie  
AMERICANISM R. Gubin  
MEMBERSHIP Orville Schlichting  
HISTORIAN  
REMARKS  
James Haskel to Boys State

1993

COMMANDER  
V. COMMANDER  
ADJUTANT  
SGT. @ ARMS  
CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1992)  
SERVICE OFF.  
ATHLETICS  
CHILD WELFARE  
AMERICANISM  
MEMERSHIP  
HISTORIAN  
REMARKS

<u>1994</u>		<u>1995</u>	
COMMANDER	Leland Stange	COMMANDER	
V. COMMANDER	Mike Hansen	V. COMMANDER	
ADJUTANT	Duane Jark	ADJUTANT	
SGT. @ ARMS	K. Jark	SGT. @ ARMS	
CHAPLAIN	Eugene Face	CHAPLAIN	(SAME AS 1994)
SERVICE: OFF.	Maurice Samuelson	SERVICE OFF.	
ATHLETICS	K. Jark	ATHLETICS	
CHILD WELFARE	G. Wanttie	CHILD WELFARE	
AMERICANISM	R. Gubin	AMERICANISM	
MEMBERSHIP	Orville Schlichting	MEMBERSHIP	
HISTORIAN	R. Ellingson	HISTORIAN	
REMARKS	Richard Francoli passed away with Firing Sqd. performing grave site honors. Bruce Potter Boys State representative.	REMARKS	
<u>1996</u>		<u>1997</u>	
COMMANDER		COMMANDER	
V.COMMANDER		V. COMMANDER	Tom Saunders
ADJUTANT		ADJUTANT	(ALL OTHERS SAME)
SGT.@ ARMS		SGT. @ ARMS	
CHAPLAIN	(SAME AS 1995)	CHAPLAIN	
SERV ICE OFF.		SERVICE OFF.	
ATHLETICS		ATHLETICS	
CHILD WELFARE		CHILD WELFARE	
AMERICANISM		AMERICANISM	
MEMBERSHIP		MEMERSHIP	
HISTORIAN		HISTORIAN	
REMARKS	Clarence Erickson received 50 yr Membership award	REMARKS	Purchased \$15.00 Shroine Tickets

1999

COMMANDER Mike Hansen  
 V. COMMANDER Duane Jark  
 ADJUTANT Vern Prickett  
 SGT. @ ARMS K. Jark  
 CHAPLAIN Eugene Face  
 SERVICE: OFF.  
 ATHLETICS Earl Shunkwiler  
 CHILD WELFARE G. Wanttie  
 AMERICANISM George Hansen Jr.  
 MEMBERSHIP Leland Stange  
 HISTORIAN Tom Saunders  
 REMARKS New members, Dale Moulton, Korinne Face, Verlin Stange. Donated \$50 to Judy Shunkwiler & Kelly Face

2000

COMMANDER  
 V. COMMANDER  
 ADJUTANT  
 SGT. @ ARMS  
 CHAPLAIN (SAME AS 1999)  
 SERVICE OFF.  
 ATHLETICS  
 CHILD WELFARE  
 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 HISTORIAN  
 REMARKS

COMMANDER  
 V.COMMANDER  
 ADJUTANT  
 SGT.@ ARMS  
 CHAPLAIN  
 SERVICE OFF.  
 ATHLETICS  
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 AMERICANISM  
 MEMBERSHIP  
 HISTORIAN  
 REMARKS

COMMANDER  
 V. COMMANDER  
 ADJUTANT  
 SGT. @ ARMS  
 CHAPLAIN  
 SERVICE OFF.  
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POST NO. 207  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
STRATFORD SD

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of **America**

and to the Republic for which it stands, **one nation** under God,

**indivisible,**

with liberty and **justice** for all.

2001



YEAR BOOK OF  
POST NO. 207  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
STRATFORD SD  
1-1-2001 TO 12-31-2001  
BY: THOMAS E. SAUNDERS  
HISTORIAN



## INTRODUCTION

This 2001 history of Post 207, Stratford, SD, is the second of Post histories written. The first was written for the year 2000. In this issue more effort was made to identify those members involved in the various Post functions including photographs of those events. A Post project for the year 2002 will be an attempt to identify, and properly honor, those Civil War and Spanish American War Veterans who may be buried in the three cemeteries visited by Post 207 on Memorial Day.

Post records for the years 1921-1946 are sadly missing. This has created a great loss of raw data of the Post's aims and goals during a very tumultuous time in this country's history, viz. stock market crash of 1929, Depression, and dust bowl days, etc.

This Post invited the public to attend the Veteran's Day dinner and speech. A large number of those in the community, including school kids, were in attendance and expressed a strong interest in the history of Post 207 and those individuals from the area who made up the membership rolls over the years.

Post 207 will continue to promote the aims of the American Legion as set forth in our Constitution, and to assist and promote community activities as warranted.

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**CONSTITUTION**  
**of**  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**DEPARTMENT**  
**of**  
**SOUTH DAKOTA**

---

**PREAMBLE**

**For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:**

**To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and of the State of South Dakota; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, the State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.**



## ACTIVITIES POST 207 2001

The annual stag party was held in March with many from the community showing up and supporting our efforts. Approximately \$1585.00 was earned to finance our various projects in the coming year.

On 4/4/01 Thomas E. Saunders represented Post 207 at a presentation at the O.M. Tiffany grade school in Aberdeen. The school children had collected \$900.00 to be given to the WW2 Memorial at Pierre. There were but one dozen WW2 veterans in attendance.

On 4/6/01 Post 207 Firing Squad assisted at the funeral of our Comrade Leland Stange. Those participating were; Sgt. @ Arms Kenneth Jark; Color Guards Vern Prickett, Mike Hansen; Color Bearers Earl Shunkwiler, Keith Baggett; Firing Sqd. George Hansen Jr., Harley Hansen, Greg Milbrandt, Norman Lee; Chaplain Thomas Saunders.

On 5/26/01, a regular meeting was held at the B&S Bar, and the following officers were elected for the next year: Commander Mike Hansen; Vice-Commander Duane Jark; Adjutant Vern Prickett; Chaplain Eugene Face, Athletic Director Earl Shunkwiler; Sgt. @ Arms Kenneth Jark; Historian Tom Saunders; Americanism George Hansen Jr.; Membership Greg Milbrandt. Plans for Memorial Day were completed at this meeting.

On 5/28/01 Legion Members and the Auxillary Members joined by others from the area, gathered at 8:00AM at the Stratford Community Hall to enjoy a breakfast of coffee, juice and rolls. Thereafter youngsters of the community gave patriotic readings, followed by singing of patriotic songs. They were directed by Korrie Face, the singing was accompanied on guitar by Kristi Brunnes.

The event was opened with a pledge of allegiance to the Flag. Kenneth Jark Sgt. @ Arms read the roll call of the dead. Thereafter the Firing Sqad proceeded to East Rondell, West Rondell (Oak Wood) and Scandanavian Lutheran cemeteries to perform the traditional Memorial Day service. At each cemetery the Sgt. @ Arms read a roll call of the fallen comrades buried in that cemetery.

Those making up the detail for 2001 were; Sgt. @ Arms Kenneth Jark; Chaplains Duane Jark & Jack Gubin; Firing Squad Vern Prickett, Norman Lee, George Hansen, Tom Saunders; Color Guards Eugene Face, Herman Lier; Color Bearers Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange.

The following is a picture of members present on Memorial Day 2001.



Back Row L to R: Herman Lier, Earl Shunkwiler, Eugene Face, Tom Saunders, Jack Gubin, Dick Ellingson, Norman Lee  
Front Row L to R: George Hansen Jr., Vern Prickett, Duane Jark, Kenneth Jark, Verlin Stange.



East Rondell, Memorial Day 2001



West Rondell, Memorial Day 2001





Scandinavia Church Cemetery, Memorial Day 2001

Memorial Day is the traditional start of South Dakota Boys State, which has been held at Northern State University since 1941. Those former Boys Staters who were in attendance at Stratford on 5/28/01 are depicted below together with the year of their attendance.



Left to Right: John Ellingson (1980); Thomas E. Saunders (1942); Eugene Face (1950); Kenneth Jark (1948); Duane Jark (1958); Lloyd Jark (1946); Jack Gubin (1951)

Post 207, in 2001, was able to sponsor 3 candidates for Boys State. We had members of the community attending Groton and Warner high schools and one home schooled. Those whom we sponsored were Jason Williams son of Marc & Kathy Williams (home schooled), Dustin Schley son of Jerry & Jaci Schley Groton HS, and Dale (Al) Ryckman son of Al and Inel Ryckman Warner High School.

#### Community Donations

During the year 2001, Post 207 made the following cash contributions:

\$100.00 City of Stratford toward concession stand expense

\$50.00 to Warner school for gym floor expense

\$50.00 to Warner PSCN for Prom Party

\$315.00 State Legion for Boys State

\$400.00 to improve tractor pull area (Dirt work)

\$25.00 to City of Stratford toward hot water heater

4th of July, 2001

The 4th celebration of 2001 coincided with the Stratford High School "All Class Reunion." An afternoon parade has held with Post 207 leading the parade with the Colors. Those making up the Color Guard were Gregg Milbrandt (Saudi), Earl Shunkwiler (Vietnam), Thomas E. Saunders (WW2), and Harley Hansen. Post 207 had also entered a float in the parade which was pulled by Sgt. @ Arms Kenneth Jark. Those riding the float were Herman Lier, Vern Prickett and Duane Jark. Eugene Face rode on his class float. Thereafter a community picnic was held at the Stratford ball park. This was followed by a play put on by youth in the community, followed by old fashioned games for the kids, and that followed by a Fireworks display put on by the Volunteer Fire Department. An Old fashioned 4th of July.

### Tractor Pull

On Sunday 9/23/01 Post 207 sponsored a tractor pull at the Stratford ball park. A large crowd of pullers were in attendance together with many spectators. The Post operated a concession stand made a profit of \$582.40 from this venture. Members assisting in this function were Vern Prickett, Earl Shunkwiler, Pat Hansen, Tom Saunders, Jack Gubin, Harley Hansen and Duane Jark.

### Gun Vault

Nancy Stange, widow of Leland Stange, supra, donated \$300.00 memorial money to Post 207 for whatever we thought appropriate. The Membership decided a much needed gun vault/storage case should be secured and this was done. A presentation of this vault was made at the public dinner on Veterans Day 11/11/2001. A picture of Nancy with her two sons is shown below. Also shown are Tom Saunders and Duane Jark.



## Veterans Day

Together with the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 207 held a potluck supper at the Community Hall, Stratford on 11/11/2001. The entire community was invited to attend this event and after a delicious supper, Post Adjutant Vern Prickett, acting as master of Ceremonies, introduced all Legion members in attendance. Each member identified the Branch of Service they served in as well as the time frame of their service. Kristi Bruner directed the audience in the singing of patriotic songs. Ned Dixon, a member of the 1936 Champion baseball team in attendance, was introduced to the group and related some facts concerning the final game at Pierre.

Historian, Thomas E. Saunders then made some comments about the history of the Post, and spent some time commenting on those members from WW2 who were considered a part of the "greatest generation" as depicted in Brokaw's book.



Vern Prickett- Thomas E. Saunders

The following is a group shot of those Post Members in attendance on 11/11/2001.



Standing L to R: Jack Gubin, Verlin Stange, Duane Jark, Eugene Face, Kenneth Jark, Richard Ellingson, Gerald Wanttie, Thomas E. Saunders, George (Pat) Hansen Jr., Korinne Face

Seated L to R: Orville Schlichting, Marvin Schley, Vern Prickett

#### Christmas Party

The last event for the Post in 2001 was to participate, with the Auxiliary in a Christmas party for the youth of the area, which followed a potluck supper.

APPENDICES



## APPENDIX A

### Legion Address Book - Members1

1 Member #	Cont Yrs	Last name	First name	Position	H Phone	City
200528453	9	BAGGETT	KEITH		395-6541	STRATFORD
100213451	30	BARTZ	RANDALL		701-227-0675	DICKINSON
201917264	3	BRUNES	ADAM		395-6433	STRATFORD
201917263	3	BRUNES	WENDY		395-6433	STRATFORD
201794715	3	DAVIS	JAY		397-8133	GROTON
103283087	49	ELLINGSON	RICHARD		225-1821	ABERDEEN
103283088	56	ERDMANN	LYNN		983-5372	APACHE JUNCTION
103281850	54	ERICKSON	CLARENCE		395-6631	GROTON
103283089	38	FACE	EUGENE	CHAPLIN	395-6608	STRATFORD
202011488	2	FACE	KORRINE		395-6911	STRATFORD
103283092	43	GUBIN	RONALD (JACK)	AMERICANISM OFFICER	395-6964	STRATFORD
200560375	9	HANSEN	HARLEY	CHILDREN & YOUTH OFFICER	395-6928	STRATFORD
103283093	28	HANSEN	MICHAEL	COMMANDER	229-4452	ABERDEEN
201350145	6	HANSEN JR	GEORGE (PAT)	SERVICE OFFICER	226-2348	STRATFORD
103279920	13	HANSON	ROBERT		226-1211	ABERDEEN
34	1	JARK	DAVID		541-582-8190	ROGUE RIVER
103283094	30	JARK	DUANE	VICE COMMANDER	395-6549	STRATFORD
103280049	46	JARK	KENNETH	SGT OF ARMS	225-0510	ABERDEEN
103283096	23	KURTZ	DAVID		395-6478	STRATFORD
33	1	LEE	NORMAN		229-5507	WARNER
202073561	2	LIER	HERMAN		229-5724	ABERDEEN
202073560	2	MILBRANDT	GREG		395-6515	GROTON
202073561	2	MOULTON	DALE		225-2725	ABERDEEN
200724790	8	PRICKETT	VERN	ADJUTANT	395-6911	STRATFORD
103280460	20	SAUNDERS	THOMAS	HISTORIAN	229-5349	ABERDEEN
103280482	48	SCHLEY	MARVIN		225-1739	ABERDEEN
103283098	21	SCHLICHTING	ORVILLE		395-6521	STRATFORD
103283099	11	SHUNKWILER	EARL	ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	382-5879	STRATFORD
201471825	5	STANGE	VERLIN	MEMBERSHIP OFFICER	395-6419	STRATFORD
103283101	28	WANTTIE	GERALD		225-8512	ABERDEEN

## APPENDIX B

### VETERANS DAY

11-11-2001

POST 207 STRATFORD SD

THOMAS E. SAUNDERS

POST HISTORIAN

### VETERANS DAY

To honor ALL Veterans who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States, Viz., Army, Navy, Air Corp, Coast Guard, Marines and Nurse Corp of all branches.

Origin The close of hostilities of World War 1, the 11th hour of the 11th month of 1918.

WWI = Total 9 million casualties

USA = 116,000 KIA

USA entered WWI 1917

1st Armistice Day 11-11-1918

Canada "Remembrance Day" same date

George Honey, Australian, suggested a period of 2 min silence at the 11th hour and that was adopted by all countries.

Congress 1954, changed the name to Veterans Day and made it a legal holiday.

### BORN OF WWI

American Legion Hamilton Fish, co-founder very active in founding of Legion

Tomb of Unknown Soldier Fish et al on 3/4/1921 petitioned Congress to create the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. 1st body was interred 11-11-1921 with one from each major conflict since.

### OTHER VETERANS GROUPS

Grand Army of the Republic. (GAR) Civil War Vets (North)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Spanish American War

## WHY DO WE NEED ARMED FORCES

John Masters in his Book, Bugels & Tigers states, "An Army exists- to advance by force, or threats of force, civil policies that cannot be advanced by civil methods."

### EARLY CAMPAIGNS

French & Indian War	1754-63
Revolutionary War	1775-1783
2nd War with England	1812
War with Mexico	1846-1848
Civil War	1861-1865
Indian Wars	Westward Movement to 1890s
Spanish American-Phillipines	1898
Occupation of Cuba	1898-1902
China (Boxer Rebellion)	1900-1901
Mexican Border (Pancho Villa)	1911-1917

### MODERN WARS ERA

WW1	4-16-1917 to 11-11-1918
WW2	12- <del>1</del> -1941 to 12-31-1946
Korea	6-25-1950 t, 1-31-1955
Vietnam	2-28-1961 to 5-7-7195
Lebanon-Grenada	8-24-1982 to 7-31-1984
Panama	12-20-1989 to 1-31-1990
Persian Gulf	8-29-1990 to Now
Terrorism	9-11-2001 to Now

## POST 207 HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

National Hdq. of the American Legion on 2-14-21 issued a Charter to Post 207 Stratford S.D. The Charter Members identified on the Charter were: Harry Ward Ashford, Paul Henry Brown, Robert J. Carr, Joseph Alexander Coleman, Dennis F. Daly, Harry E. Falk, Rollie S. Hartwell, Rolfe Harris Hesketh, Sterling Francis Missell, \*Bruno Rock, \*\*Gerhard Charles Stange, Harold Taylor, Lawrence Walking, Robert Wiedenbach.

\* Andy Burke, age 95 (2001) informed as a young man he had worked in the Ford franchise garage operated by Bruno Rock and a brother Herman. New vehicles were shipped in crates via the M& StL RR and assembled in Stratford. The model T was assembled with the shipping crates used as floorboards for the cars. They would then place the vehicle in the back of the garage, near the Presbyterian Church, jack up a rear wheel and run the engine a short time to loosen it up.

\*\* In the summer of 2000, while assisting in identifying members of a 1933 circa Stratford baseball team, Hubert Stange identified Gerhart Charles "Sting" Stange as a member of that team. He was the son of Fred Stange and had brothers Art, Oscar, Eric, Theodore and Fred Jr. This family lived on the farm that is now occupied by Gary McNeil.

State Hdq. Watertown provided the 1921 Roster of Post 207 as follows: Harry W. Ashford, Sigrud Arnston, Marvin Anderson, Paul H. Brown, Robert J. Carr; Joseph Coleman, Charles Gabert, Vivian Criner, Dennis F. Daly, Walter B. Ester, Harry Falk, Leroy Fuller, William N. Jark, Sterling Missell, Alex Minn, v.g. McCleory, Martin Nelson, Bruno Rock, W.A. Rossow, Gerhard C. Stange, Edw. Samuelson, Edw. Solberg, Henry Taylor, Robert Wiedenbach, Lawrence Welking, George W. Burke, Rollie Hartwell and Rolfe H. Hosketh.

## POST 207 ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEARS

1. Memorial Day Ceremonies at area cemeteries
2. Providing firing squad for Veteran's funerals
3. Parading the Colors and participating in local 4th of July celebrations.
4. Since 1941 sponsoring qualified students to attend Boys State
5. The placing of a time capsule near basket ball courts on 7/5/1981
6. 1961 Pheasant and rabbit drives
7. Horse shows at Stratford
8. Currently sponsoring tractor pulls at Stratford
9. Donating funds and time to worthy causes in the Stratford Community.
10. Youth activities. (Baseball and other activities)

The Stratford area has historically been very active in baseball. Kenneth Jark, current Sgt. of Arms, for many years was active in youth baseball, coaching, etc. In 1936 the Stratford Post team defeated the Aberdeen team by a score of 17-1, with the right to represent the Region in the State Tournament at Pierre. A photo of that team was among the personal effects of Earl & Mary Saunders. With the help of Ned Dixon, Gordon Gerharter and Harry E. (Bud) Ashford, all members of the team were identified.

Ned Dixon advised they were defeated 5-3 by Winner. He said they were doing well until a Winner batter hit a line drive inside the 1st base line; the hit then went out of bounds and under some cars parked along the foul line. The right fielder had trouble finding the ball under the cars, and the Winner runners were advancing, gaining the runs that beat Stratford. It was also rumored that Marvin Dunker and Kenneth Olson, after the game, were sought by the Pierre Police Department for allegedly having come into possession of some beer. They were never caught.

There follows a copy of Newspaper article about Post 207 defeating the Aberdeen team. and a picture if the team with all members identified.

# Stratford Drubs City Post Nine In Final, 17 To 1

## BARRAGE OF HITS GIVES LAIRD TEAM STATE MEET POST

(Special to The Evening News)  
STRATFORD—The Stratford junior baseball team went on a slugging rampage here Sunday to take the District 14 championship, routing Aberdeen, 17 to 1, in the finals after coming from behind to beat the strong Columbia team, 15 to 7, in the semi-finals. Aberdeen ousted Hosmer, 7-3, to win the right to play in the deciding encounter.

The victory gave Stratford a berth in the state tournament to be played at Pierre July 31, August 1 and 2. The championship team is coached by Virden Laird.

Trails Columbia, 5-2  
Stratford trailed Columbia 5 to 2 after four innings of the semi-final fray when a combination of base hits and costly errors started the now champions on their scoring spree. They counted six runs in the fifth, added five more in the sixth and capped it off with a pair of counters in the seventh.

The spurge carried over into the Aberdeen encounter and the Hub City team trailed, 10-0, when it went to bat in the last of the third inning.

Some good pitching by Smith and Westerfield featured Aberdeen's triumph over Hosmer. The Hub City boys scored two runs in each of the first three innings, giving them all the counters they required. Vern Neer had a perfect day at bat with three singles. Hosmer got only five hits.

### Nine Hit Safely

Nine of 10 Stratford players hit safely against Columbia with McCaughey getting a triple and two singles to lead the way. Columbia contributed nine errors.

Olsen and Face led the batting spree against Aberdeen moundsmen. Olsen walked once and was hit by a pitched ball, marking the only times he stopped at first base. In his other four trips to the platter he got two doubles, a triple and a homerun, his four-bagger coming in the fifth with one on base. He batted in six runs and scored six more.

Face had two triples and two singles in six times up.

Aberdeen collected 10 hits off Ned Dixon, former Central high school hurler, but they were all singles and 16 Hub City base runners were left stranded. Stratford played brilliant ball in the field while Aberdeen committed seven errors.

The box scores:

Hosmer		Aberdeen	
a	h	a	h
Nystrom 2b	2 0 2 0	Lenihan 2b	3 1 2 2
Gisl c	2 1 2 1	Zerr ss	4 2 0 1
Sonnenfeld ss	3 0 1 1	Haldeman cf	3 1 2 0
Gross p	3 0 0 2	Lutgen 3b	2 1 0 0
Piets cf	3 0 0 0	Porter rf	3 0 0 0
Schumehr M	2 1 0 0	Yarabek rf	0 0 0 0
Bachman 3b	1 2 5 0	Stevenson 1b	0 0 0 0
Neer 3b	1 1 0 0	B. Westrlid	0 0 0 0
Walth rf	3 0 0 0	Solberg M	3 0 0 0
		Neer c	2 1 0 3
		Smith p	2 0 0 1
		V. Westrlid p	1 0 2 0
Totals	25 5 15 5	Totals	27 9 21 8

Hosmer		Aberdeen	
a	h	a	h
Hosmer	110	100	0-3
Aberdeen	222	010	x-7

Errors—Aberdeen 1, Hosmer 4. Two base hit—Lenihan. Home run—Lutgen. Double play—Nystrom unassisted. Left on bases—Aberdeen 4, Hosmer 4. Bases on balls—Gross 1, Smith 2, Westerfield 1. Strikeouts—Smith 5, Westerfield 2, Gross 2.

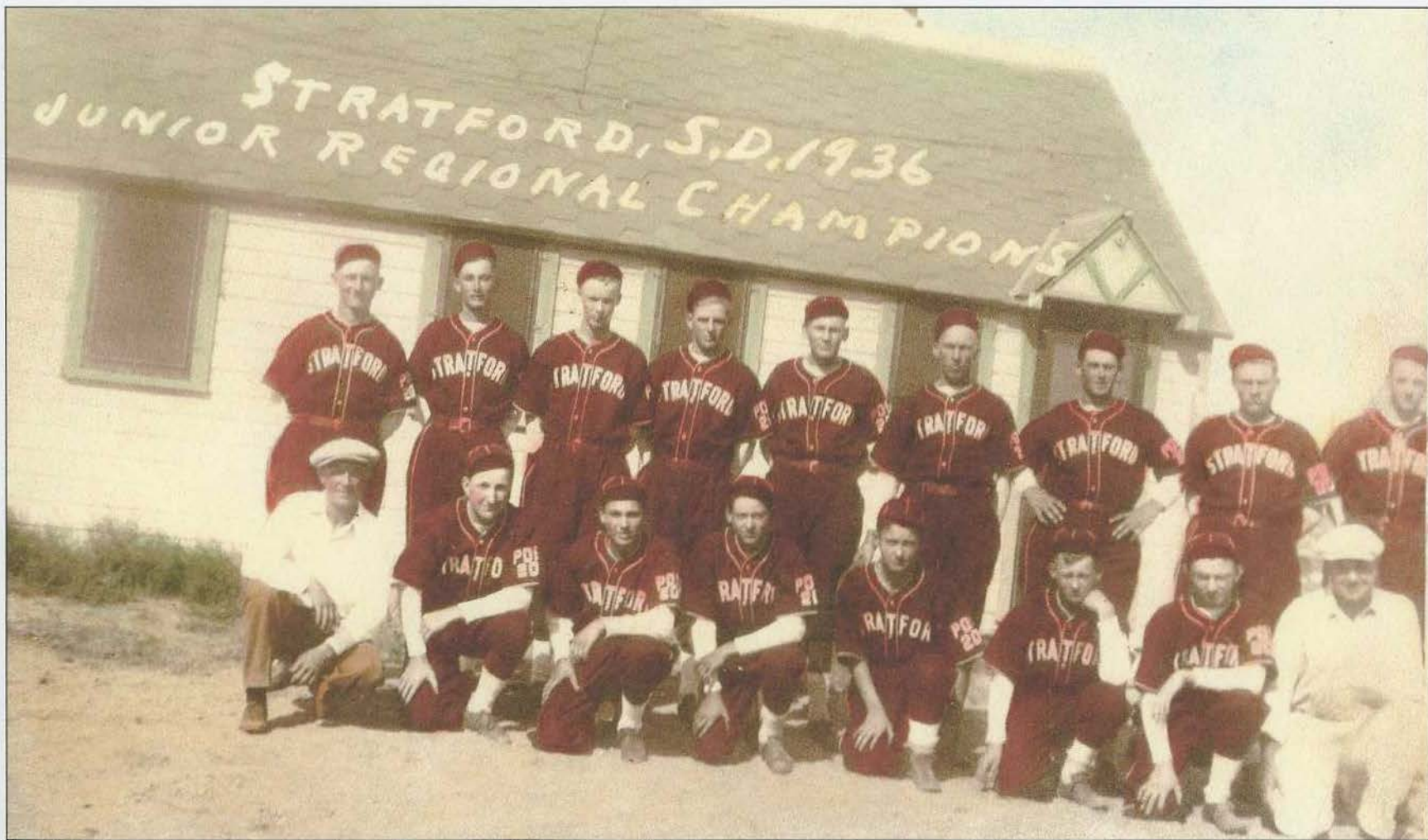
Stratford		Columbia	
a	h	a	h
Olsen cf	4 2 0 0	Morris ss	3 1 0 2
Luke cf	0 0 1 0	Vickers 2b	3 2 0 3
Face p	5 1 2 2	Fesser 3b-rf	4 2 2 0
Floas 1b	5 2 4 1	Knuck 1b	4 0 0 0
McCaughey rf	5 3 2 0	Grace p-3b-ss	4 0 2 2
Ehrke c	5 2 3 1	Stoer cf	3 1 3 0
Dayton 2b	4 1 4 1	Krage lf	4 1 1 0
Dunker 3b	4 2 1 2	Franky c	4 0 7 0
Svarstad ss	5 0 3 0	Podoll rf	1 1 0 0
Gerharter lf	3 1 0 0	Wahl 3b	1 0 0 0
		Schaunaman	0 0 0 0
		p-ss	0 0 0 0
Totals	40 14 21 8	Totals	32 8 21 7

Stratford .....000 265 2-15  
Columbia .....101 302 0-7  
Errors—Stratford 8, Columbia 9. Two base hits—Floas, Morris, Fesser. Three base hits—Olsen, McCaughey. Left on bases—Stratford 6, Columbia 6. Bases on balls—Grace 2, Schaunaman 1, Face 3. Strikeouts—Grace 5, Face 3.

Stratford		Aberdeen	
a	h	a	h
Olsen cf	4 4 0 0	Lenihan 2b	5 2 1 2
Face 2b	4 4 4 2	Zerr ss	3 1 1 2
Floas 1b	5 0 7 0	Haldeman cf	4 1 0 0
McCaughey cf	6 2 0 0	Lutgen p	3 1 0 2
Ehrke c	4 1 1 2	B. Westrlid	3 0 1 2
Dunker 3b	5 0 1 1	1b-3b	2 0 1 2
Svarstad ss	4 0 0 0	Porter rf	4 1 0 0
Luke lf	3 0 0 0	Solberg	1 0 0 0
Gerharter lf	2 0 1 0	Smith 2b-c	5 0 0 0
Dixon p	5 1 2 1	Neer c	2 1 0 0
		Yarabek lf	1 1 0 0
		Hayman 1b	1 0 0 0
		Miller 3b	2 1 0 1
		V. Westrlid p	2 0 0 1
Totals	44 12 27 7	Totals	37 10 27 12

Stratford .....334 010 202-17  
Aberdeen .....001 000 000-1  
Errors—Aberdeen 7, Stratford 1. Two base hits—Olsen 2, McCaughey. Three base hits—Olsen, Face 2, Ehrke. Home run—Olsen. Left on bases—Aberdeen 16, Stratford 2. Bases on balls—Dixon 4, Lutgen 2, Westerfield 1. Strikeouts—Dixon 11, Lutgen 7, Westerfield 5. Umpires—Werner, McCaughey and Knox.



Back Row: Marvin Dunker, Ned Dixon, Eugene Svarstad, Kenneth Johnson, Orval Westby, Alan Eerke, Albert Face  
Kenneth Olson, Raymond Floan

Front Row: Bill Rossow, Marvin Luke, Ray Dayton, Gordon Gerharter, Mathew Rawlings, Harry E. (Bud) Ashford,  
Bob McCoyghey, Verdon Laird

## THE GREATEST GENERATION WW2

State involvement	64,560 enlisted or inducted		
	2,200 paid supreme sacrifice		
Brown County	Population	<u>1940</u> 29676	<u>1945</u> 29317
	Total Service	3309	
	Drafted	1735	
	Enlisted	1527	
	% of population	11.2%	

### Draft Boards

Stratford	C.L. Pardun
Warner	T.E. Neiger
Verdon	R.A. Mathieu
Groton	Charles Lundberg

WHERE WERE YOU ON 12/7/1941

Data set forth above set forth in South Dakota in World War 11.



STRATFORD AREA VETERANS WW2

12-6-41 TO 12-31-46

Stratford High School Graduates

Class 1933	Rudolph Bartz, Naval Officer, Joliet, IL
Class of 1934	Joseph Bunsness
Class of 1935	Gordon Schlick- Armed Forces Doctor <i>NO</i>
Class of 1936	Vernon Gerharter- Bethesda Home, Aberdeen-saw action S. Pacific
Class of 1937	Melvin Schley-Deceased
Class of 1938	Clifford Moulton-deceased Harvey Erickson-deceased Raymond Floan, Toppinish, WA Gail Brimmerman, Manhattan IL
Class of 1939	Mathew Rawlings, deceased Kenneth Olson, deceased Ervin Wood, deceased (POW) Kermit Schley, Sun City, AZ <i>NO</i> Vernon Misslitz, Aberdeen, S.D. -
Class of 1940	Jack Stewart, Vermillion, SD
Class of 1942	Donald Misslitz, deceased Dale Dayton, Aberdeen, SD
Class of 1943	Earl (Dick) McNeil, Warner, SD Clarence Erickson, Groton, SD Knolen Face, Forrest Lake, MN Thomas E. Saunders, Aberdeen, SD Raymond Schley, Burbank, Cal.
Class of 1944	Robert Rock, Fairmont, MN
Class of 1945	Marvin Schley, Aberdeen, SD <i>NO</i>

Other-area-Veterans

Kenneth Bunsness  
Marcus Bunsness  
Eugene Cramp  
Earl Dayton  
Robert Dayton  
Dale Dunker  
Wallace Dunker  
Dick Erdman  
Lynn Erdman  
George Floan

Melvin Floan  
 Lloyd Larson  
 Curtis Misslitz  
 Dale Moulton  
 Verl Radke  
 Ralph Peterson  
 Clarence Robinson  
 Maurice Samuelson  
 Laverne G. Saunders  
 Melvin A. Schley  
 Orville Schlichting  
 Floyd Stoltenberg

AREA VETERANS KILLED IN ACTION

(KIA)

Stratford

0

Scandanavian Comm.

Albert Svarstad Lt. J.G. Navy  
 Martin K. Westby, Ist Lt. Army

Groton-Ferney

Vern C Insley PFC, USMC Buried at Sea  
 Wallace E. Karnopp S1/c US Navy

Warner

Telford Morgan, Ensign US Navy

Brentford

George A. Winters, S/Sgt. US Army  
 Lynn B. Peterson Ist Lt. USArmy AF (Air Medal)

Conde

None Known

Brown County

Army	45
Navy	13
usmc	<u>7</u>

65 2.2% population of Brown Co.

The awards break down into several fields which are set out below:

<b>Heroism</b>	<b>Exceptional Service</b>	<b>Heroism and or Exceptional Service</b>
Medal of Honor	Distinguished Service Medal	Distinguished Flying Cross
Distinguished Service Cross	Legion of Merit	
Navy Cross	Commendation Ribbon	Bronze Star Medal
Silver Star		Air Medal

There are three other medals which are fairly common and which do not fall exactly within the above classifications. These are the Soldiers Medal, given for heroism but not involving an actual enemy, as for example, a heroic rescue from drowning of anyone but not in the presence of an enemy. Navy and Marine Corps Medal, "for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy" and the Purple Heart, revived in 1932 and given retroactively to men who had received a combat wound and given in World War II to men who were combat wounded or posthumously to men killed in action or who died of wounds so received.

During the war it was obvious that the Air Corps, with its Air Medal, given basically for participation or "being there" on a flight or designated number of flights whether unusual efficiency was demonstrated or unusual danger encountered was "putting out" medals in great numbers while the doughboys had to do something of great individual merit to be recognized. Thus the "combat infantryman's badge" was invented to give the foot soldier a like prestige for "being there". Since the end of the war this badge has been recognized as the equivalent of a "Bronze Star" but unfortunately has been listed infrequently on discharge certificates so that "of record" its existence is hard to ascertain or authenticate. All of these facts are set out as an introduction to the selected lists of men decorated that the non-military public may be better acquainted both with the medals and the methods of awarding them.

Above from South Dakota in World War II.

South Dakota in World War II, pages 509 & 502 contained the following:

Awarded the Silver Star

**ERDMAN, LYNN**, 37 144 307, Tech. 4th Grade, Spink Co.:

"In Germany 20th November 1944, T/4 Erdman engaged in carrying survey control in a extensive system of enemy defenses \* \* \* front tapeman of this survey party stepped on a mine which blew away both feet, one of his fingers and broke both legs. \* \* \* Erdman disregarding warnings of the wounded man not to proceed, crawled toward him, probing his way with a small knife and reaching the wounded man carried him to safety"

Selflessness goes hand in hand with humanitarianism and any soldier who has seen a comrade killed in a mine field Erdman's action knows the determination it took to effect this rescue.



**SAUNDERS, LAVERNE G.**,

0-17 285, Brigadier General, Aberdeen

"for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession while in command of a group of bombers and fighters during the raid on Japanese shipping in the Buin-Tonolei area on November 18th, 1942. In the face of severe anti-aircraft and enemy fighter opposition Colonel Saunders successfully led his planes in a daring daylight bombing raid on enemy shipping. At least two 1,000-lb. bomb hits were scored on enemy vessels and twelve enemy aircraft were destroyed. After his own aircraft was badly damaged and it became necessary to land his plane in enemy territory, he skillfully accomplished a water landing near shore, thereby permitting the remaining members of his crew to reach safety. His brilliant leadership and his will and determination to seek out and destroy the enemy were in keeping with the highest tradition of the service."

General Saunders who was later most seriously wounded, resulting in a crippling injury, was perhaps South

Dakota's most decorated individual. In addition to the Navy Cross given by a sister service he was cited for the Distinguished Service medal for action of July 31st, 1942; Legion of Merit for services in 1943 as a staff officer; Silver Star for gallantry in action, July 31st, 1942; Air Medal for the period March to September, 1944; Distinguished Flying Cross for exploits of October 12th and 13th, 1942, and he also was cited for the Bronze Star. General Saunders piloted the first bombardment airplane in World War II on December 7th, 1941. He was first wounded on November 18, 1942 and was in one of the first missions against Japan on June 14th, 1944, against the Imperial Iron and Steel Works at Yawata. Wounded again on September 18th, 1944, his injuries were so sever as to require hospitalization for some eighteen months.

(Close)

"GOD must have loved the common man, he made so many of them. But it is uncommon men and women, who when Nations get in danger, as they invariably do, must come to the fore and lead."

Abraham Lincoln

## APPENDIX C

### Leland Gale Stange

Leland Gale Stange, 59, Aberdeen, died Monday, April 2, 2001 at his residence. His funeral service will be Friday, April 6, 2001 at 10:00 am at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1620 Milwaukee Ave., NE, Aberdeen, with Rev. Allan Schoonover officiating. Burial will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Miller-Huebl Funeral Home, 1111 S. Main St., Aberdeen. Military graveside rites will be conducted by the Stratford American Legion Post No. 207.



Funeral home visitation will be Thursday from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm (with family being present starting at 6:00 pm). A public prayer service will be held at the funeral home at 7:00 pm on Thursday. There will also be visitation one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Leland Gale Stange was born February 15, 1942 to Ewald and Edna M. (Reber) Stange at Aberdeen, SD. He attended grade school in Stratford, SD and graduated from Bath High School in 1960. He then joined the Army National Guard in 1963 and was honorably discharged on December 9, 1969.

He married Nancy Swenson on May 13, 1967 at Aberdeen, SD. In 1970, he began farming and ran a dairy operation near Stratford, SD where he and his family lived. In 1982 they moved to Groton and he continued to farm. He later moved to Aberdeen and continued actively farming with his two sons.

Leland was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, the Aberdeen Family YMCA and the Stratford American Legion. He served as Director

of the West Central Holstein Association and was a Board Director of the Ferney Farmers Elevator.

He enjoyed snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, collecting John Deere toys and car racing. He also

enjoyed visiting with his friends and spending time with his family. He will always be remembered for his unending wit and humor.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy of Aberdeen, SD; two sons, Darin Stange of Stratford, SD and Douglas and Vicci Stange and their daughter Alexandra of Groton, SD; and three brothers, Dennis Stange of Brandon, SD and Verlin Stange and Gary Stange, both of Stratford, SD.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister.

Casketbearers will be Terry Stange, Jerry Stange, Brenda Hall, Allison Fritz, Heather Fritz, Scott Kampa, Laura Jark and Mike Lonneman.

Honorary casketbearers will be Pastor Allan and De Schoonover, Duane and Terrill Lenling, Duane and Mary Jane Jark, Connie and Allen Hoeft, Jack and Maggie Oliver, Milt and Mary Ellen Ehresmann, Don and Carolyn Lang, Rick and Lynn Reber, Dick Rossow, Joan Walter, Pat and Irvin Lonneman, Helen and Leo Bauer, Rich and Mary Jane Entwisle, Harold and May Pardeew, Ray and Gayle Miller and Marlene Jark.

Memorials are preferred to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1620 Milwaukee Avenue NE, Aberdeen, SD 57401, The YMCA, 420 S. Lincoln St., Aberdeen, SD 57401 or the Stratford American Legion, 220 East McLeod Avenue, Stratford, SD 57474.

## APPENDIX D

### EARLY HISTORY OF POST 207

#### ELDERKIN P. ASHFORD STORY

Mrs. Terril Schuman Lenling had provided a 1921 photo of the membership of Post 207, taken in front of the Ashford house SW of Stratford and near Rondell Park. These men were wearing their WWI uniforms. Few men were identified, those being Ward Ashford, Bill Jark, Sigrud Annston, Ed Samuelson and Bruno Rock. An unidentified civilian was holding the US and Post Flags.

Later, Marilyn Wilke Gramley furnished a copy of the Stratford HS newspaper "The Saga," dated May 15, 1952 which contained the following paragraph. "The steel liberty post which stands at the East end of Main Street was erected during the first years of World War 1. It was upon this post that Elderkin P. Ashford, a Veteran of the Civil War, hoisted the American Flag during the patriotic demonstration. The auction which was held at this time netted 18 hundred dollars of which five hundred dollars in cash was donated. All money was given to the Red Cross.

Harry E. (Bud) Ashford, while visiting this area in the Fall of 2001, identified the civilian, holding the unfurled flags in the picture of 1921 taken in front of the Ashford house as his grandfather Elderkin P. Ashford.

The Alexander Mitchell Library has indices of those buried in the various cemeteries in Brown County SD. The records show that Elderkin P. Ashford had died 8-22-1931 and was buried at Oakwood Cemetery (West Rondell). He had come to Rondell Twp. in 1892. During the Civil War he was a sergeant in Company A, 23rd Iowa Infantry. Besides being an honorary member of the American Legion Post of Stratford, he was a member of the GAR, Grand Army of the Republic, Des Moines Iowa.

Mr. Ashford had three sons who resided at Rondell residence, Fred, Frank and Ward. Frank Ashford is the famous artist whose works were displayed in the Brown County Museum during 2001. Ward is the father of Bud Ashford and moved to Oregon during the dirty thirties - depression times. Fred

remained on the farm until his death. The farm site was once occupied by Richard Francolli and is currently being restored by its current owner.

Dr. Art Buntin, in his 2001 book James River Landscapes Historic Brown County Sites contains the following, "Rondell became noted for its observance of Decoration or Memorial Day. The Daily News of June 6 1892, reported Rondellites and people of nearby towns observed Decoration Day at Oakwood Cemetery where they focused on the grave of E.P. Rose. Recitations and choir singing followed the grave ceremony; then the people moved to Humphrey's hall where Aberdeen's Reverend Knight spoke." "By 1898 America had veterans of the Spanish American War to honor as well as the Civil War. This added an even more serious and patriotic tone to the 1898 event." "Traditionally, three sites were involved: the hall (Humphrey), the Oak Grove Cemetery which was about a mile from the Rondell bridge , and Humphrey's grove." "From the hall a procession formed to walk and to ride toward the cemetery. Early in the day for miles along the roadways teams streamed toward Humphrey's hall to be ready for the 10:30 AM procession. Warner and Rondell school children led the procession, and behind them Aberdeen's Captain J.H. Hauser led the GAR members. Next walked the W.R.C. ladies followed by the Woodmen and others in carriages. They honored with flowers, wreaths and prayers, the Civil War and Spanish American War Veterans. The speaker of the day, Captain Hauser, had been staying at the home of E.P. Ashford, now a six year owner of the former Allen Star Farm."



# ASHFORD,

Abdn. Daily News  
17 Dec. 1894

## SOUTH DAKOTA PORKERS

E. P. Ashford of the "Star Farm," tops the market at Sioux City.

Sioux City Tribune: E. P. Ashford, of Aberdeen, was at market with a car of hogs of his own raising, which topped the market at \$1.40. Mr. Ashford has started a campaign of education among the farmers of his locality. He began with thoroughbred stock and as a result hogs fattowed and fed on his "Star Farm" have topped the market for two years in succession, this year and last. The load sold today were spring pigs, including three July pigs, fed on ground wheat and corn, soaked and fed separately. They averaged 275 pounds. They were undoubtedly the finest lot of hogs ever received at this market from a point so far north and demonstrates both Mr. Ashford's ability as a breeder and feeder and the profit which farmers of that country may reap if they will do likewise.

# Elder Kin P.

22 Aug. 1931 p. 2

## ged Civil War Vet, E. P. Ashford Passes

d. 20 Aug. 1931

### Brown County Pioneer Dies After Three Months Illness

Elderkin P. Ashford, aged veteran of the Civil war, early resident of Rondell township and highly respected citizen of Brown county, passed the silent because of the soldier dead at 12:15 a m this morning at his farm home near Stratford according to word received here today.

Death came after an illness which has kept him confined to his bed since June. Growing gradually weaker he passed into a state of coma Monday, from which he did not fully rally before his death. He lacked only four months of being 90 years old at the time of his passing.

Mr. Ashford was born in Indiana on December 8, 1841. When still a small boy he moved with his parents to Des Moines where he made his home until 1892 when he came to South Dakota and settled in Rondell township, where he has lived ever since.

During the Civil war he was a sergeant in Company A, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, serving over three years. Mr. Ashford had planned to attend the G. A. R. convention to be held in Des Moines this year.

Besides being an honorary member of the American Legion of Stratford he was a member of the G. A. R. post of Des Moines.

One brother, M. E. Fagon of Perry, Ia., and three sons, Fred, Frank and Ward, all of whom live at home. Mrs. Ashford preceded her husband in death two years ago. Funeral services will be held at the Wilson Funeral home at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon with Dr. A. H. Seymour officiating. Interment will be made in the family lot at Rondell cemetery.

23 Aug. 1931 p. 2

## ASHFORD SERVICES TO BE HELD HERE TUESDAY

Funeral services for Elderkin P. Ashford, Civil war veteran, early resident of Fondell township and highly esteemed citizen of Brown county, will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Wilson Funeral home with Dr. A. H. Seymour officiating. Interment will be in the family lot at Fondell cemetery.

Mr. Ashford passed away at his home near Stratford at 12:15 a m. yesterday morning.

Death came after an illness which has kept him confined to his bed since June. Growing gradually weaker he passed into a state of coma Monday, from which he did not fully rally before his death. He lacked only four months of being 90 years old at the time of his death.

Mr. Ashford was born in Indiana on December 8, 1841. When still a small boy he moved with his parents to Des Moines where he made his home until 1892 when he came to South Dakota and settled in Rondell township where he has since resided.

During the Civil war he was a sergeant in Company A, 23rd Iowa Infantry, serving over three years. Mr. Ashford had planned to attend the G. A. R. convention to be held in Des Moines this year.

Besides being an honorary member of the American Legion of Stratford he was a member of the G. A. R. post of Des Moines.

One brother, M. E. Fagon of Perry, Ia., and three sons, Fred, Frank and Ward, all of whom live at home survive him. Mrs. Ashford preceded her husband in death two years ago.

(over)

14 Sept 1898 p 2 ADA

#### AN IDEAL LEGISLATOR.

E. P. Ashford of Rondell, Republican nominee for the state senate, is a man with a history and a standard bearer of whom the party has good reason to feel proud. He is one of the most successful farmers in the county and a man of excellent business ability as well as high personal integrity. He has a splendid war record besides and is a fine representative of the soldier element in the community. He enlisted in Company A of the Twenty-third Iowa Infantry in August, 1862, and was mustered out as a sergeant in July, 1865. He was offered a promotion but declined because he did not desire to separate from the boys with whom he had marched, fought and suffered so long. During all this time he never had a furlough, but was constantly on duty and participated in every march of his regiment. His discharge shows he took part in the battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Milliken's Bend, the siege of Vicksburg, Fort Esparanza and Spanish Fort, Alabama. The Iowa State Register, published at Des Moines, where he made his home for many years, in its issue of the 7th inst. comments as follows upon his nomination and gives him this recommendation to the people of South Dakota:

Mr. E. P. Ashford, a former resident of Des Moines, has just been nominated by the Republicans of Brown county South Dakota, to represent them in the state senate. Mr. Ashford came to Des Moines as a member of the family of Hezekiah Fagan in May, 1848, and has made his home here nearly ever since, until he moved to South Dakota six years ago. Mr. Ashford began voting the Republican ticket in 1862, while he was serving his country as a member of Company A, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, in which regiment he served from July, 1862 to the close of the war, and was on every march the regiment made, and in every battle it fought, including the entire campaign of Vicksburg with all its battles, and in the great charge at Big Black River bridge, May 17, 1863, in which the Twenty-third Iowa, led by Mr. Ashford, was credited with being the first man to enter the rebel breastworks, and out of thirty-six men of Company A in the charge, nineteen were killed and wounded. Mr. Ashford also took part in the entire campaign at Mobile, Ala.; he crossed the Gulf of Mexico five times during the war, and was mustered out of service at Harrisburg, Texas, in July, 1865. After the war Mr. Ashford attended college at the state university and the Baptist college of Des Moines, and afterwards went to farming and stock raising, and later was in the pork packing business, as a member of the firm of Lane & Kingman. If Mr. Ashford makes the success as a lawmaker that he did as a soldier, farmer and business man while in Iowa, South

Dakota need have no fears of the result in electing him to the state senate.

It will be seen from this that Mr. Ashford is a man whom the people of Brown county should delight to honor and a man in whom they can place implicit trust. The News has sufficient confidence in their good judgment to believe they will give him a rousing majority on the 8th day of November and show to his old friends in Iowa that they appreciate a good man when he is placed before them. He will make an ideal representative and will come home next March with a record as spotless as his past.

Wednesday, December 10, 1930.

## Capture Of Confederate Colonel Among Highlights In Life Of Brown Countian

E. P. Ashford, Pioneer of Rondell Township, Celebrates  
90th Birthday

Serving for three years in the Civil war, casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln for president, serving in the state legislature, capturing a Confederate colonel single handed and playing a major part in the building of the northwest are just a few of the dramatic incidents in the life of E. P. Ashford, pioneer of Rondell township who Monday celebrated his 90th birthday.

Although bowed by the burden of 90 years, Mr. Ashford is still hale and hearty. His keen mind, in spite of his advanced age, is of a alert and his physical health is excellent.

Mr. Ashford was born in Indiana, September 8, 1840, an only child after dying when he was a year old. His mother married again and the family moved to Iowa to what is now known as Des Moines. The town then was an army outpost where a few soldiers quartered as a precaution against Indian attacks. It was there that he and his step-father founded the first grist mill in the untamed west.

### Joins Army

At the outbreak of the Civil war Mr. Ashford was one of the first to join. He enlisted in Company A, 13rd Iowa Volunteers at age 25 and was later promoted to sergeant.

During the great interior fight, he saw three years of constant service. During those three bloody years, Mr. Ashford saw only one but thirty of his comrades down in battle but he escaped without a wound.

He participated in the bloody making battles of Milliken Bend, Black River Bridge, Siege of Vicksburg and Mobile. He was an active member of many other other engagements during the war.

### Comes to South Dakota

For several years prior to 1892, he was engaged in packing business in Des Moines. In the fall of 1892 Mr. Ashford moved to South Dakota, purchasing the Ambrose Allen farm at Rondell where he has since made his home. His wife departed this life last fall after many years as an invalid.

In the year of 1899, Mr. Ashford was elected to the state senate from Brown county where he served for one term. Leaving the legislature at the expiration of his term, he settled again on the farm.

As far as can be learned he is the oldest living member of the Grand Army of the Republic residing in Brown county at the present time. Comrade M. M. Brown is 95, but he makes his home at the Old Soldiers home at Hot Springs. The remaining veterans who live in Aberdeen are still in the eighties.

An ideal day greeted the hardy old pioneer on the dawn of his 90th year. Going about his usual duties of the day, the kind old gentleman looked years younger than what his age states he is. Today he has started out on a new year and unless some unforeseen affliction strikes him down, Mr. Ashford has excellent possibilities of celebrating several more birthdays before feebleness overtakes him in the declining years of life's long hard battle.

### Captures Colonel

At Black River Bridge his regiment lost heavily and his colonel was killed. An Iowa history of Civil war states that Mr. Ashford was first over the breastworks at this battle and while slightly ahead of his comrades, he rounded a brush heap where he surprised and captured a Confederate colonel. When the officer surrendered, he gave Sergeant Ashford his sword, which was handsomely engraved with gold and silver.

This trophy of war was carried by Ashford for several weeks, but while on the march, he gave it to his commanding officer, Major Houston. Since that time Mr. Ashford declared that many times he has regretted the fact that he gave the sword away.

### Votes for Lincoln

When old enough to vote, Mr. Ashford cast his first ballot for Lincoln who was running for president. In his diary which he kept during the war, this short but somewhat dramatic entry was found "Blakely, Alabama, Thursday, April 20, 1865. The news came this evening that President Lincoln, Secretary Seward and several others were assassinated. What a blow to our government. Death to traitors is my prayer."

Mr. Ashford was mustered out of service July 25, 1865 at Harrisburg, Texas. Returning to civil life, he lived in and near Des Moines for many years engaging in farming. During this time he was married to Cassie Harriet Taylor. There were five children born to this happy union.

30 March 1915 A DN

E. P. Ashford spent a day at the county seat this week. Mr. Ashford and his son, Fred, have expressed a willingness to take care of a few of the Chinese pheasants which the state and county game wardens are desirous of placing in places where conditions are favorable to their increasing in numbers. Surely the groves at the Ashford farm would provide ideal places for any kind of fowls if any such conditions can be found in the state. Upwards of 200 acres of woodland, both natural and cultivated, are there to be found and with the river and cultivated fields close by the birds should do well.

# Wave it proud, but wave it right...

It is important to show patriotism, but it is also important to follow the U.S. Flag Code when displaying the Stars and Stripes. Here are answers to frequently asked questions:

## Old Glory glossary

**Flag Code:** U.S. code that provides guidelines for flag etiquette, use and display.

**Union:** The white stars on the field of blue.

**Flag's own right:** The 'right' as the position of honor originates from the time when the right hand was the weapon hand – or a point of danger. The right hand, to an observer, is the observer's left. Therefore, as used in the Flag Code, the flag and/or flag's union is displayed to the observer's left, which is the flag's own right.

**Half-staff:** Position of the flag when it is at one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. To place a flag at half-staff, it should first be hoisted to the peak for an instant, then lowered to its position. A flag at half-staff indicates that the nation mourns the death of an individual or a group.

## Showing respect



**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recite the pledge while standing at attention, facing the flag, right hand over heart, headcoverings removed. Persons in uniform should remain silent and render the military salute.

**National Anthem:** When the anthem is played, all present should stand at attention, facing the flag (or music if no flag is displayed), right hand over heart, with headcoverings removed. Persons in uniform should remain silent and render the military salute from the playing of the first note until the playing of the final note.

## The time is right

**When to display:** An all-weather flag can be flown daily, even during inclement weather. However, you are urged to display the flag on certain days each year.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ New Year's Day</li> <li>■ Inauguration Day</li> <li>■ Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday</li> <li>■ Lincoln's Birthday</li> <li>■ Washington's Birthday</li> <li>■ Easter Sunday</li> <li>■ Mother's Day</li> <li>■ Armed Forces Day</li> <li>■ Memorial Day*</li> <li>■ Flag Day</li> <li>■ Independence Day</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Labor Day</li> <li>■ Constitution Day</li> <li>■ Columbus Day</li> <li>■ Navy Day</li> <li>■ Veterans Day</li> <li>■ Thanksgiving Day</li> <li>■ Christmas Day</li> <li>■ Any day proclaimed by the President of the United States</li> <li>■ Anniversaries of states' admission to the Union</li> <li>■ State Holidays</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

\* **Half-staff:** The flag should be displayed in this position from sunrise until noon on Memorial Day. Other occasions to place the flag at half-staff include:

- When proclaimed by the president or a governor
- For varying periods of time after the death of a national figure

## Perfect position

**Staff display:** When displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from a window sill, balcony or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.



**Display without a staff:** When displayed horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right.



In a window, the flag should be displayed the same way as viewed from the street.

When suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

**Night display:** A flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

Proper illumination includes a light placed specifically to illuminate the flag or a light source – such as a porch or street light – sufficient to make the flag recognizable as such by a casual observer.



**Display with other flags:** When other flags are flown on the same halyard as a U.S. Flag, the latter should always be at the peak. When flown from adjacent staffs, the U.S. Flag should be hoisted first and lowered last, with no other flag above it or to the flag's own right.

**Casket flags:** It is acceptable for a flag used to cover a casket to be used again for any proper display purpose after a funeral. It is, in fact, considered a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased veteran and their service to a grateful nation.



**Learn more:** The information on this page is only a small portion of the U.S. Flag Code as interpreted by the Americanism division of The American Legion. For more information on flag etiquette, go to [www.legion.org/americanism/flagtoc.htm](http://www.legion.org/americanism/flagtoc.htm), or visit your local library.

## Folding

The Flag Code does not specify how to fold the flag. The traditional method forms a triangle to symbolize the hat worn by Revolutionary War soldiers.



**START:** Hold flag flat between two people. The flag should never touch the ground during folding.



**STEP 1** Fold lengthwise; bring striped half up over union.



**STEP 2** Fold lengthwise; bring bottom edge up to meet top edge; union should be on top.



**STEP 3** Fold lower right-hand corner to upper edge to form a triangle.



**STEP 4** Fold triangle toward union; turn outer point in along upper edge to form a second triangle.

**STEP 5** Continue to fold flag in triangles until the length of the flag is folded.

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**POST NO. 207**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**STRATFORD, SD 57474**

**2003**

**HISTORY  
OF  
POST NO. 207  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
STRATFORD, S.D. 57474  
FOR  
4-1-02 TO 4-1-03  
BY: THOMAS E. SAUNDERS**



## INTRODUCTION

This is the third history prepared of Stratford Legion Post 207. Effort was devoted to identify those Civil War, Spanish American War, and WWI Veterans who resided in this area and became members of Post 207 when granted its charter in 1921. We also identified those Civil War and Spanish American War Veterans buried in the three cemeteries the Post visits on Memorial Day.

Brown County was opened to Homesteading in the early 1880's. Access to an 1890 census of Civil War Veterans then residing in the County was of great assistance in preparing this document. There are still descendents of those original homesteaders residing in this County. Stratford was founded in 1906 and contributed many of its youth to the Armed Forces in WWI. Most who returned became Legion members when Post 207 was granted its charter in 1921.

Post 207 has had several families who have had multiple family members in service to their country since WWI. **Father/Son:** Ed & Maurice Samuelson; William & Kenneth Jark; George "Pat" Hansen Jr. & Harley Hansen; Verril & Robert Radke; **Father/Daughter:** Eugene Face & Korinne Face; **Husband/Wife:** Vern Prickett & Korinne Face; **Brothers:** George "Pat" Hansen Jr. & Mike Hansen; **Brother/Sister:** Gregg Milbrandt & Wendy Milbrandt.

The following families had three sons in the service at the same time during WW2: **Dayton:** Earl, Robert & Dale; **Floan:** Melvin, George & Raymond; **Carmine:** Lee, Darrel & Owen (Owen was actually in Merchant Marine); **Erdmann:** Lynn, Richard, and Jack Holcomb (a half brother); **Misslitz:** Vernon, Donald, and Curtis.

We have had two of our Post Members called to Active Duty, viz., Harley Hansen USNR, and Greg Milbrandt SD Army Reserve Unit. Greg was called to active duty on 2/12/03. He is with a truck maintenance group and expects to see overseas duty.

Thanks are extended to Kelly Face who located some obituaries of Civil War Veterans and to Kathy Williams who assisted in scanning and publication of this document.

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**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA**

---

**PREAMBLE**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America and of the State of South Dakota; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might, to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

## CHAPTER 1

### ROSTER OF POST OFFICERS

#### COMMANDER



**DUANE JARK**; Service # NG27790360. Spec. 5, SD National Guard. Served 11/63 to 11/69 (Vietnam).  
MOS: Fire Director  
Civilian Occupation: Elevator operator.  
Resides 220 McLeod Ave., Box 453, Stratford, SD  
Telephone: 605-395-6549.  
32-year member Post 207.

#### VICE-COMMANDER



**GREG G. MILBRANDT**; SN 503-0403000. Specialist F/C US Army. Active Reserve; Served Gulf War. Active 1985 to Present. MSO Cavalry Scout 19D, 88Mheavy Vehicle Driver. Decorations SW Asia Service: Army Achievement Medal, SD Dist. Service Award, Good Conduct, Overseas Medal, Reserve Component award.  
Civilian Occupation: Welder  
4-year member Post 207  
Greg recalled to active duty February 12, 2003.

## ADJUTANT



**VERN PRICKETT**; SN 503-76-7885. Served in both the USMC and US Army. In combined service from 1975 to Feb 1999 (Desert Storm).

MOS: Transportation Officer.

Civilian Occupation: Milkman

Resides: P.O. Box 348, Stratford, SD.

Telephone: 605-395-6911

## SGT. AT ARMS



**KENNETH JARK**; SN US 55371683. Cpl. US Army 4/53 to 4/55 (Korea). MOS: Company Clerk.

Civilian Occupation: Farmer/auctioneer.

Resides at 401 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE, Aberdeen, SD.

Telephone: 605-225-1510

48-year member Post 207

## HISTORIAN



**THOMAS E. SAUNDERS**; ASN 17144088; Sgt. US Army Air Corp. 9/10/43 to 3/19/46 (WW2). Central Fire Cont. Gunner B-29 bomber.

Civilian Occupation: SA FBI retired, VP Dakotah Bank retired.

Resides: 1515 E. Melgaard Rd. # 102, Aberdeen, SD.

Phone: 605-229-5349

22-year member Post 207

## CHAPLAIN



**EUGENE FACE**, SN 503-46-7433. E-6 USAF & SD NG. Served from 2/53 to 6/62 (Korea).

MOS: Aircraft Mech.

Resides: 39815 147<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD

Telephone 605-395-6608.

40-year member Post 207.

Eugene is also the father of Korinne Face, and they are the only father-daughter combination in the Post.

**CHAPTER 2**  
**ROSTER OF POST CHAIRS**

**MEMBERSHIP**



**VERLIN STANGE; SN 17527556**  
PFC US Army 11/1/61 to 8/9/63 (Berlin  
Crisis). MOS: Surveyor.  
Civilian Occupation: Farmer  
Resides: 14393 397<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD  
Telephone: 605-395-6419  
7-year member Post 207



## **AMERICANISM OFFICER**



**RONALD "JACK" GUBIN**; SN RA 17371827.

PFC US Army 1/53 to 1/56 (Korea).

MOS: Truck Driver

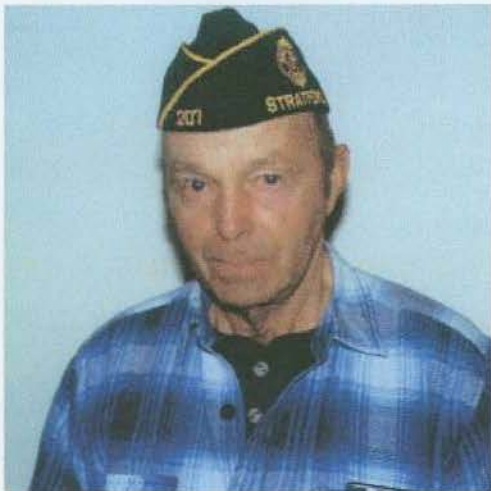
Civilian Occupation: Farmer

Resides: 14547 398<sup>th</sup> Ave, Stratford, SD

Telephone: 605-395-6964.

45-year member Post 207

## **SERVICE OFFICER**



**GEORGE "PAT" HANSEN (JR.)**; SN 4948178. B-5 US

Navy. Served 1957-1963 (Vietnam era).

Awarded Good Conduct medal.

Resides: RFD Stratford, SD

Telephone: 605-226-2348

Civilian Occupation: rural mail carrier, Conde  
Post Office

8-year member of Post 207.

Pat is also the father of Harley Hansen, and they are  
the only father-son combination in the Post.

## ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



**EARL SHUNKWILER**; ASN 504662772. US Navy, E-6, 1968 to 1992 (Vietnam-Persian Gulf)  
MOS: Av. Ordnance, Machinist Mate  
Resides: 39806 149<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD  
Telephone: 605-395-5879  
Civilian Occupation: Maintenance, State Hospital, Redfield, SD  
13-year member Post 207.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH



**HARLEY HANSEN**; SN 503868479. US Navy E-t, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer, Served 1984-92 SW Asia. Recalled to active duty 2002. Awarded: Navy Achievement/Armed Forces Ex. SW Asia, Navy Good Conduct Medal. MOS: Gunners Mate.  
Civilian Occupation: US Post Office  
Resides: 14447 396<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD  
11-year member Post 207.

**CHAPTER 3**  
**ONE-YEAR POST CHRONICLE**

On 4/8/02 the following were elected as officers and chairman of the following offices for Post 207 for the coming year:

Commander	DUANE JARK
Vice commander	GREG G. MILBRANDT
Adjutant	VERN PRICKETT
Sgt. At Arms	KENNETH JARK
Historian	THOMAS E. SAUNDERS
Chaplain	EUGENE FACE
<b>Chairpersons</b>	
Membership	VERLIN STANGE
Americanism Officer	JACK GUBIN
Service Officer	GEORGE "PAT" HANSEN, JR.
Athletic Director	EARL SHUNKWILER
Children & Youth	HARLEY HANSEN

**Memorial Day 2002**

Post 207 members met with the Legion Auxiliary at 8:00 AM 5/23/2002, at the Stratford Community Hall. A breakfast was served by the Auxiliary, consisting of rolls, juice and coffee. Members of the Stratford community, including school age youth, were invited. Vern Prickett, Post Adjutant, acted as Master of Ceremonies. Youngsters led the singing of patriotic songs, including Taps. Thomas E. Saunders, Post Historian, presented a brief history of the meaning of Memorial Day that was directed to the youth in attendance. Aaron Williams, this year's delegate to Boys' State, was introduced to the gathering.

Kenneth Jark, Sgt. At Arms, read the Honor Roll of all those Veterans buried in the three cemeteries visited by Post 207.

Thereafter, the firing squad, accompanied by many community members, visited the three cemeteries in the Stratford area: East Rondell, West Rondell (Oakwood), and Scandinavia Church. Those making up the firing squad detail this year were:

Sgt. At Arms	KENNETH JARK
Flag Bearers	EARL SHUNKWILER VERLIN STANGE
Honor Guards	THOMAS E. SAUNDERS HERMAN LIER
Firing Squad	GEORGE "PAT" HANSEN, NORMAN LEE GREG MILBRANDT, VERN PRICKETT
Chaplain	EUGENE FACE
In attendance	RICHARD ELLINGSON DUANE JARK

#### **4<sup>th</sup> of July**

Post 207 has historically participated in the Stratford Community 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. Post 207 led the parade with the Colors. Those making up the detail this year: Deanna Taylor & Earl Shunkwiler, color bearers; Verlin Stange and Greg Milbrandt, Honor Guards. Member Harley Hansen and his wife were the parade Marshall and Queen. Harley had just returned home from being called into active duty with the US Naval Reserve. Jack Gubin, Post Member, led a delegation of antique tractors who participated in the parade.

### **Aberdeen Regional Airport & Terminal: Name Change**

The Aberdeen Regional Airport (Saunders Field), in the spring of 2002 began construction of a new terminal building. The City of Aberdeen had originally dedicated the current terminal as a War Memorial to all Veterans, men and women, who gave their lives in the service to their country. At the same time, they named the Regional Airport, "Saunders Field", in honor of Brig. General Laverne G. Saunders. General Saunders was one of South Dakota's most decorated Veterans of WW2. Saunders was a native of the Stratford area, and a one-time member of Post 207.

Senator Tom Daschel (D) SD was able to secure 2 ½ million dollars of discretionary funds for the project. On May 10, 2002, an article appeared in the Aberdeen American News, wherein Tom Wylam, then Airport Mg., and Chuck Benson, Board Member, suggested a name change and that the new terminal should be dedicated to Sen. Daschel, in appreciation of his having secured the funds.

Members of Post 207, at its meeting of 8/12/02, were unanimous in their opposition to the proposed changes. It was suggested that letters to the Editor of The American News be sent, protesting the proposed changes. It was further suggested the Post Historian contact other Posts in the Regional Airport area, suggesting that they too might wish to express their opposition to the name changes. The Post Historian made direct contact with Mayor Tom Hopper of Aberdeen and Airport Board President Mike Erickson, protesting the proposed changes. Also contacted were members of the following Legion Posts: Groton, Mellette, Warner, Columbia, and Forbes, ND. Numerous letters protesting the proposed changes were published in the American News. They recommended moving the plaque from the current terminal to the new one. On 1/4/03, Senator Daschel withdrew his name and Aberdeen officials voted to keep things as they were.

### **Boys State**

Aaron Williams, Post 207 Boys' State Representative for 2002, on 9/9/02 reported to Post 207 his experiences and thanked the Post for having sponsored him.

### **Americanism**

On 9/18/02, Thomas E. Saunders, Post Historian, appeared before the Groton Kiwanis Club and gave an overview of those Civil War and Spanish American War Veterans who helped settle this area, some of their accomplishments and their burial sites. Also, he discussed some of the amazing statistics of Brown County involvement in WW2. The Airport name change was also discussed, and all those who did not agree with the proposal were encouraged to make their feelings known to the proper authorities.

### **Tractor Pull**

On 9/29/03, Post 207 sponsored an old-time tractor pull. This was held at the Stratford Park. There were participants from a wide area of NE South Dakota. Those members involved in this venture were: Vern Prickett, Duane Jark, Tom Saunders, George Hansen Jr., Ronald "Jack" Gubin, Gerald Wanttie, Verlin Stange, Harley Hansen, and Greg Milbrandt, who acted as Flag Man for the pull.

Our own Jack Gubin brought about the most excitement of the day. Jack is an avid participant and was scheduled for the first pull of the day. At the end of the pull, something went wrong, and Jack found himself pinned between his tractor and the sled, with the front end 90 degrees to the ground. Happily, with the help of Lloyd Jark and his Bobcat, Jack was removed unharmed, and the pull went off as planned.

Post 207 ran a concession stand, netting \$339.55 for the day, and a good time was had by all.

**Post 207 Assistance given this reporting period:**

Warner High School – Prom night	\$100.00
Matt Anderson 4-H project	50.00
Warner Volley Ball Program	25.00
Warner American Legion (baseball program)	300.00
Warner HS Teen Dance	50.00
Stratford Community park concession stand	100.00

Donations to the Warner groups were made inasmuch as the bulk of the area children attend the Warner school, and this has been true since the Stratford School closed in 1956.

**Veteran's Day Pot Luck with ALA**

The annual Veteran's Day potluck dinner was held at the Stratford Community Center on 11/10/2002. Prior to the dinner, the Colors were posted by a detail made up of Tom Saunders, Greg Milbrandt, Deanna Taylor and Vern Prickett. Bonnie Reiss, President of the ALA, greeted those in attendance and led the attendees in the common table prayer. Those at the Head Table were: Tom Jurek, District #14 Commander from Mobridge, Commander Duane Jark, Vice Commander Greg Milbrandt, ALA President Bonnie Reiss, and Marvin Schley and his wife Geraldine. Marvin was presented his 50-year pin at this event.

Tom Saunders, Post Historian, used this occasion to give plaques expressing our appreciation to the following individuals who have been so supportive in helping this Post during fund raising events:

Schley Farms (Jerry & Jaci Schley)	Donation of meat
Connie Hoeft	Preparation of BBQs
Lloyd Jark	Bobcat for tractor pull

Duane Jark, Commander, and Tom Jurek, District Commander, both made remarks appropriate to Veteran's Day.

Those members in attendance for this event were: Duane Jark, Kenneth Jark, Vern Prickett, Deanna Taylor, Korinne Face, Verlin Stange, Greg Milbrandt, Dick Ellingson, Tom Saunders, Ronald "Jack" Gubin, and Eugene Face. In addition to the ALA members, many from the community were also in attendance.

### **Children's Christmas Party**

The ALA hosts a Christmas party each year for the children of the community. Post Members attend and help where needed. Santa Claus always arrives at the end of the potluck supper, giving the children small gifts of candy, prepared by the ALA, together with photo opportunities with Santa.

### **Americanism Programs**

On 3/14/03, Thomas E. Saunders, Post Historian, was invited to make a presentation to the Hutterville High School students about WW2. This was authorized by George Waldner, Hutterville boss. Bill Johnson, teacher, made the request. This is the first Hutterite Colony High School. They had just completed their new school structure. The History class was actually being taught by a teacher in a studio in Mitchell, SD. Saunders related the events leading up to US involvement in WW2 and then concentrated his remarks to those from the Brown County area who were involved, including Lynn Erdmann and Brig. Gen. Laverne G. Saunders, both of whom were highly decorated and both of whom were raised within a short distance of this colony.

### **Boys' State Nominees 2003**

At regular meeting on 3/10/03, the Post nominated Jordan Rykman, Warner H.S. and Bradley Wanttie, Roncalli H.S., grandson of Gerald Wanttie, to attend Boys' State in May of 2003.



On 3/21/03, Post 207 Firing Squad conducted gravesite ceremony for our departed Comrade Dale Moulton. Those making up the detail were Sgt. At Arms, Tom Saunders; Flag bearers, Ronald Gubin and Verlin Stange; Honor Guards, Duane Jark and Herman Lier; Firing Squad, Norman Lee, Gerald Wanttie, Vern Prickett, and Curtis Misslitz (volunteer from the Aberdeen Post). Squad Bugler was Chuck Mewing, also from the Aberdeen Post.

On 3/10/03, Post 207 nominated Post Historian Thomas E. Saunders for the title of Post Legionnaire of the Year. His nomination was to be submitted for competition with other Posts.

**APPENDICES**

## ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS



**KEITH BAGGETT**; SN 504-58-6917. US Air Force E-7 M. Sgt., Served 1969 to 1990 (Vietnam Era). MOS: 206, 294, 274. Received Meritorious Service Medal W/301C, Air Force Commendation Medal with a 3 OLC.

Resides: Stratford, SD

Employed: Bath Convenience Store



**RANDALL BARTZ**; Served in SD NG from 1965-1971 (Vietnam Era). Operated howitzer with 147<sup>th</sup> Field Art.

Currently moving to Lake Traverse, SD area.

Working for Fed-X, retiring 2003.



**JAY DAVIS**; SN AF 19519907. US Air Force. Served from 1/54 to 11/58 (Korea).

MOS Air Borne Radar Controller.

Currently involved in hobby farm near Groton, SD & maintenance at Ramada Inn, Aberdeen, SD.

Can be reached at 605-397-8133.



**RICHARD ELLINGSON**; US Army (Korea).

1953-

Civilian Occupation: Farmer

Resides: Aberdeen, SD

Telephone: 605-225-1821

51-year member Post 207.



**LYNN ERDMANN**; ASN 37k44307. US Army,  
F-A, WW2, Rank T-4. Served from 2/13/42 to  
11/25/45. MOS: Surveyor. Awarded Silver Star,  
Europe-African Eastern Theatre Service Medal,  
Am. Theatre Service Medal, Normandy, N. France,  
Rhineland Battle Stars.

Civilian Occupation: Mail Carrier, Farmer

Resides: 1855 W. Southern, #20,

Apache Junction, AZ

Telephone: 480-983-5372

58-year member Post 207.



**CLARENCE ERICKSON**; SN 863-40-08. US Navy,  
Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class (WW2). Served 12/44 to 7/46.  
Medals: Asiatic Pacific, Victory American Def.

Resides: 39757 141<sup>st</sup> St., Groton, SD 57445.

Telephone: 605-395-6631

56-year Member Post 207.



**KORINNE FACE**; SN 503842841. Sgt. US Army served 11/11/90 to 7/25/91 (Gulf War).

MOS: Truck driver.

Civilian Occupation: Teacher

Resides: Box 425, Stratford, SD 57474

Telephone: 605-395-6911

4-year member Post 207.



**MICHAEL HANSEN**; ASN 55894371. US Army, SP4. Served from 8/16/66 to 8/15/68 (Vietnam Era).

MOS 63-G20. Awarded Nat. Defense Service Medal, Sharp shooter medal.

Civilian Occupation: Farmer.

Resides: 620 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Aberdeen, SD 57401

Telephone: 605-229-4452

Past Commander Post 207.

30-year member Post 207. (PUFL).



**ROBERT HANSON**; SN 17344164. S/Sgt. US Air Force 1951 to 1955 (Korea). Awarded Sharp Shooter and Good Conduct Medals. Worked classified material, Head Quarter Co. Served Guam & Germany.

Civilian Occupation: Farmer

Resides 1706 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Aberdeen, SD 57401

Telephone: 605-226-1211

15-year member Post 207.



**JAMES "JIM" HUNDSTAD**; SN 17592823. S/Sgt. (E-6), US Air Force 1961 to 1969 (Vietnam Era).

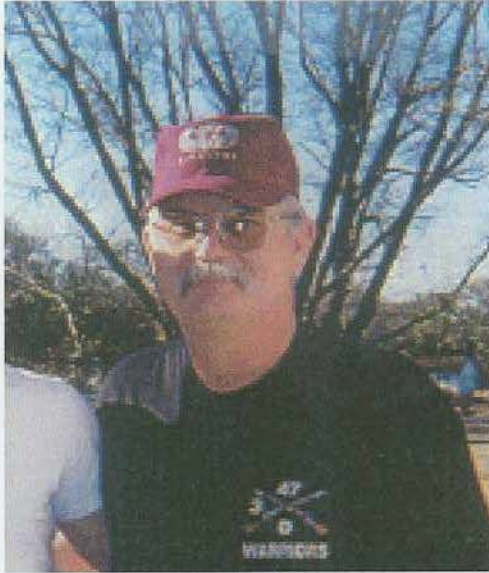
MOS: 46230 Weapons Spec.

Civilian Occupation: Teacher, Farmer, State Legislator.

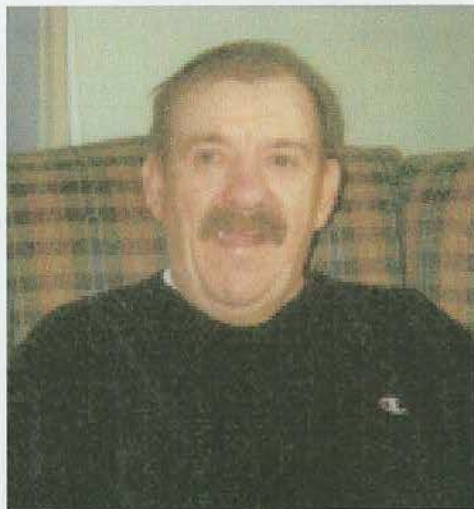
Resides: 13755 395<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bath, SD 57427

Telephone 605-225-3093.

1-year member Post 207.

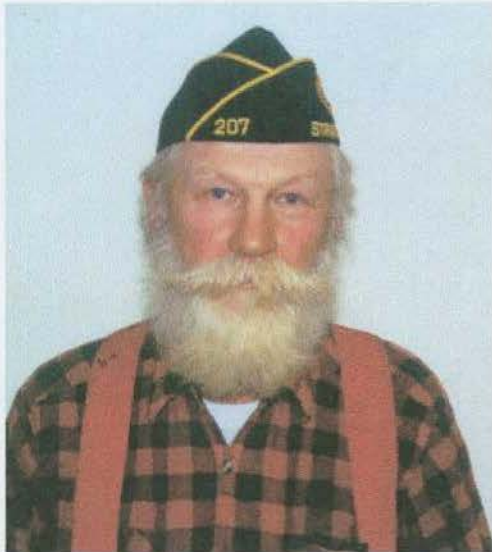


**DAVID JARK**; SN 503642420. US Army Sgt. E-5. Enlisted 7/2/1970. Discharged 7/1/73 followed by 3-year inactive Res. MOS Helicopter Repair, ammo specialist, Sensor specialist. Entered AZ NG 1/29/88, then crew chief on AB-1 Cobra and Apache. While in AZ Guard, served in Somalia, Africa. Instructor. Pakistan Army. 2/94 to 3/94 attached to UN. Awards Vietnam Service Medal, Air Medal with 60 device, Nat'l. Defense Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Vietnam Campaign. Resides: 374 Sykes Creek R. Rouge River, OR 97537. Telephone: 541-582-8190



**DAVID KURTZ**; Army NG Spec 4. Civilian Occupation: Wheat Growers, Bee Keeper. Currently resides Beverly Health Care Facility, Redfield, SD. Telephone: 605-472-2288. 25-year member Post 207.





**NORMAN LEE**; ASN 17578529. US Army, E-5.  
Served from 1960-65 (Vietnam Era). MOS 631.  
Civilian Occupation: Farmer  
Resides: 38905 140<sup>th</sup> St., Warner, SD 57479  
3-year member Post 207



**HERMAN LIER**; ASN 17301474. USAF Airman  
1<sup>st</sup> Class. Served 1/2/51 to 12/20/54 (Korean War).  
Awarded Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service  
Medal, MOS Aircraft welder.  
Civilian Occupation: Farmer, Construction,  
Certified welder.  
Resides: 622 S. McCoy,  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
3-year member Post 207



**DALE MOULTON**; USN 3175128 Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class,  
Served 7/1945 to 8/1946 (WW2). MOS Yoeman.  
Civilian Occupation: Engineer Milwaukee RR  
Resides: 1015 Circle Drive, Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Telephone: 605-225-2725  
Dale died Friday, March 14, 2003  
At McAllen, Texas



**MARVIN SCHLEY**; US Army Cpl. Army Field  
Artillery. Served 9/51 to 9/53 (Korean Conflict).  
Awarded Good Conduct medal and Marksman medal.  
Civilian Occupation: Farmer  
Resides: 1115 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St, Aberdeen, SD



**ORVILLE SCHLICHTING; USN 9847722**

Machinist Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Served 1945-1947 (WW2).  
Awarded Pacific Theatre Medal, Victory Medal &  
Occupation of Japan.

Orville served in the Sea Bees and they did not want  
to discharge him because of his cat driving skills.

Orville resides at Beverly Nursing Home,  
Groton, SD



**DEANNA TAYLOR; US Army E-5.** Served from 4/82  
to 3/91 (Desert Storm). Awarded ARCOM, Good  
Conduct, Pres.Desert Storm. Was 71-C Stenographer.  
Civilian Occupation: Bookkeeper.

Resides: P.O. Box 413, Stratford, SD 57474

Telephone: 605-395-6411



**GERALD WANTTIE; USAF 17371673,  
M/Sgt. (E-7). (Korea & Vietnam). Radio Operator.  
Civilian Occupation: Farmer, Feed Plant Operator  
Resides: 424 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Telephone: 605-225-8512**

## LEGION ADDRESS BOOK

### Legion Address Book - Members1

<u>Member #</u>	<u>Cont Yrs</u>	<u>Last name</u>	<u>First name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>H Phone</u>	<u>City</u>
200528453	11	BAGGETT	KEITH		395-6541	STRATFORD
100213451	32	BARTZ	RANDALL		701-227-0675	DICKINSON
201794715	5	DAVIS	JAY		397-8133	GROTON
103283087	51	ELLINGSON	RICHARD		225-1821	ABERDEEN
103283088	58	ERDMANN	LYNN		983-5372	APACHE JUNCTION
103281850	56	ERICKSON	CLARENCE		395-6631	GROTON
103283089	40	FACE	EUGENE	CHAPLIN	395-6608	STRATFORD
202011488	4	FACE	KORRINE		395-6911	STRATFORD
103283092	45	GUBIN	RONALD (JACK)	AMERICANISM OFFICER	395-6964	STRATFORD
200560375	11	HANSEN	HARLEY	CHILDREN & YOUTH OFFICER	395-6928	STRATFORD
103283093	30	HANSEN	MICHAEL		229-4452	ABERDEEN
103283093	8	HANSEN JR	GEORGE (PAT)	SERVICE OFFICER	226-2348	STRATFORD
103283093	15	HANSON	ROBERT		226-1211	ABERDEEN
30	1	HUNSTAD	JAMES		225-3093	BATH
34	3	JARK	DAVID		541-582-8190	ROGUE RIVER
103283094	32	JARK	DUANE	COMMANDER	395-6549	STRATFORD
103280049	48	JARK	KENNETH	SGT OF ARMS	225-0510	ABERDEEN
103283096	25	KURTZ	DAVID		395-6478	STRATFORD
33	3	LEE	NORMAN		229-5507	WARNER
202073561	4	LIER	HERMAN		229-5724	ABERDEEN
202073560	4	MILBRANDT	GREG	VICE COMMANDER	395-6515	GROTON
202073561	4	MOULTON	DALE		225-2725	ABERDEEN
200724790	10	PRICKETT	VERN	ADJUTANT	395-6911	STRATFORD
103280460	22	SAUNDERS	THOMAS	HISTORIAN	229-5349	ABERDEEN
103280482	50	SCHLEY	MARVIN		225-1739	ABERDEEN
103283098	23	SCHLICHTING	ORVILLE		395-6521	STRATFORD
103283099	13	SHUNKWILER	EARL	ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	382-5879	STRATFORD
201471825	7	STANGE	VERLIN	MEMBERSHIP OFFICER	395-6419	STRATFORD
29	1	TAYLOR	DEANNA		395-6411	STRATFORD
103283101	30	WANTTIE	GERALD		225-8512	ABERDEEN

**POST ACTIVITIES 1/1/02 to 3/11/02**

This is to include Post activities not previously reported.

Post 207 annual Stag Party was held at the Stratford Community Hall. We netted approximately \$1,500.00 from our efforts. Many cash prizes were offered, together with an unlimited amount of food was offered to the attendees.

On 3/11/02 at a regular meeting, Richard Ellingson was presented with his 50-year membership pin. All 50 years were with Post 207.

Also, on 3/11/02, Post 207 nominated Aaron Williams, a home schooled student from the Stratford Community, and Lance Vilhauer of Warner High School to attend SD Boys' State in May of 2002.

**MEMORIAL DAY – 2002 – EAST RONDELL**



**L to R** – Sgt. @ Arms Kenneth Jark, Tom Saunders, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Herman Lier, George Hansen, Norman Lee, Gregg Milbrandt, Vern Prickett, Eugene Face



**L to R** – Front: Sgt. & Arms Ken Jark. Tom Saunders, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Herman Lier, George Hansen Jr., Norman Lee, Greg Milbrandt, Vern Prickett, Eugene Face

**WEST RONDELL (OAKWOOD) CEMETERY**



**L to R** – Sgt. @ Arms, Kenneth Jark, Tom Saunders, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Herman Lier, George Hansen Jr., Norman Lee, Greg Milbrandt, Vern Prickett, Eugene Face (Chaplain)



**L to R** – Sgt. @ Arms Kenneth Jark, Tom Saunders, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Herman Lier, George Hansen Jr., Norman Lee, Greg Milbrandt, Vern Prickett, Eugene Face (Chaplain)



**SCANDINAVIA CHURCH – 2002**



**L to R – Richard Ellingson, Thomas E. Saunders, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange,  
Herman Lier, George Hansen Jr., Norman Lee, Greg Milbrandt, Vern  
Prickett, Eugene Face**

**4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY – 2002  
Parading the Colors**



**L to R – Greg Milbrandt, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Deanna Taylor**



**L to R – Greg Milbrandt, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Deanna Taylor**



**L to R** – Legionnaire Harley Hansen & wife Sherri, Parade Marshall & Queen



Legionnaire Jack Gubin, leading the antique tractors, on his Allis-Chalmers Tractor



Color Guards – 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2001 – Representing three conflicts.  
L to R – Harley Hansen (Saudi), Tom Saunders (WW2), Earl Shunkwiler (Vietnam – Persian Gulf), Greg Milbrandt (Saudi)

**TRACTOR PULL – 9/29/2002**



**Concession Stand Workers Post 207**  
**L to R – Front: Gerald Wanttie, George “Pat” Hansen**  
**Back: Duane Jark, Verlin Stange, Tom Saunders**



**L to R – Legionnaires Norman Lee, Jack Gubin, Greg Milbrandt**



Legionnaire Ronald "Jack" Gubin on his Massey Harris tractor.

**VETERAN'S DAY DINNER – 2002**



**L to R – Tom Jurek, Dist. 14 Commander; Duane Jark, Commander Post 207;  
Greg Milbrandt, Vice Commander Post 207**



**L to R – Back Row:** Herman Lier, Tom Jurek Dist. 14 Com., Clarence Erickson, Ronald “Jack” Gubin, Greg Milbrandt, Richard Ellingson, Eugene Face, Verlin Stange, Duane Jark. **Front Row:** Kenneth Jark, Deanna Taylor, Marvin Schley, Vern Prickett, Korinne Face, Tom Saunders.



**L to R –** Lloyd Jark (receiving Plaque), Tom Saunders, Historian



L to R – Jaci Schley (receiving plaque), Tom Saunders, Historian



L to R – Connie Hoeft (receiving plaque), Tom Saunders, Historian



**CHRISTMAS PARTY – 2002**



**L to R – Santa Clause, aka Kurt Hoeft, Darin Gubin (Grandson of Legionnaire Jack Gubin), Ron Gubin.**



**L to R – Collin Jark, Santa, Holli Jark, Christopher Jark (Grandchildren of Legionnaire Kenneth Jark)**



**L to R** – Back Row: Al Rykman, Inel Rykman, Front Row: John Ellingson, Payton Ellingson, Nicole Ellingson (mother), Logan Ellingson, Taylor Ellingson (Grandchildren of Legionnaire Richard Ellingson)



**L to R** – Santa, Derek Jark (Grandson of Legionnaire Kenneth Jark)

## OBITUARY - DALE L. MOULTON

### Dale L. Moulton

**Aberdeen** — The funeral for Dale L. Moulton, 75, of 1015 Circle Drive #105, will be 1:30 p.m., Friday, at the First Assembly of God Church.

Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Gardens with Military Graveside Rites conducted by the Stratford American Legion Post #207.

He died Friday, March 14, 2003, at McAllen Medical Center, McAllen, Texas.

Visitation will be 2-8 p.m. today and 8-11 a.m. Friday at Miller-Huebl Funeral Home, and one hour prior to the service at church.

Memorials are preferred to the Aberdeen Boys and Girls Club, 1111 1st Ave SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401 or Aberdeen Area Senior Center, 1303 7th Avenue SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

Dale L. Moulton was born August 24, 1927, to Lester and Charlotte (Link) Moulton in Stratford, South Dakota. He grew up in the Stratford and Aberdeen area, attending school in Stratford and at Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis, Minn.

He entered the U.S. Navy on July 18, 1945. After returning home from the Navy, he farmed and worked on the Milwaukee and Burlington Northern Railroad as an engineer.

On August 9, 1952, he married Helen Mae Glaser in Rapid

City, S.D. They lived in Minneapolis, Minn., and Aberdeen and wintered in Texas and Arizona.

He loved the Lord Jesus and was a member of the First Assembly of God Church. He was a loving husband and wonderful father and grandfather who dearly enjoyed traveling to visit family in Minnesota, Texas and Oregon. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. His sense of humor will be remembered by all who knew him. Dale never met a stranger, and he enjoyed the company of many friends.

Survivors include his wife, Helen; daughters, Barbara (Jim) Strudel of Austin, Texas, Pam (Dick) Wilcox of Round Rock, Texas, Kathy (Larry) Andrews of Cottage Grove, Oregon, Karen (John) Gonzales of Roseburg, Oregon, Lori (Dave) Parsch of Alexandria, Minn., and Tracey (Jim) Rheingans of Blaine, Minn.; sisters, Marge Stangel of Alamo, Texas, and Doris Pitz of Ten Sleep, Wyo.; brother, Allen Moulton of Minneapolis, Minn.; thirteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents and brother, Cliff Moulton.

Casket bearers are Cody Fredrickson, Justin Fredrickson, Jarret Andrews, Jerry Neill, Scott Jahnke and Ashley Rheingans.

Honorary casket bearers are his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all of his friends.



Moulton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RE:  
AIRPORT WAR MEMORIAL

### Correction to Saunders' history

**To the editor** — In reference to the letter headlined "Saunders Airport best choice," signed by Guy Chamberlain, obviously a WW II veteran: I agree with his thoughts about this airport naming, etc.

However, he is mistaken by claiming that Gen. LaVerne Saunders was a member of the Doolittle Raiders of Tokyo bombing fame. Saunders was elsewhere when the Tokyo

raiders bombed Japan on April 18, 1942. There were two South Dakotans on that bomb run. I hope this keeps the record correct.

For further information about General Saunders go on-line to: [www.af.mil/news/biographies/saunders](http://www.af.mil/news/biographies/saunders) for a brief and concise biography.

**W. E. Aisenbrey**  
*Aberdeen*

### Dedicate new air terminal to vets

**To the editor** — The members of Post 207, American Legion, Stratford, in their most recent meeting, were unanimous in their opposition of dedicating the new airport terminal to Sen. Tom Daschle.

The current terminal displays a plaque dedicating that building as a war memorial to all veterans, men and women, who gave their life for their

country.

Mayor Tom Hopper and airport board President Mike Erickson should give serious thought to this issue.

Perpetuate the original intent by dedicating the new terminal to veterans as was done with the current terminal.

Sen. Daschle's help in securing the much-needed funds is well known. There must be some other appropriate way to express our thanks to him for doing a good job than naming the building after him.

Veterans from the area will feel that as a group they are again being put down if the new terminal is not dedicated to their honor.

Also, please keep the name "Saunders Field." Gen. Saunders was raised in the Stratford area and naming the field after him was appropriate. It is not surprising he will be inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame on Sept. 14.

**Duane Jark**  
*Stratford*

### Airport: Make no name changes

**To the editor** — Change the name of the Aberdeen Regional Airport from Saunders Field? NEVER. The American News editorial of May 16 enumerated Brig. Gen. Laverne G. Saunders' accomplishments. It should remain Saunders Field.

A plaque in the entrance of the current terminal building reveals it was dedicated as a war memorial to all service men and women who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Veterans of all wars should expect the new terminal building be re-

dedicated as a war memorial as was the original intent. Move the plaque to the new building.

The airport board's rush to dedicate the new terminal building to Sen. Daschle for his help in securing funds for a such needed terminal does not give consideration of the past. Sen. Daschle can be thanked in some other appropriate way.

It is rare that a public building is dedicated to a living person. No change in names is needed or appropriate.

**Thomas Saunders**  
*Aberdeen*

### Keep politics out of airport name

**To the editor** — In regard to renaming the new airport terminal, I hope the board of directors considers the following:

1. The existing terminal was dedicated as a war memorial to the men and women who served their country in World War II. The airport manager has indicated that the old building will remain, but serve a different purpose. Interesting, since one of the factors for a new terminal was the current one being too close to the runway. I pray it's not going to be some sort of storage building. This would be very degrading to the people it was dedicated to. Why not re-dedicate the new building to our veterans with the airfield named after Gen. Saunders, keeping a nice theme for the

airport?

2. As most service groups practice, and would point out, it can be fraught with danger naming something after someone who is still alive. The honor may be regretted later by a turn of events.

3. Tom Daschle did not write a personal check for the \$6.6 million project; it was our own tax money coming back to us for a needed project. The original article stirred a lot of calls and confusion to the Saunders family with concerns that the airfield was being renamed in honor of Tom Daschle. The reactions were interesting.

Please keep in mind a tribute that would be fitting to our veterans and keep politics out of it.

**Laura Hilgemann**  
*Aberdeen*

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## Aberdeen airport: Keep faith with fallen veterans

**To the editor** — In 1950 the field at the Aberdeen airport was named Saunders Field in honor of Brig. Gen. LaVerne G. Saunders of Aberdeen for his contribution to the nation in time of war.

In the same year, a new terminal building was named the War Memorial building in honor of the men and women from Aberdeen and Brown County who were killed in World Wars I and II and those who have since been killed or may be killed in future conflicts.

The tradition established in 1950 honored not only Gen. Saunders but all Brown County veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. As in 1950, the nation is again at war with an

enemy that on September 11, 2001, declared war on us with the intent to destroy our way of life. There is no justifiable reason why in 2002, with the nation again at war, why we would consider breaking faith with our deceased veterans.

We must continue to honor the memory of our fellow citizens who have and may in the future sacrifice their lives to preserve our freedom and way of life. The field should remain Saunders Field and the new terminal should be rededicated the War Memorial building with the existing plaque transferred to the new building when dedicated.

**Richard G. Saunders**

*Colonel, U.S. Army Retired  
Medford, N.J.*

## Veterans Memorial Building

**To the editor** — The Aberdeen Regional Airport terminal building is dedicated to the servicemen and women from this area who were killed in action during World War II. There is a plaque on the wall of the entrance to this building, which so states that dedication.

Now, the city of Aberdeen is planning to build a new terminal building. Upon comple-

tion of that new building, the above plaque and the dedication it attests to should be moved to the new facility.

The new terminal building should not be dedicated to any individual. It should remain the Veterans Memorial Building.

**Bernard Fischbach**

*Adjutant, Harris-Dennis American  
Legion Post  
Mellette*

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## Saunders worthy of honor

**To the editor** — At the 2002 reunion of the 23rd Bomb Squadron Association held at Longboat Key, Fla., I learned of some impending changes in the designation of Saunders Field and the War Memorial Buildings.

From what we know, these changes appear to be ill-timed and unwarranted. As our nation is once again engaged in one conflict and prepares for another, the sacrifices of past heroes are too important to be discarded or cast aside. The nation needs to be constantly reminded of how some gave so that we all might benefit. (On a personal note, I was a staff sergeant radio operator assigned to Major Saunders' B-17 crew on Dec. 7, 1941 when the Japanese attacked the Hawaiian Islands.)

He was the commander of the 23rd Bombardment

Squadron and piloted one of the three B-17s that took off in an attempt to find the Japanese fleet. This was typical of his leadership. The members of his command respected him and looked to him as a role model.

If the actions being planned will in any way denigrate the memory of Gen. Saunders and the other veterans of Brown County, I urge you to reconsider. I agree with Gen. Saunders' son Richard, also a retired veteran: "There is no justifiable reason why in 2002, with the nation again at war, we would consider breaking our faith with our deceased veterans."

Finally, if the plans are not as I understand them to be, I would appreciate a clarification.

**Billie J. Smith**  
*Major, USAF Retired*

# Airport terminal name approved

1-14-03

By Elissa Grossell  
American News Writer

## Official title War Memorial Building

### City Commission

The War Memorial Building is now the official name of Aberdeen Regional Airport's new terminal.

The Aberdeen City Commission approved this title at its Monday meeting, ending months of controversy surrounding the naming of the new \$6.6 million facility.

The Aberdeen Airport Board first brought up dedicating the building last spring. The first name to be suggested was Aberdeen's own J.S. Sen. Tom Daschle, who secured \$2.5 million in funding for the terminal building in 2000. Daschle recently asked that his name be removed from consideration.

And last week the airport board voted unanimously to

keep the same name and to physically remove the dedication plaque from the current terminal and place it in the new building.

The 15,000-square-foot terminal building will be located in a field 200 yards southeast of the current terminal and should be completed later this year.

Confusion has surrounded the issue since it was first proposed. Aberdeen Regional Airport will now consist of:

■ The new terminal building — the War Memorial Building.

■ The airfield — Saunders Field, named after local World

War II hero Gen. LaVerne Saunders. This was never in danger of being renamed.

■ The current terminal — officials have said this will most likely not be renamed. It hasn't been decided what the building will be used for once the new terminal opens.

In other action, the commission:

■ Accepted the resignation of Len Scherr from the Business Improvement District Board of Directors effective immediately. Scherr's letter of resignation stated he was unable to continue his duties due to time constraints.

■ Appointed Scott Cunningham to Aberdeen's home rule task force and Jon Webb to the BID board.

■ Approved a combined notice of finding of no significant impact and a notice of intent to request funds for the Northeast Regional Health and Fitness Center and its childcare center.

■ Voted for final approval of an ordinance adopting revisions of the city's ordinances. This is required by state law and brings the city's code book up to date.

■ Set Jan. 29 bid date for a new motor grader for the public works street division, a new refuse collection unit for the solid waste division and a new three-wheel self-propelled street sweeper.

■ Received lottery notices from Shrine Hospital Auxiliary for a raffle on Dec. 5, 2003, and Homestead Tenants Organization for a raffle on March 4 and placed on file.



*American News Photo by Dawn Dietrich*

**Commissioned:** Ben Victor, a Northern State University junior, was commissioned to sculpt the bronze statue for the new airport terminal. The artist is shown standing with a model of the statue Tuesday at City Hall in Aberdeen.

## NSU artist selected for airport sculpture

By Elissa Grossell  
*American News Writer*

**A** more than 7-foot tall soldier will stand watch over Aberdeen's new airport.

On Monday, the Aberdeen City Commission approved \$100,000 to allow the creation of a bronze statue commemorating members of the Armed Forces.

The statue will go in front of the new multimillion-dollar terminal — the War Memorial Building — for the grand opening set for Veterans Day.

And a local college student will make it all happen.

The \$6.6 million, 15,000-square-foot terminal building is being built 200 yards southeast of the current terminal. The tentative completion date is July 5, and workers expect to meet that date.

The terminal grand opening committee has been working on a memorial to tie in with the Nov. 11 grand opening. Committee members thought a monument

*Bronze soldier to watch over Aberdeen terminal*

showing people who have served and who continue to serve the nation is appropriate since the terminal will be named the War Memorial Building.

They selected Northern State University art student Ben Victor to create the sculpture because they felt he can best accomplish what the committee wants, Mark Caven of Aberdeen Flying Service has said.

Victor will create a main statue of a generic soldier holding an American flag. He will stand on a raised concrete platform surrounded by granite benches and a granite plaque on a podium describing the artwork. The area will be lighted 24 hours a day, Caven has said. Two other soldiers — one male and one female — could be added later, depending on funding. Caven said the committee

also hopes to eventually solicit donations and look for grants.

Standing 7½ feet tall atop a 2-foot platform, the main soldier is "going to be an attention-getter," Victor, 21, said.

Caven said the memorial will be something of which the community can be proud, and it puts to rest any doubts that the terminal will be anything besides the War Memorial Building.

And the fact that the sculptor is an NSU student is a huge sales tool and brings everyone together, he said.

Victor hopes to start work on the statue by the end of the week. He has to be finished with the clay by July 1. The statue will have to be taken to the foundry to be bronzed by Nov. 1 to be back for the Nov. 11 ceremony.

Victor said he's very excited to be a part of the project.

"I think it's great for the community," he said, especially for veterans. "We need something like this."



**IDENTITY OF VETERANS BURIED  
E. RONDELL, W. RONDELL, SCANDINAVIA  
CEMETERIES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Membership</b>
Robinson, James E.	East Rondell	
Schlichting, Louis	East Rondell	
Schlichting, William	East Rondell	
Schumacher, Oliver O.	East Rondell	
Ashford, Elderkin	West Rondell	
Baker, George	West Rondell	
Baker, Homer	West Rondell	
Bayne, William Harrison	West Rondell	
Cowles, Ralph	West Rondell	
Daniels, Robert	West Rondell	
Dunker, George H.	West Rondell	
Hartwell, Rollie Singer "Deke"	West Rondell	Stratford Legion Post #207
Holcomb, Arthur William	West Rondell	
Knox, Carroll Bernard	West Rondell	
Kramp, Alfred Henry	West Rondell	Stratford Legion Post #207
Kramp, Robert Lee	West Rondell	
Kramp, Wendell	West Rondell	
Mathieu, James	West Rondell	
McComsey, Arthur G. "Art"	West Rondell	
McMillin, Lester	West Rondell	
Rose, Eugene P.	West Rondell	
Rossow, William A.	West Rondell	Stratford Legion Post #207
Smith, John	West Rondell	
Stoltenberg, Floyd	West Rondell	Brentford Legion Post #24
Trudy, Jack	West Rondell	Brentford Legion Post #24
Bunsness, Joseph W.	Scandinavia	
Bunsness, Kenneth J.	Scandinavia	
Bunsness, Mark	Scandinavia	
Ellingson, Elmo	Scandinavia	
Gullickson, Sanford	Scandinavia	Stratford Legion Post #207
Gunderson, Alvin Thomas	Scandinavia	
Hafnor, Carl	Scandinavia	Stratford Legion Post #207
Hundstad, Paul R.	Scandinavia	
Lee, Harold	Scandinavia	
Liedell, Herbert John	Scandinavia	
Lund, Sanford	Scandinavia	
Marshall, William	Scandinavia	
Nelson, Arthur B.	Scandinavia	
Solberg, Edwin Amindon	Scandinavia	Stratford Legion Post #207
Svarstad, Albert E.	Scandinavia	
Swenson, Harvey L.	Scandinavia	Stratford Legion Post #207
Teigen, Halvor	Scandinavia	
Westby, Frithjob "Fritz"	Scandinavia	

OBITUARIES: CIVIL WAR VETERANS

## BAKER, George

**ANOTHER PIONEER  
PASSES AWAY**  
13 Oct 1916 p 3 ADN  
**GEORGE BAKER OF STRATFORD,  
EARLY RESIDENT OF SPINK  
COUNTY IS DEAD**

Homer Baker, a son died several years ago, mainly as the result of a wound received in the Spanish-American war. Cora E. (Baker) Coe died at her Canadian home last winter. Mrs. Baker is a cousin to R. H. McCaughey of Mellette.

Funeral services will be held at the family residence Sunday, October, 15 and interment made at Oakwood cemetery, Rondell.

George Baker of Stratford, a pioneer resident of northern Spink county, passed away this morning at his home at 11:30.

The deceased was an old settler in the "Jim" valley, filing on a homestead in 1882. Mr. Baker was a soldier in the war of the rebellion, enlisting from his native state of Pennsylvania.

When the M. & St. L. railway surveyed its line through this county he rented his farm and after building a residence in Stratford, rested from active farming.

George Baker was 68 years, 4 months and 8 days old at the time of his death. Besides the wife and mother, the deceased leaves a son and daughter, Fremont Baker, of Elgin, Ill. and Miss Agnes Baker, of Perkins county, with whom the father passed the summer upon her homestead west of the Missouri river.

LEE, Harold

✓ Funeral of Harold Lee

The body of Harold Lee, who died in a camp in Virginia, will arrive in the city tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock and will be taken to Moore's undertaking parlors. The funeral will be held in the open at the cemetery in Gem township, the home of the parents of the deceased, Mr. and Mrs. John Lee. Services will be held at 3 o'clock, Rev. John Norby officiating.

23 Oct 1918 ADN p. 4  
Wed.

# HOMESTEADER OF STRATFORD DIES

24 March 1933 p. 1. AEN  
James E. Robinson, North Dakota Politician and Jurist, Passes Away

STRATFORD, March 24—James E. Robinson, picturesque and prominent North Dakota politician and jurist, died at the Soldiers' home at Milwaukee, Thursday morning, aged 95 years.

Immediately after being admitted to the bar of the state of Michigan he enlisted in the Union army and many years after the war turned to the west.

He homesteaded three miles east of Stratford and later turned his attentions to North Dakota, where he became prominent in successfully pleading several railroad cases for the state before the supreme court of the United States. He was rewarded for his services by being sent to congress for several terms.

Mr. Robinson was an ardent non-partisan and was elected to the chief justiceship when that party dominated his state. He introduced many new practices and changes in that body and was particularly commented on in the famous North Dakota "Sleeping Beauty" case, basing his decisions more on equity than on law. Mr. Robinson also published several books on industrial conditions in North Dakota. He attempted to personally take care of his farm near Stratford but soon returned to his practice at Bismarck.

He is survived by his daughters, Mrs. Jessie Broom of Stratford, Mrs. Angie Blair of Groton and a son Arthur of old Mexico.

The remains will arrive at the Huebl undertaking parlors this afternoon and interment will be at the Stratford cemetery under the care of the local Legion post.

## Mortuary

27 March 1933 p. 2  
Robinson

Funeral services for James E. Robinson, 91-year-old Civil War veteran who passed away in the Soldier's Home in Milwaukee, were held Sunday afternoon at two o'clock from the Huebl Chapel with Rev. R. Frank Mitchell of the Presbyterian church officiating.

Close friends of the deceased were in attendance at the last rites to pay parting respect. Miss Harriet Hill and Miss Evelyn Mitchell sang two duets "Lead Kindly Light" and "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Mrs. W. J. Hill presided at the organ. The W. R. C. and the American Legion attended the services in a body.

The body was laid to rest in the family lot at East Rondell cemetery. At the grave an impressive military service was used with the firing squad of Stratford and two buglers H. O. Smith and Leonard Prather, Aberdeen, sounding taps. Honorary pall bearers were: C. L. Parduho, Wm. Baggett, John Washnak, C. J. Tollefson, O. H. Gerbater and F. H. Erdman, all of Stratford. Active pall bearers, all members of the Sidney L. Smith post of Aberdeen were: Oscar Braden, Jake Herman, Mike Hartman, Herald Melness, John Uelman and Vern Goodspeed.

# Rose, Eugene P.

July 3, 1838  
Oct 2, 1886

At his home in Rondell township, on Friday afternoon Oct. 2, 1886, of paralysis, Eugene P. Rose, aged 48 years.

Mr. Rose was born in Madison county New York, July 3, 1838. At the age of 18 years he came to Wisconsin with his parents where he resided until 1861. He enlisted in Company K, Wisconsin volunteers soon after the storming of Fort Sumpter and went south. He was afterwards transferred to the Iron Brigade with which he served until the battle of Gettysburg, in which battle he lost his left leg. After the war he returned to Juneau county Wis., holding several offices of trust and honor. He came to Dakota in 1881 settling in Rondell township where he has since resided. Mr. Rose was a kind husband, affectionate father and an honored and respected citizen. He leaves a wife and two children to mourn his early demise. He was buried in Oakwood cemetery on Monday last, a large concourse of friends and relatives, and members of the G. A. R. post of this place, and the I. O. O. F. lodge of Aberdeen of which Mr. Rose was a worthy and honored member, following the remains to their last resting place.

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**POST NO. 207**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**STRATFORD, SD 57474**

**2004**



**HISTORY  
OF  
POST NO. 207  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
STRATFORD, S.D. 57474  
FOR  
4-1-03 TO 4-1-04  
BY: THOMAS E. SAUNDERS**

## INTRODUCTION

This is the 4th history prepared of Stratford Post 207. The town of Stratford will celebrate its Centennial in 2006. The Post is participating in the planning for this event.

Our Vice Commander, Greg Milbrandt is still on active duty and hopes to return home during 2004.

Post 207 is proud to have met and exceeded the membership goals set for 2003-04. We continue in our efforts to recruit younger members. This Post has but four World War 2 Veterans members.

As reported in this document, Members of Post 207 participated in the re-dedication of the new Terminal Bldg. at the Aberdeen Regional Airport. Two of our membership helped in the unveiling of a statute honoring WW2 Veterans. The original plaque that dedicated the original airport building to all Veterans who gave their life in the service of their country was moved to the new Terminal, which was the hope of many Veterans. The Airport Board had suggested the new Terminal be dedicated to Senator Tom Daschel. After letters to the Editor of The Aberdeen American News were printed, Senator Daschel asked that his name be withdrawn. The officials also decided to continue to call the field "Saunders Field."

This being the year that the WW2 Veteran's Memorial will be dedicated at Washington DC on 5/29/04, Post 207 intends to prepare a plaque identifying those from the area who served in WW2.

Post 207 will continue to play an active roll in community activities, such as, 4th of July celebrations, Centennial programs, promote patriotism, and support of youth activities.

A special thank you is extended to Kelly Face who researched and found the obituaries of past Post 207 members. Also, a thank you is extended to Kathy Williams who assisted in the publishing and printing of this document. A thank you is also extended to Dacotah Bank Aberdeen for their generous consent to use of their copying machine.

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**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA**

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**PREAMBLE**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America and of the State of South Dakota; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might, to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

## CHAPTER 1

### ROSTER OF POST OFFICERS

#### COMMANDER

THOMAS E. SAUNDERS; ASN 17144088; Sgt. US Army Air Corp. 9/10/43 to 3/19/46 (WW2). Central Fire Control Gunner B-29 bomber. Civilian Occupation: SA FBI retired, VP Dakota Bank, retired. Resides: 1515 E. Melgaard Rd. # 102, Aberdeen, SD 57401. Phone: 605-229-5349. 23-year member Post 207

#### VICE-COMMANDER

GREG G. MILBRANDT; SN 503-040-3000. Specialist F/C US Army. Active Reserve; Served Gulf War. Active 1985 to Present. MSO Cavalry Scout 19D, 88M Heavy Vehicle Driver. Decorations SW Asia Service: Army Achievement Medal, SD Dist. Service Award, Good Conduct, Overseas Medal, Reserve Component award. Civilian Occupation: Welder. 5-year member Post 207. Greg was recalled to active duty 2/12/03.

#### ADJUTANT

VERN PRICKETT; SN 503-76-7885. Served in both the USMC and US Army. Combined service from 1975 to Feb 1999 (Desert Storm). MOS: Transportation Officer. Civilian Occupation: Milkman. Resides: P.O. Box 348, Stratford, SD. Telephone: 605-395-6911

SGT. AT ARMS

KENNETH JARK; SN US 553-71683. Cpl. US Army 4/53 to 4/55 (Korea). MOS: Company Clerk. Civilian Occupation: Farmer/auctioneer. Resides at 401 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE, Aberdeen, SD. Telephone: 605-225-0510. 49-year member Post 207.

HISTORIAN

DEANNA TAYLOR; US Army E-5. Served from 4/82 to 3/91 (Desert Storm). Awarded ARCOM, Good Conduct, Pres. Desert Storm. Was 71-C Stenographer. Civilian Occupation: Bookkeeper. Resides: P.O. Box 413, Stratford, SD 57474. Telephone: 605-395-6411.

CHAPLAIN

EUGENE FACE, SN 503-46-7433. E-6 USAF & SD NG. Served from 2/53 to 6/62 (Korean Conflict). MOS: Aircraft Mech. Resides: 39815 147<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD. Telephone 605-395-6608. 41-year member Post 207. Eugene is also the father of Korinne Face and Steven Face, also members of Post 207.

**CHAPTER 2**  
**ROSTER OF POST CHAIRS**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**VERLIN STANGE**; SN 17527556. PFC US Army from 11/1/61 to 8/9/63 (Berlin Crisis). MOS: Surveyor. Civilian Occupation: Farmer. Resides: 14393 397<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD Telephone: 605-395-6419. 8-year member Post 207

**AMERICANISM OFFICER**

**RONALD "JACK" GUBIN**; SN RA 17371827. PFC US Army 1/53 to 1/56 (Korea). MOS: Truck Driver. Civilian Occupation: Farmer. Resides: 14547 398<sup>th</sup> Ave, Stratford, SD. Telephone: 605-395-6964. 46-year member Post 207.

**SERVICE OFFICER**

**GEORGE "PAT" HANSEN (JR.)**; SN 4948178. B-5 US\_Navy. Served 1957-1963 (Vietnam era). Awarded Good Conduct medal. Resides: RFD Stratford, SD. Telephone: 605-226-2348. Civilian Occupation: farmer, rural mail carrier, Conde SD. 9 year member of Post 207. Pat is also the father of Harley Hansen, one of two father-son combinations in this Post.



**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

**EARL SHUNKWILER**; ASN 504662772. US Navy, E-6, 1968 to 1992 (Vietnam-Persian Gulf). MOS: Av. Ordinance, Machinist Mate. Resides: 39806 149<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD. Telephone: 605-395-5879. Civilian Occupation: Maintenance, State Hospital, Redfield, SD. 14-year member Post 207.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**HARLEY HANSEN**; SN 503868479. US Navy E-1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer, Served 1984-92 SW Asia. Recalled to active duty 2002. Awarded: Navy Achievement/Armed Forces Ex. SW Asia, Navy Good Conduct Medal. MOS: Gunners Mate. Civilian Occupation: US Post Office Resides: 14447 396<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD 12-year member Post 207.

**CHAPTER 3**  
**ONE-YEAR POST CHRONICLE**

**Annual Stag Party**

On 4-04-03, the annual Stag Party was held at the Stratford Community Hall. Much work went into the preparation for this event. Food and drink was supplied by the BS Bar. After all bills were paid, Post 207 netted \$819.39 from this venture.

**Election of Officers**

On 5/12/03.at a regular meeting, the following officers were elected for the coming year:

Commander	THOMAS E. SAUNDERS
Vice Commander	GREG G. MILBRANDT
Adjutant	VERN PRICKETT
Historian	DEANNA TAYLOR
Sgt. at Arms	KENNETH JARK
Chaplain	EUGENE FACE
Appointed by the New Commander to the following chairs:	
Americanism Officer	JACK GUBIN
Public Affairs	GERALD WANTTIE
Membership	VERLIN STANGE
Service Officer	GEORGE "PAT" HANSEN, JR.
Athletic Director	EARL SHUNKWILER
Children & Youth	HARLEY HANSEN

### Spring Tractor Pull

On 5/31/03 Post 207 sponsored the Spring Tractor Pull at the Stratford Community Park. The Post again provided assistance by operating the concession stand. On this occasion Gene Smith from Wimpy's in the Lakeside Mall, Aberdeen, provided the meat and prepared the bar-b-que. This began at 9:00 a.m. Members Eugene Face, Vern Prickett, Pat Hansen, Norman Lee, Duane Jark and Saunders were workers at the stands.

### Memorial Day

The annual Memorial Day services began at the Community Hall, Stratford at approximately 8:00 AM on 5/26/03. The event began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by the common table prayer. The Auxiliary provided a breakfast of rolls, juice and coffee.

After breakfast the children led the group in singing of patriotic songs. Korrine Face and Kristi Bruner assisted with the children.

On this occasion, a presentation was made to Kathy Williams for all the assistance given in the publication of the latest Legion History, to be submitted to the State for competition.

Commander Saunders used this event to thank the Auxiliary for sponsoring the breakfast, and Joe Schwan, Reid Johnson and Anna Tribble for volunteering as trumpet players.

A moment of silence was had for our departed Comrades Dale Moulton and Robert Hanson. Robert Hanson's funeral was to be conducted on 5/27/03 with Post 207 providing the firing squad.

Saunders comments reminded those that this day was founded subsequent to the Civil War and promoted by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). He reminded those present of the identity of those Civil War Veterans who Homesteaded in this area, helped with the development of the area, and whose remains are buried in both West Rondell (Oakwood) Cemetery and East Rondell Cemetery. Saunders asked that those present go forth with a sense of respect for those who preceded us and helped build and maintain this community since its founding in 1906.

Sgt. at Arms, Kenneth Jark, then read the Honor Roll of the dead in each of the cemeteries to be visited and thereafter the Firing Squad dispersed to each of the cemeteries.

The Detail for this Memorial Day was:

Sgt. at Arms	KENNETH JARK
Chaplain	EUGENE FACE
Flag Detail	EARL SHUNKWILER
	VERLIN STANGE
	TOM SAUNDERS
	DEANNA TAYLOR
Firing Squad	VERN PRICKETT
	GEORGE "PAT" HANSEN
	NORMAN LEE
	HARLEY HANSEN

Post Members Present

HERMAN LIER  
JACK GUBIN  
DUANE JARK  
RICHARD ELLINGSON  
GERALD WANTTIE

Trumpets

JOE SCHWANN & ANNA TRIBBLE

**ROBERT HANSON FUNERAL**

On 5/27/03 members of Post 207 met at the Plymouth Congregational Church for the funeral of Robert J. Hanson, sitting as a group to pay honor to Robert. Subsequent to the service, Legion members proceeded to the cemetery and performed the military rites.

Those making up the detail this day were:

Sgt. @ Arms

THOMAS E. SAUNDERS

Flag Detail

EARL SHUNKWILER  
DEANNA TAYLOR  
VERLIN STANGE  
JACK GUBIN

Firing Squad

HARLEY HANSEN  
NORMAN LEE  
GEORGE HANSEN JR.  
GERALD WANTTIE

Others lined with Squad

EUGENE FACE  
RICHARD ELLINGSON  
CLARENCE ERICKSON  
DUANE JARK  
HERMAN LIER

### **Spring Tractor Pull**

On 5/31/03 the Post sponsored a "spring warm up" tractor pull. Our involvement was to provide help and operate the concession stand. Those participating were: Vern Prickett, Duane Jark, George "Pat" Hansen, Eugene Face, Earl Shunkwiler and Tom Saunders.

### **Post History 4-1-02 to 4-1-03**

On 6/22/02 Charemon Duncan, Dept. Historian, advised that the Post 207 submission of Post History had been awarded 1st place in the Annual Department One-year History Contest of the American Legion, Department of South Dakota. Duncan subsequently advised the History was being sent to National for competition. On 10-9-03, the Post was informed the National Historians Contest presented to Stratford Post 207, Stratford South Dakota, Honorable Mention Post Narrative History, Historian /Compiler Thomas Saunders.

### **Korean Veterans**

Larry Gerlach, Manager, Brown County Fair Board, announced the 2003 "Veterans Day Picnic and Program" honoring a precise group of Veterans each year. The event was to be held Saturday 8/16/03 at 12:00 Noon. This being the 50th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, all Korean Veterans could attend free. Those from Post 207 who attended were Kenneth Jark, George "Pat" Hansen, Herman Lier, and Gerald Wanttie, all of whom are Korean Veterans.

#### 4th of July

As is customary, Post 207 lead the annual 4th of July Parade in Stratford. Those making up the detail this year were Flag Bearers Vern Prickett & Harley Hansen; Honor Guards were Deanna Taylor and George "Pat" Hansen.

#### Americanism

Post 207 on 9/8/03 donated \$50.00 to the Brown County Chapter National Flag Association, to assist in the cost of the large flag being displayed at Wyley Park, Aberdeen S.D.

#### District 14 conference @ Frederick 9-19-03

Commander Tom Saunders, Herman Lier and George "Pat" Hansen of Post 207 attended the fall conference and later related to Post Members at their next regular meeting those items being emphasized by the new Commander Wayne "Red" Vetter and other State Officers.

#### Fall Tractor Pull 9-28-03

Post 207 again sponsored the Fall Tractor Pull held at the Stratford park. Those members who worked the concession stand were: Duane Jark, George "Pat" Hansen, Vern Prickett, Tom Saunders, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Eugene Face and Ronald "Jack" Gubin. Some Auxiliary members again donated bars. Schley Farms, Inc. donated meat for the bar-b-que's, Connie Hoeft prepared the bar-b-que. Lloyd Jark donated the use of his Bob Cat for maintaining the pull track. There were a large number of pullers. Gubin had secured enough Commercial sponsors to more than pay for the trophies, the announcer, and the truck/sled driver.

### Veterans Day Pot Luck Supper 11-9-03

On Sunday night, 11/9/03, the Auxiliary of American Legion Post 207, Stratford SD hosted a "pot luck" supper for Veterans and Community Members. Mr. Wayne "Red" Vetter, State Commander American Legion; Barbara Vetter, President District 5, Legion Auxiliary; and June Malsom, President, District 14, were in attendance. Eric Milbrandt, age 9, and Jacob Milbrandt, age 6, the sons of Sgt. 1st Class Greg Milbrandt, led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Sgt. Milbrandt is a member of the 740th Transportation Co. S.D. National Guard and is currently serving in Iraq.

Adj. Vern Prickett served as Master of Ceremonies. Eugene Face, Post Chaplain, said grace before the meal. A detail made up of George "Pat" Hansen, Earl Shunkwiler, Deanna Taylor and Harley Hansen posted the Colors for the event and retired the Colors upon completion of the evening. Adj. Vern asked all Veterans present to identify the conflict they were involved in, the time frame of their service and the branch of Service they served in.

Commander Saunders then addressed the group, reminding those present that this day grew out of WWI, as did the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Father/ Son combinations were identified, viz., either members of the Post or residents of the Community: Ed & Maurice Samuelson, Bill & Kenny Jark, George "Pat" Hansen and Harley Hansen, Verril and Robert Radke, Eugene Face and Steven Face. Father/Daughter combination: Eugene Face and Korrine Face. Husband/Wife: Vern Prickett and Korinne Face, Brothers: Mike and George "Pat" Hansen. Brother/sister: Greg and Wendy Milbrandt.



Families with three sons in the service during WW2 were also recognized.

Dayton: Earl, Robert, Dale; Floan: Melvin, George, Raymond; Erdman: Lynn, Richard  
1/2 bro. Jack Holcomb; Misslitz: Vernon, Donald, Curtis; Carmine: Darrel, Duane, Lee.

Post 207 has, within the immediate past, lost three of our Comrades: Leland Stange a long time member and Past Commander; Dale Moulton who as a young man was raised on the farm now occupied by Lloyd Jark; and Robert Hanson, a long time member of the Stratford Community. All widows were invited to attend this function. Helen Moulton could not attend. Bonnie Rice, President of the Auxiliary presented a rose to Nancy Stange, and caused another to be delivered to Lovila Hanson. Commander Vetter then spoke to the group about the need to continue fighting for Veteran's Rights and to secure proper funding for the Veteran's Administration.

#### **Veterans Day 11-11-03**

On Veteran's Day Commander Saunders & wife, George "Pat" Hansen, Harley Hansen and Gerald Wanttie all attended the Program held at the Aberdeen Civic Arena. All Veteran's Organizations from the area were in attendance with music supplied by the Aberdeen Central Band and Aberdeen Public Schools Elementary Chorus. After the program, all then retired to the VFW Club Room for a noon meal.

#### **Aberdeen Regional Airport Dedication 11/11/03**

Post 207 had been active in opposing the dedication of the new Terminal to Senator Tom Daschle, and changing the name of the field from "Saunders Field." The Post advocated by letters to the Editor, to re-dedicate the new terminal as a war

memorial, like the original terminal. It was recommended the plaque from the original terminal building be moved to the new terminal. This was done.

On 11/11/03, Commander Saunders & wife, Chaplain Eugene Face, Gerald Wanttie, and George "Pat" Hansen attended the dedication ceremonies at the airport. Post 207 members Herman Lier, representing the Air Force, and Harley Hansen, representing the US Navy, wearing their uniforms, assisted in the unveiling of the Veteran's statute that was sculpted by Benjamin Victor. There is a movement to commission two additional statutes.

#### **Visit Brown County Veteran's Service Officer**

Tom Gohn, Brown County's Veterans Service Officer on 3/8/04 visited Post 207 at its regular meeting. He explained his office has a budget short fall as the County Commissioners had to cut all budgets. He is short \$1,800.00. He and an assistant need to attend a work shop at Pierre to stay abreast of all the changes within the Veteran's Administration.

He also asked that Veterans of the Korean Conflict complete questionnaires as the Governor intends to honor those Veterans as was done for the WW2 Veterans.

#### **District 14 Commander Visit**

Gerald Sanborn, District 14 Commander, also visited Post 207 on 3/8/04. Commander Sanborn talked of the need to continue in our efforts to increase membership. He also reminded members of the election of District 14 officers that will take place at the District meeting at Mobridge on 4/20/04.

### Donations

Post 207 on 3/18/04 voted to donate \$150.00 to PCCN Network of the Warner High School. This is to help defray the cost of a "lock in" following the Jr.-Sr. Prom.

### New Flags

On 3/8/04, the membership authorized the Adjutant to expend up to \$200.00 for the purchase of two new flags and stands for inside activities.

### Boys' State

Post 207 nominated Austin Schwan, son of Steven and Sharon Schwan, to attend 2004 SD State Boys' State. Austin is a Junior at Warner High School and resides in Stratford with his parents.

**APPENDICES**

## ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

**KEITH BAGGETT;** SN 504-58-6917. US Air Force E-7 M. Sgt., Served 1969 to 1990 (Vietnam Era). MOS: 206, 294, 274. Received Meritorious Service Medal W/301C, Air Force Commendation Medal with a 3 OLC. Resides: Stratford, SD. Employed: Bath Corner Convenience Store

**RANDALL BARTZ** Served in SD NG from 1965-1971 (Vietnam Era). Operated howitzer with 147<sup>th</sup> Field Art. Resides: Lake Traverse, SD area. Retired 2003 from Fed-X.

**AMBER BRUNES CROUCH** Amber is the daughter of Christine Brunnes and a 6 year veteran of the US Navy, currently in her second enlistment, and a new member of Post 207.

**JAY DAVIS** SN AF 19519907, US Air Force. Served from 1/54 to 11/58 (Korea). MOS Air Borne Radar Controller. Recently left area and renewed membership with Post 207.

**RICHARD ELLINGSON** US Army (Korea). 1953. Civilian Occupation: Farmer. Resides: Aberdeen, SD. Telephone: 605-225-1821. 52-year member Post 207.

**LYNN ERDMANN;**

ASN 37144307. US Army, F-A, WW2, Rank T-4. Served from 2/13/42 to 11/25/45. MOS: Surveyor. Awarded Silver Star, Europe-African Eastern Theatre Service Medal, Am. Theatre Service Medal, Normandy, N. France, Rhineland Battle Stars. Civilian Occupation: Mail Carrier, Farmer. Resides: 1855 W. Southern, #20, Apache Junction, AZ. Telephone: 480-983-5372. 59-year member Post 207.

**CLARENCE ERICKSON;**

SN 863-40-08. US Navy, Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class (WW2). Served 12/44 to 7/46. Medals: Asiatic Pacific, Victory & American Def. Resides: 39757 141<sup>st</sup> St., Groton, SD 57445. Telephone: 605-395-6631. 57-year Member Post 207.

**KORINNE FACE;**

SN 503842841. Sgt. US Army served 11/11/90 to 7/25/91 (Gulf War). MOS: Truck driver. Civilian Occupation: Teacher Resides: Box 425, Stratford, SD 57474. Telephone: 605-395-6911 4-year member Post 207.

**STEVEN M. FACE**

Steven recently retired as Major, US Air Force having served 21 years (1981 to 2002) and is a new member of Post 207.

**MICHAEL HANSEN;** ASN 55894371. US Army, SP4. Served from 8/16/66 to 8/15/68 (Vietnam Era). MOS 63-G20. Awarded Nat. Defense Service Medal, Sharp shooter medal. Civilian Occupation: Farmer. Resides: 620 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Aberdeen, SD 57401. Telephone: 605-229-4452. Past Commander Post 207. 31-year member Post 207. (PUFL).

**JAMES "JIM" HUNDSTAD** SN 17592823. S/Sgt. (E-6), US Air Force 1961 to 1969 (Vietnam Era). MOS: 46230 Weapons Spec. Civilian Occupation: Teacher, Farmer, State Legislator. Resides: 13755 395<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bath, SD 57427. Telephone 605-225-3093. Two year member Post 207.

**DAVID JARK** SN 503642420. US Army Sgt. E-5. Enlisted 7/2/1970. Discharged 7/1/73 followed by 3- year inactive Res. MOS: Helicopter Repair, ammo specialist, sensor specialist. Entered AZ NG 1/29/88, then crew chief on AB-1 Cobra and Apache. While in AZ Guard, served in Somalia, Africa. Instructor. Pakistan Army. 2/94 to 3/94 attached to UN. Awards Vietnam Service Medal, Air Medal with 60 device, Nat'l. Defense Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Vietnam Campaign. Resides: 374 Sykes Creek R. Rouge River, OR 97537. Telephone: 541-582-8190.

**DUANE JARK**

Service # NG27790360. Spec. 5, SD National Guard. Served 11/63 to 11/69 (Vietnam). Civilian Occupation: Manager Grain Elevator. Resides 220 McLeod Ave., Box 453, Stratford, SD. Telephone: 605-395-6549. 33-year member Post 207. Duane was a long time Adjutant of Post 207 and immediate past Commander. He has accepted the position of Co-Chairman of the 2006 Stratford Centennial Committee.

**DAVID KURTZ**

Army NG Spec 4. Civilian Occupation: Wheat Growers, Bee Keeper Currently resides Beverly Health Care Facility, Redfield, SD. Telephone: 605-472-2288. 25-year member Post 207.

**NORMAN LEE**

ASN 17578529. US Army, E-5. Served from 1960 to 1965 (Vietnam Era). MOS 631. Civilian Occupation: Farmer. Resides: 38905 140<sup>th</sup> St., Warner, SD 57479. 4-year member Post 207.

**HERMAN LIER**

ASN 17301474. USAF Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class. Served 1/2/51 to 12/20/54 (Korean War). Awarded Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service Medal, MOS Aircraft welder. Civilian Occupation: Farmer, Construction, Certified welder. Resides: 622 S. McCoy, Aberdeen, SD 57401. 3-year member Post 207.



**HAROLD PARDEW**

Served in US Army for 6 years as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, followed by two years as an instructor. Was member of 147<sup>th</sup> SD National Guard for two years. Currently serving as a Deacon in the Sioux Falls Diocese, Catholic Church, assigned at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parrish and as a Chaplain Sioux Valley Hospital.

**MARVIN SCHLEY**

US Army Cpl. Army Field Artillery. Served 9/51 to 9/53 (Korean Conflict). Awarded Good Conduct medal and Marksman medal. Civilian Occupation: Farmer. Resides: 1115 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St, Aberdeen, SD

**ORVILLE SCHLICHTING**

USN 9847722. Machinist Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Served 1945 to 1947 (WW2). Awarded Pacific Theatre Medal, Victory Medal & Occupation of Japan. Orville served in the Sea Bees and reports they did not want to discharge him because of his cat driving skills. Orville resides at Beverly Nursing Home, Groton, SD.

**GERALD WANTTIE**

USAF 17371673, M/Sgt. (E-7). (Korea & Vietnam). Radio Operator. Civilian Occupation: Farmer, Feed Plant Operator. Resides: 424 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Aberdeen, SD 57401. Telephone: 605-225-8512

PHOTOS OF POST ACTIVITIES 2004



L to R – Ron Gubin, Tom Saunders, Duane Jark  
Past Commander Duane Jark, surprising Saunders by presenting him  
with Plaque and certificate for winning 1<sup>st</sup> place for 2002-2003 Post  
History.



L to R – George “Pat” Hansen, Vern Prickett, Harley Hansen, Deanna Taylor

Pot Luck Supper 11-09-03



Posting the Colors: L to R –Detail L to R: George “Pat” Hansen Jr., Harley Hansen, Earl Shunkwiler, Deanna Taylor



Head Table L to R – Casper Malsom; June Malsom, Pres. Dist 14 Auxiliary; Barbara Vetter, Pres. Dist. 5 Auxiliary; Wayne “Red” Vetter, State Commander American Legion; Vern Prickett, Adj. Post 207; Thomas E. Saunders, Commander, Post 207; Eugene Face, Chaplain, Post 207; Bonnie Reiss, Pres. Auxiliary Post 207



Commander Wayne "Red" Vetter, addressing the gathering.



President June Malsom, District 14, American Legion Auxiliary



Commander Saunders presenting Sharon Schwan a plaque and gift for having directed the playing of the National Anthem in excess of 5000 times as Music Director at Warner High School.



Bonnie Reiss, President American Legion Auxiliary, presenting a rose to Nancy Stange, widow of Leland Stange, Post Commander 207.



State Commander Wayne "Red" Vetter, Jacob Milbrandt, Eric Milbrandt, Post 207 Commander Thomas E. Saunders. Eric and Jacob are the sons of Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Greg Milbrandt, currently serving in Iraq.



State Commander Vetter, congratulating Saunders for winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place in SD state competition for Post 207 History of 2002-2003.



L to R – State Commander Wayne “Red” Vetter; Brown County Representative James Hundstad (D); Thomas E. Saunders, Commander Post 207



Retiring the Colors: Detail Guards George Hansen Jr., Deanna Taylor; Color Bearers Earl Shunkwiler, Harley Hansen



**Post 207 American Legion  
Stratford, SD  
11-9-03**

**L to R – Back Row:** Harley Hansen, Earl Shunkwiler, Duane Jark, Jim Hundstad, Eugene Face, Ronald “Jack” Gubin, Deanna Taylor, Richard Ellingson, Korinne Face, Verlin Stange, Norman Lee  
**Front Row:** Herman Lier, George “Pat” Hansen Jr., Wayne “Red” Vetter State Commander, Thomas E. Saunders Commander Post 207, Vern Prickett Adjutant Post 207



[www.aberdeennews.com](http://www.aberdeennews.com)

Monday, December 1, 2003

## *News from Our Readers*



**Potluck supper:** Jacob Milbrandt, 6, left center, and Eric Milbrandt, 9, the sons of Sgt. 1st Class Greg Milbrandt, led the Auxiliary American Legion Post 207 of Stratford in the Pledge of Allegiance at their potluck supper Nov. 9. The supper was for veterans and community members. Milbrandt is a member of the 740th Transportation Company of the South Dakota National Guard and is currently on duty in Iraq. Pictured with the Milbrandts are State Commander Wayne "Red" Vetter, left, and Commander of Post 207 Thomas E. Saunders.



## VICTORY SOLDIER UNVEILED IN ABERDEEN



*American News Photo by John Davis*

**Solemn moment:** The statue of the Victory Soldier was unveiled by a group of area veterans and current military personnel during Tuesday's dedication ceremony outside the new War Memorial Building at the Aberdeen Regional Airport.

# Tribute given to veterans

By Elissa Grossell  
*American News Writer*

**B**ehind proud melodies of patriotic songs and numerous rounds of applause, the roar of airplane engines and the whir of propellers could be heard at Aberdeen Regional Airport on Tuesday.

It was music to Aberdeen City Commissioner Jacki Omland's ears.

"What an appropriate

### *Celebration centers on those who served, new War Memorial Building*

background to open the airport with," said Omland, who sits on the Airport Board.

The mild weather drew about 350 people — public and private, military and civilian, young and old — to the grand opening of the War Memorial Building. The event included speeches by various officials, songs by the Aberdeen Regional Men's

Chorus and the unveiling of the first War Memorial statue.

The \$6.6 million terminal actually opened in August, but the grand opening was held on Veterans Day in honor of the building's name.

Tuesday's event was to pay tribute to the "tremendous work and effort" that went into the terminal

### Inside

*More than 1,000 at Civic Arena event.*

**Page 1B**

project, said Mayor Tom Hopper. It was also to "celebrate the men and women who have served and continue to serve this country in See **VETERANS**, Page 8A

# Veterans: More sculptures planned



*American News Photo by John Davis*  
**Sculpture's creator:** Benjamin Victor, center right, eyes the War Memorial sculpture he created as he poses for photographs after Tuesday's dedication ceremony.

*Continued from Page 1A*  
 military service."

Aberdeen's airport shows the community is progressive and "geared toward the future," Hopper said.

Representatives from the offices of the state's congressional delegation read statements from Sens. Tim Johnson, Tom Daschle and Rep. Bill Janklow congratulating Aberdeen on its airport. They could not attend themselves because the Senate and House are in session.

Veterans and current military personnel unveiled the 7 1/2-foot-tall bronzed Victory Soldier. Eventually, a sculpture of a soldier in combat will stand to the right of this soldier, said sculptor Ben Victor. To the left will be a statue of a soldier showing the emotions felt in war, said Victor, a Northern State University art student. The final project cost will be about \$210,000, with that money being donated by government boards, businesses and individuals.

Victor said the Victory Soldier, holding an American flag and staring off with a "fearless" look in his eyes, is a symbol of



Hopper



Omland

the strong patriotism in this country and represents past and present military men and women.

**Veterans pleased:** Tim Pond, who spent 20 years in the Marine Corps, helped unveil the statue.

"It's big," said Pond, 43, of Aberdeen, laughing. "It's pretty nice."

Pond and Harley Hansen, a member of the Naval Reserve, also liked the terminal's name and appreciated the fact that the airfield itself will still be known as Saunders Field in honor of its namesake, the late World War II hero Gen. LaVerne Saunders, a local native who flew fighters for the Air Force.

Hansen, 37, of Stratford, also helped unveil the statue.

World War II veteran Ken Thompson, 77, of Aberdeen, also thought the War Memorial Building is a fitting name for the new terminal. Although Thompson said he envisioned more of a Korean War-type dress on the Victory Soldier statue, "obviously it's a great sculpture."

Mike Erickson, an eight-year Airport Board member and past chair, said he flew in and out of Aberdeen several times in the late 1960s during his service in the Vietnam War.

Each time he thought, "You know, I might not ever see that airport again."

The day he came home for good was one of the most exciting days of his life, Erickson said. He hopes people flying into the new terminal — especially fellow veterans and military men and women — will feel the same way.

He hopes "they too will be proud to land safely at Aberdeen Regional Airport and say 'I am home.'"

Reporter Elissa Grossell (605) 622-2301 or 1-800-925-4100 ext. 301; [egrossell@aberdeennews.com](mailto:egrossell@aberdeennews.com)



**VETERANS DAY PROGRAM  
NOVEMBER 11, 2003  
11:00 A.M.  
ABERDEEN CIVIC ARENA**



**MASTER OF CEREMONIES.....Dennis Nelson**  
(Please Stand and Salute)  
**ADVANCE OF THE COLORS.....American Legion Color Guard**  
**NATIONAL ANTHEM..... Aberdeen Public Schools Elementary Chorus**  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.....Mary Pietz**  
Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 17 Auxiliary President  
**INOVCATION.....Plymouth Congregational.....Pastor Richard Riedel**  
**MUSICAL SELECTIONS.....Aberdeen Public Schools Elementary Chorus**  
(Directed by Susan Appl, Peggy Bunsness, Mary Marion, Joel Rachel)  
**RECOGNITION OF POW's AND MIA's .....Dennis Nelson**  
(Moment of Silent Prayer for all POW/MIA's & Service Members Overseas)  
**RECOGNITION OF GOLD STAR PARENTS.....Dennis Nelson**

**INTRODUCTION OF ORGANIZATIONS**  
(Please hold your applause until all have been introduced)

**COMMANDER, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #17..Donald Whittinger**  
**PRESIDENT, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #17 AUX.....Mary Pietz**  
**COMMANDER, VFW COOTIES PUP TENTS #14.....Al Sebert**  
**COMMANDER, AMERICAN LEGION POST #24.....Dale Strom**  
**PRESIDENT, AMERICAN LEGION POST #24 AUXILIARY.....Jacki Omland**  
**CHEF DE GARE LOCALE #146 40et8.....Walter Lindemann**  
**PRESIDENT, CABANE LOCALE #146..... Marcella Ann Lepp**  
**COMMANDER, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS.....Charles Walker**  
**COMMANDANT, USMC LEAGUE, DET. #852.....Charles Blumhardt**  
**STATE GUARD, VFW DEPT. OF SO. DAK. AUXILIARY....Diane Hickenbotham**

**ARMED FORCES SALUTE.....Aberdeen Central Symphonic Band**

**ADDRESS OF THE DAY.....Richard Kezar**

**GOD BLESS AMERICA.....Aberdeen Central Symphonic Band**  
(Audience Participation)

**BENEDICTION.....Please stand....."Uncover".....Pastor Richard Riedel**

**RETIRING OF THE COLORS.....American Legion/VFW Color Guard**

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS PROGRAM**  
Lunch will be served at the VFW, 821 Circle Drive, following the program.

## Groton Soldier In Iraq Visits Groton Elementary



Platoon Sargeant Greg Milbrandt speaks to Kindergarten Class in Groton.

The Groton Independent

1-28-04

### THE GROTON INDEPENDENT

Greg Milbrandt is home in Groton at the end of his two week R&R leave from duty in Iraq. He is a Platoon Sargeant with the 740th Transportation Unit out of Brookings. He has been on active duty in Iraq since April of 2003. He has only three more months to go.

Milbrandt spoke with The Groton Independent between visits to various classes of Groton Elementary last Wednesday afternoon. Milbrandt told us that he has charge of 40 troops and 23 trucks which ferry equipment and supplies from Kuwait City to staging areas in Iraq. "This is actually a safe environment, safer than being in Chicago," says Milbrandt. This is quite different duty compared to the Aberdeen Unit which will be heading soon to Baghdad from their U.S. training site at Ft. Sill. Most of the other Groton soldiers are out of the Aberdeen unit. They will eventually be serving as security officers in and around Baghdad which has been a hot-bed of conflict and violence in recent weeks.

Sgt. Milbrandt came out of the regular Army in 1989 and started his 'reserve' phase of ser-

vice with the 142nd in Aberdeen. Because of his regular army experience he was later transferred to the Brookings unit. He has 19 years in service time counting both his regular Army and reserve Army years.

Milbrandt told us that there are currently three truck companies in Iraq from South Dakota. His troops are responsible for keeping the Army running with parts and other supplies needed in their operations.

Milbrandt was the last in his platoon to get home leave. "That's what happens when you're the boss. You make sure your troops have all had their time at home before you take yours," he said.

Greg's wife, Julie Milbrandt, was the inspiration for getting him into the schools before heading back. She got some encouragement from their sons, Eric and Jacob, who are in the 4th and 1st grades. They eagerly joined their class-mates in listening to their father talk about life in Iraq and serving his country there. Sgt. Milbrandt's visit brought a foreign and sometimes dangerous land a world away from Groton, a little bit closer to home.

November 2003

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGION N

## South Dakota Tops 2 of 4 categories at National History Contest

National Historian of The American Legion, Fae Casper, announced that The American Legion Department of South Dakota was awarded First Place in the One-Year Department Narrative History Book Contest (1<sup>st</sup> out of 3), Second Place in the One-Year Department Yearbook contest (2<sup>nd</sup> out of 7), and First Place in the One-Year Post Yearbook Contest (1<sup>st</sup> out of 25) for 2002-2003. Casper made the announcement at the National Commander's Banquet on October 8 in Indianapolis, IN during the annual National Fall Meetings.

Department Historian Charemon Dunham of Iroquois prepared the two Department History books. This is the fifth year in a row that the Department of South Dakota has placed in the top three in the national level competition for the One-Year

Department Yearbook and the second year for receiving First Place in the One-Year Department Narrative.

Harris Dennis Post No151 of Mellette, Post Historian Bernard Fischbach, won first place in the One-Year Post Yearbook Book contest. Mellette won first place out of 25 books in the competition.

Stratford Post No 207 of Stratford received an Honorable Mention for the One-Year Post Narrative His-

tory. Thomas Saunders was the Stratford Post Historian.

Congratulations to all of the above listed Historians for a job very well done.



Bernard Fischbach



Charemon Dunham



Thomas Saunders

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## Robert J. Hanson

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**Aberdeen** — Robert J. Hanson, 72, of Aberdeen died Thursday, May 22, 2003 at Avera St. Luke's Hospital. His funeral will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 27th at Plymouth Congregational Church, 431 West Melgaard Road, Aberdeen with Rev. Rick Riedel officiating. Military Rites will be conducted by Hanson Stratford American Legion Post #207 at Sunset Memorial Gardens.



Visitation will be 3-7 p.m., Monday at Miller-Huebl Funeral Home, 1111 South Main St., Aberdeen with a public prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will also be 9-11 a.m. at the funeral home on Tuesday and one hour prior to the service at the church.

Robert Jennings Hanson was born August 12, 1930 at Houghton, S.D. to Conrad and Anne (Mikkelson) Hanson. He attended rural school and graduated from Columbia High School. He attended Northern State University in Aberdeen.

He married Lovila Jark at Aberdeen. He was in the United States Air Force during the Korean War and served in Germany and the Far East. He was honorably discharged in 1955 and returned to Aberdeen and Northern State University. Robert was engaged in farming at Stratford, S.D. along with a trucking business until he was

forced to retire due to multiple sclerosis.

Robert was a past member of the First Presbyterian Church of Stratford, The Stratford American Legion, the Stratford Masonic Lodge, the Warner School Board and served as State President of the National Farmers Organization.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife, Lovila of Aberdeen; his daughter, Lori (Todd) Limoges of Lakeview, Ore.; his son, Greg (Melba) Hanson of Castaic, Calif.; his daughter, Karen (Rick) Enger of Salol, Minn.; seven grandchildren, Jordan, Conner, Taylor and Peyton Limoges, Tyler Hanson and Alexzandra and Jackson Enger; his sister, Yvonne Wahl; his brothers, Arlen, Tom and Larry "Joe" Hanson and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.

Casket bearers will be Greg Hanson, Todd Limoges, Rick Enger, Val Jark, Bernie Jark and Bryon Hanson.

Honorary casket bearers will be all of Robert's friends.

Ushers will be Lance Hanson, Brad Hanson, Rick Hanson and Barry Jark.

## OBITUARIES OF PAST POST 207 MEMBERS

### ARTHUR BRAKUS

Aberdeen American News 4-15-1970 "Services for Arthur Brakus, 74, Stratford will be at 2:00PM Saturday at the Stratford Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Robert Carey officiating. Mr. Brakus died Tuesday April 14 at Dakota Midland Hospital. He was born July 20, 1896 in Friesland, Holland. Orphaned at age four, he was raised in an orphanage and came to the United States at the age of 17. He studied horticulture and was employed in New York, Chicago, and Freemont, NE, before coming to Aberdeen in 1920. He married Mary Schumacher in Aberdeen on Sept. 6, 1923. They made their home here for a time before moving to Stratford, where he operated a pool hall. He retired in 1962. He is survived by a niece, Mrs. Ray Dayton, who made her home with him during his recent illness, and seven other nieces. His wife preceded him in death."

### ELMO L. ELLINGSON

Aberdeen American News 9/18/1984. "Stratford. Services for Elmo Ellingson, 57, Burkburnett, Texas, formerly of the Stratford—Conde area, will be 2PM, Tuesday, Sept. 18, at the Scandinavia Lutheran Church, seven miles south of Bath, with the Rev. David Zellmer officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery under the direction of the Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel of Groton. Casketbearers will be Jerry Schinkel, John Schinkel Jr., Malcolm Knoll, Milton Knoll Jr., John & Jerry Ellingson.

Organist will be Mrs. Jerauld Holmes with Jerauld Holmes soloist. He died



Friday, Sept. 14, 1964 at a Wichita Falls, Texas Hospital. Elmo Leroy Ellingson was born July 2, 1937 at Stratford. He graduated from Stratford High School. He served in the armed forces during the Korean conflict. He spent the last eight years in Texas. Survivors include his step—father and mother Arnt and Hannah Olien, Fosston, MN, one step-brother, Richard Voyd, Redfield; two step-sisters Mrs. Darlene Wold, Sturgis and Mrs. Kaylene Hicks, Denver, CO. He was preceded in death by his wife.”

#### ROLLIE S. (DEACON) HARTWELL

Aberdeen American News 2/3/53. “Funeral Services for Rollie S. Hartwell, 68, were held Monday afternoon at the Stratford Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Rice of Groton officiated. Burial was in the Rondell Cemetery. Mrs. William Sebring was soloist accompanied at the piano by Marlene McNeil. Active pallbearers were Martin Nelson, Edward Samuelson, Albert Criddle, Hugh Smith, William Rossow, and Lloyd Larson. Honorary pallbearers included P.J. McNeill, Art Brakus, Adolph Dobberpuhl, Harold Woods, Robert Bryan and Otto Gerharter. The Stratford American Legion was in charge of the military committal at the grave. Mr. Hartwell died Thursday evening at the Veterans Hospital, Minneapolis. He was born at Rondell on May 9, 1884 and lived in that vicinity all his life except for the years he was in the service. Survivors include a brother, H.G. Hartwell, Fair Oaks Calif., two nieces and three nephews.

### ALVIN T. GUNDERSON

The Aberdeen American News on 6/4/63 reported "Alvin T. Gunderson, 73, retired Stratford farmer, died Tuesday morning at St. Lukes Hospital. Services will be held at the Scandinavia Lutheran Church with the Rev. Hans Nelson officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Mr. Gunderson was born May 11, 1891 on a farm near Stratford where he grew to manhood. He was a Veteran of WW1, and after he returned from the Service, he and his brother resumed their farming operations. Mr. Gunderson never married. In 1958 they retired and moved into Stratford. Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Larson and Mrs. B.C. Schley.

### WILLIAM JARK

The Aberdeen American News on 8/8/1971 reported the following. "Services for William Nicholas Jark, 77, of 416 S. 3rd St., a retired farmer, will be at 2PM Tuesday at the Stratford Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Clifford Rogers will officiate and burial will be in the Sunset Memorial Gardens Aberdeen. Mr. Jark died Friday Aug. 6 at Dakota Midland Hospital. Friends may call at the Huebl Chapel until 10:30 am Tuesday, then at the church in Stratford from 12:30PM until service time. Relatives will meet at the Stratford Fraternity Hall at 1:30PM Tuesday. Mr. Jark was born May 17, 1894 on a farm near Stratford, and married Bernice Jarrett in Aberdeen July 26, 1919. They farmed near Brentford for eight years, then lived in the Stratford community before retiring and moving to Aberdeen in 1969. Mr. Jark belonged to the Stratford church, Veterans of WW1, Aberdeen Barracks American Legion, Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodges, Aberdeen Moose Lodge and Masonic Lodge of Aberdeen.

Surviving are his widow, a son; Kenneth of Stratford; a daughter, Mrs. Robert (Lovila) Hanson, Stratford, a brother, Ben Jark, Stratford, and eight Grandchildren, Three brothers and four sisters and a grandson preceded Mr. Jark in death.

#### LESTER RODERICK MC MILLIN

Aberdeen American News on 9/3/57 reported the following obituary.

“Lester Roderick McMillin, 67, Stratford died late Saturday afternoon at St. Lukes Hospital after a long illness. Services are to be held at 2PM Thursday at the Presbyterian Church in Stratford with burial in the Rondell Cemetery. Friends may call at the Gates Funeral Home in Aberdeen on Wednesday. Mr. McMillin was born April 14, 1890 on a farm near Rondell, and had lived in that area his entire life. He was a Veteran of World War 1, a member of the Stratford Presbyterian Church and of the Order of Odd Fellows. He never married. He engaged in farming and in trucking all of his life. Survivors include two brothers; James C. McMillin, Aberdeen and Ralph McMillin, Cherokee, Iowa, and one sister, Mrs. Marion Williams, Sioux City Iowa. A brother preceded him in death.

#### HERMAN FREDERICK ROCK

The Aberdeen American News on 9/26/1964 published the following obituary. “Services for Herman Frederick Rock, 68, Stratford, are to be held Wednesday at 2PM at the Presbyterian Church in Stratford with the Rev. Robert

Carey officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Memorial Park in Aberdeen. Friends may call at the Gates Funeral Home on Tuesday and at the church from noon until service time. The casket will not be opened after the service. The Stratford American Legion will be in charge of the military committal. Mr. Rock was born June 2, 1896 at Groton. He lived his entire life in the Stratford-Groton area. He operated a garage in Stratford until his retirement two years ago. He was a Veteran of World War I and spent 13 months overseas duty. He was married to Marian Churchill on July 20, 1923. He was a member of the American Legion, The Warner Masonic Blue Lodge and the Presbyterian Church. Survivors include his widow; four daughters, Mrs. Ben (Frances) Whightall, Columbus, Ohio; Mrs. Stanley (Bertha) Viehmana, San Diego, Calif.; Mrs. Verden (Harriet) Hansen, Grand Island Neb., and Mrs. Mark (Alice) Van Hatten, Condetwo sons, Robert Rock Jasper Minn., and Warren Rock Minneapolis ; 15 grandchildren and one brother William Rock, Groton. His parents, three sisters and four brothers preceded him in death.”

### BRUNO ROCK

The Aberdeen American News of 4/14/1932 reported the following, “Bruno Rock, well known farmer, living three miles Southwest of Randolph, passed away suddenly Wednesday afternoon, at five o’clock, from a serious heart attack. He was 42 years of age. Bruno Rock was born in Germany, December 19, 1880. When a child of three years he came with his parents to the United States, settling north of Groton where he grew to manhood. May 2, 1922 he was married to Gladys Mashek of Stratford. Three years ago they moved to their present farm home. He was a member of Post 207 of the American Legion of Stratford. He

leaves to mourn besides his wife, his mother and father of Groton Mr. & Mrs. Fred Rock; five brothers Otto Rock of Groton, Frank Rock of Volga, ND, William Rock of Groton, Herman Rock of Stratford, and Emil Rock of Randolph, sister Mrs. H.J. Switzer of Twin Falls Idaho. A sister preceded him last December.”

### WILLIAM A. ROSSOW

Aberdeen American News 8-5-1983 reflected the following obituary.

“Services for William A. Rossow, 88, Stratford will be 10:00AM Saturday, Aug. 6, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Groton, with the Rev. Leonard Fox officiating. Burial will be in the West Rondell Cemetery Stratford, with gravesite rites performed by American Legion Post 207. Arrangements are under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel of Groton.

Mr. Rossow died after an extended illness Wednesday, Aug. 3 at the Bethesda Home in Aberdeen. Scriptural wake service will be at 8:30Pm Friday, Aug. 5 at the Paetznick-Garness Chapel in Groton. Family members are asked to meet at 9:30am Saturday at the chapel. Casketbearers will be Gary Kliegel, Glen Kliegel, Daniel Meseberg, David Meseberg, Richard Rossow and Ray Yuill. Organist will be Stacy Broman and soloist is Patti Anderson. All his friends will be honorary casket bearers. William A. Rossow was born Oct.17, 1894 at Stratford. He attended Rondell 27—2 school in Rondell Twp. He retired from farming in the 1950s. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was active in baseball and managed the Stratford legion team several years and coached the Stratford baseball team. He was a resident of the Stratford area all his life and resided on the original family homestead. He was a 65 year member of the Stratford American Legion Post 207.

Survivors include two brothers, Adolph, Stratford and Louis, Whitewood; six nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one brother and two sisters.

### HERMAN "BOOTS" SCHINKEL

Aberdeen American News 10/26/87 reflected the following obituary.

"Ferney - Herman "Boots" Schinkel, 92, Ferney died Saturday October 24, 1987 at St. Lukes Hospital Aberdeen. The funeral will begin at 10:30AM Wednesday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney with the Rev. Dan Elkins officiating. There will be a prayer service at 7:30PM today. Burial will be in the Groton Union Cemetary. Military rites will be conducted by the American Legion Post 39 of Groton. Herman Schinkel was born Jan. 1 1895 to Otto and Ida (Bartz) Schinkel at Ferney where he grew up. He married Evelyn Semm at Webster, June 25, 1927. He lived and farmed in the Ferney area all his life. He was an honorary member of the American Legion Post No. 39, Groton. He also served in the United States Army during WW1. Survivors included his wife; one daughter Mrs. Kenneth (Dorothy) Schaller, Bruce; two sisters Bertha Bradshaw, Portland, Oregon and Minnie Neldon, Groton; three grandchildren and four great—grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and two sisters. Casket bearers will be Edward Karel, C. "Skeets" Kramer, Leslie Feller, Wally Schaller, Otto Schinkel and John Schinkel Sr. The organist will be Mrs. Dallas Sombke and the soloist will be Lee Schinkel.

## LLOYD J. LARSON

Aberdeen American News Aug. 5, 1981 contained the following obituary, "Services for Lloyd J. Larson of 1023 N. 4th St. will be at 10:00AM, Thursday Aug. 6, at the Scandinavia Lutheran Church Bath, with the Rev. James C. Joyslin of Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Aberdeen with military rites performed by the Stratford American Legion Post. The Miller-Huebl Funeral home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Larson died Monday Aug. 3, at the Americans Healthcare Center, Aberdeen. Visitation will be at the funeral home until 9:00 pm Wednesday, August 5, and at the church at 9:30AM Thursday. Memorials are preferred. Lloyd J. Larson was born Sept. 27, 1890 at Warner where he attended school. He later attended Granger Business College in Aberdeen and South Dakota State University at Brookings. He married Hilda Dahl on Aug. 2, 1917 at Bath and they lived at Warner and farmed until 1942 when they moved to the Stratford area to farm. She died in January of 1968. He continued to farm and married Edna Richert on April 25, 1970 at rural Bath. They lived on the farm until June 1980 when they retired and moved to Aberdeen. He was a member of the Scandinavian Lutheran Church rural Bath, The Stratford American Legion; the Aberdeen World War I Barracks; and the board of Directors of Aberdeen Federal Land Bank. He served on the school board at Warner and Gem Township for many years and was a past Director of the Warner grain elevator.

## DON YOUNG

The following obituary appeared in the Aberdeen American News on July 24, 1975. "Don Young, 79, of 124 8th Ave., SW, died Wednesday July 23, at St. Lukes Hospital. Services will be at 2PM Saturday, July 26 at Faith Methodist Church with the Rev. Boyd H. Blumer officiating. Burial will be at the Riverside Cemetery with Masonic graveside rites. Visitation will be from noon Thursday until noon Saturday at the Huebl Funeral Chapel, and at the church from 12:30PM to 1:50PM Saturday. The casket will not be opened after the services. The family will meet at the Faith chapel at 1:30PM Saturday. Mr. Young was born March 23, 1896 at Dow City Iowa. When he was a child he moved to Houghton. He enlisted in the Army in July 1918 and served in the infantry and military police until discharge in 1919. He returned to the Houghton area and farmed with his family. He married Lena Werth Nov. 26, 1925 at Aberdeen and they farmed near Sand Lake. In 1921, The family moved to the Stratford area; and in 1944 they moved to a farm south of Aberdeen. He was elected to the State legislature in 1960 as a representative of Brown County and served for six terms. He retired in 1972 and moved to Aberdeen in 1973. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, the Northern Electric Cooperative Board of Directors; The Warner Township Board for 13 years, the Warner School Board for 22 years, Director of the Warner Cooperative Elevator Board, and Chairman of the County Regional Library Board. He was Past Master of the Webb Lodge No. 109 A.F. and AM at Warner; The Scottish Rite and Yelduz Shrine; The American Legion, the Veterans of World War I, Barracks No. 2793, the Minerva Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star; and the Aberdeen Senior Citizens Center. Survivors include his widow, Lena of Aberdeen, two daughters, Mrs. Harold (Donna) Seaton,



Aberdeen, Mrs. Don (Peggy Ann) Lippke, Pewaukee, Wis.; two brothers, Bruce of Portland Ore. and Jim of Vancouver, Wash; one sister, Mrs. Grace Macer Vancouver Wash., and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two brothers and one sister.”

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**POST NO. 207**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**STRATFORD, SD 57474**

**2005**

**HISTORY  
OF  
POST NO. 207  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
STRATFORD, S.D. 57474  
FOR  
4-1-04 TO 4-1-05  
BY: THOMAS E. SAUNDERS**

## INTRODUCTION

Stratford S.D., a small farming community in South East Brown County, was organized in 1906, after the M & St.L Railroad, completed their line between Watertown and Aberdeen, S.D. In its early stages, Stratford boasted a population of 600, including Doctors, drugstores, hardware, lumberyards, and grain elevators. The population of the area was made up primarily of German and Scandinavian stock. Homesteading had begun for the most part in the early 1880s. The historic area of Rondell, located on the James River, is a short distance from Stratford and was the site of early Memorial Day programs at the Oakwood Cemetery, which is the site of Civil War and Spanish American War Veterans burials.

WWI Veterans from the Stratford area on 2-5-1921, petitioned to form an American Legion Post and were granted their Charter on 3-1-1921, as American Legion Post 207.

The first History prepared of Post 207, written in 2000, included a review of the Adjutant's Records for the period 1946 through 2000. An exhaustive search of Legion Records and storage areas failed to locate Post records for the period 1921 through 1945.

Many thanks are extended to State Adjutant Ron Boyd and his staff at Watertown Headquarters, who took the time and effort to review old records and provided this Post with membership lists of the Post for years 1921 through 1945.

That data is reported in this History and made it possible to prepare plaques, now displayed in the Community Center at Stratford, identifying those Stratford area residents and Post Members who were members of the armed forces from WWI through the present conflicts.

Stratford has a proud history of service in the armed forces. Some have paid the supreme sacrifice, and others have been highly decorated.

As in the past, thanks are extended to Kathy Williams and Kelly Face for their assistance in the publishing of this history.

Additional thanks are extended to Dacotah Bank, Aberdeen for their generous offer of using their copying machine.

There is proof of the power of Service Organizations, as reported in this history, about protesting through letters to the Editor of the Aberdeen American News, and personal contact with the Airport Board. The effort to change the name of the Aberdeen Regional Airport was stopped, and other wishes of Veterans were complied with.

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Preamble to the Constitution

For

**God and Country**

we associate ourselves together for the following purposes



To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



J. R. Rosen · Boston

## CHAPTER 1

### ROSTER OF POST OFFICERS

#### COMMANDER



**THOMAS E. SAUNDERS.** Veteran of WW2. Sgt. in US Army Air Corp. serving from 9/10/43 to 3/19/46, as Central Fire Control gunner on B-29 bomber. Civilian occupation: SA FBI retired; VP Dakotah Bank, Aberdeen, retired. Resides at 1515 E. Melgaard Rd. Unit 102, Aberdeen, SD 57401. He is a 24-year member of Post 207.

#### VICE-COMMANDER



**GREG G. MILBRANDT.** Greg is a member of the SD National Guard, 740<sup>th</sup> Transportation Unit out of Brookings, SD. He had formerly served with the 142<sup>nd</sup> Unit of Aberdeen. Greg had previously served during the first Iraq war and was recalled to active duty, serving in Iraq since April of 2003. While on this tour of duty he was promoted to Master Sgt. We are glad he has returned home safe. He is a 6-year member of Post 207.

**ADJUTANT**



**VERN PRICKETT.** Vern has served honorably in both the US Marine Corp and US Army. His combined service is from 1975 to Feb 1999 (Desert Storm). Vern served as a Transportation Officer. He is self employed in the dairy business. He resides at P.O. Box 348, Stratford, SD.

**SGT. AT ARMS**



**KENNETH JARK.** Ken served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict from 4/53 to 4/55, attaining the rank of Cpl. He farmed for many years in the Stratford area and is a partner in Jark Auction Service with his son Val and Merlin Worley. Ken received his 50 year membership pin in 2004. In the past, he was active in youth activities in the community and has served as Sgt @ Arms for many years. He is a 50-year member of Post 207.

**CHAPLAIN**



**EUGENE FACE.** Eugene served in the US Air Force and SD National Guard from 2/53 to 6/62 (Korean Conflict). He attained the rank of E6 with MOS Aircraft Mechanic. He resides at 39815 147<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD. Eugene is the father of Korinne Face and Steven Face, also members of Post 207. He is a 42-year member of Post 207.

**HISTORIAN**



**DEANNA TAYLOR.** Deanna served in the US Army from 4/82 to 3/91 (Desert Storm) attaining the rank of E5. She lives in Stratford with her husband Merrill Taylor, and is employed as a bookkeeper in Aberdeen.

## CHAPTER 2

### ROSTER OF POST CHAIRS

#### MEMBERSHIP

VERLIN STANGE. Verlin served in the US Army from 11/1/61 to 8/9/63 (Berlin Crisis). MOS: Surveyor. Civilian Occupation: Farmer. Resides: 14393 397<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD. He is a 9-year member Post 207.

#### AMERICANISM OFFICER

RONALD "JACK" GUBIN. Jack served in the US Army from 1/53 to 1/56 (Korea). MOS: Truck Driver. Civilian Occupation: Farmer. Resides: 14547 398<sup>th</sup> Ave, Stratford, SD. He is a 47-year member Post 207.

#### SERVICE OFFICER

GEORGE "PAT" HANSEN (JR.). Pat served in the US Navy from 1957 to 1963 (Vietnam era). Resides: RFD Stratford, SD. Civilian Occupation: farmer, rural mail carrier. He is a 10-year member of Post 207. Pat is the father of Harley Hansen and Tina Hansen Rasor.

### ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

EARL SHUNKWILER. Earl served in the US Navy from 1968 to 1992 (Vietnam-Persian Gulf) in Ordinance and Machinist Mate. Earl resides at 39806 149<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD. He is employed in Maintenance at State Hospital, Redfield, SD. He is a 15-year member of Post 207.

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

HARLEY HANSEN. Harley is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer US Navy and is currently in the Reserve. He served 1984-92 SW Asia. He was recalled to active duty 2002, but is again in Reserve status. He was a Gunners Mate in the Navy and is currently employed by the US Post Office. He resides at 14447 396<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD. He is a 13-year member of Post 207.

## CHAPTER 3

### ONE-YEAR POST CHRONICLE

#### Election of Officers

The following officers were unanimously re-elected on 4-12-04:

Commander/Historian	THOMAS E. SAUNDERS
Vice Commander	GREG G. MILBRANDT
Adjutant	VERN PRICKETT
Historian	DEANNA TAYLOR
Sgt. @ Arms	KENNETH JARK
Chaplain	EUGENE FACE

#### Post Chairs

The following members were re-appointed to the Post chairs for the following year:

Americanism Officer	JACK GUBIN
Public Affairs	GERALD WANTTIE
Membership	VERLIN STANGE
Service Officer	GEORGE "PAT" HANSEN, JR.
Athletic Director	EARL SHUNKWILER
Children & Youth	HARLEY HANSEN

#### Boys State Designees

Austin Schwan, son of Steve and Sharon Schwan, Stratford, was the 2004 designee. Cody Tolvstad, a Junior at Warner High School, son of Mark and Mary Tolvstad, rural Stratford, and Leif A. Johnson, son of William and Darlene Johnson, rural Stratford, a Junior at Groton High School, are the 2005 designees.



### **Memorial Day 5-31-04**

Post 207, the Auxillary, and area residents met at the Stratford Community Hall, at 8:00 a.m., for a breakfast of rolls, juice and coffee.

Vern Prickett, Post Adjutant, acted as Master of Ceremonies, and led the attendees in the Pledge of Alligance to the Flag.

Mallory Jark, granddaughter of Kenneth Jark, played a piano solo of several patriotic songs.

Various youth of the community then performed a skit entitled "America."

The Bethel Singers, made up of Mark Tolvstad, Richard Halverson and Linda Walth, accompanied by Kristi Bruner on guitar, sang the various Service songs with the Veterans standing as their particular Service song was sung.

The year 2004 was the year that was designated to honor World War 2 Veterans with the dedication at Washington DC of the World War 2 Memorial. Commander Saunders and Adjutant Vern Prickett presented a plaque to the Community which identified those persons from within a 7-mile radius of Stratford who served during WW 2. There were 59 persons identified from this community who served during WW2.

Commander Saunders then made some brief comments, reminding those present that Memorial Day had its origins in the practice of decorating the graves of those Northern Troops who lost their life during the Civil War.

There was a moment of silence to remember those persons from the area

currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States: Greg Milbrandt, Robbie Taylor, Wendy Milbrandt Wayman, Amber Bruner Crouch, Richard Hilgemann grandson of Tom & Phyllis Saunders, Brent Palmer grandson of Richard & Kathy Ellingson. and Tina Hansen Rasor, daughter of Pat Hansen.

Sgt. @ Arms Kenneth Jark then read the roll call of the dead buried in the three cemeteries where Post 207 performs Memorial Day ceremonies.

Those making up the Detail on 5-31-04 were:

Sgt. @ Arms	Kenneth Jark
Chaplain	Eugene Face
Honor Guards	Thomas E. Saunders
	Deanna Taylor
Flag bearers	US-Earl Shunkwiler
	Legion-Verlin Stange
Firing Sqd.	George (Pat) Hansen
	Harley Hansen
	Norman Lee
	Vern Prickett
Others in Detail	Herman Lier
	Clarence Erickson
	Orville Schlichting
	Gerald Wanttie
	Richard Ellingson

Pastor Keith Hanson, of the Bethany Lutheran Church then gave the final Benediction, and the group then retired to the various cemeteries.

### **District 14, Spring Meeting Mobridge, SD**

On 4-20-04 the Commander and George "Pat" Hansen, Post Service Officer, attended the District 14 meeting held at the Post home, Mobridge SD. A report of that meeting was given to the Post members at their next regular meeting.

### **Brown County Commander Visit**

On 5-10-04 Dale Strohm, Brown County Commander, attended the Post 207 regular meeting and discussed with us the current policies of the SD American Legion , with emphasis on sustaining and increasing Post Membership.

### **July 4, 2004**

Post 207, as has been the custom for many years, provided the Flag detail to lead the 4th of July parade. Those making up the detail this year were: George "Pat" Hansen, Vern Prickett, Earl Shunkwiler, and Steven Face.

### **Membership Dues Policy**

Post 207, by unanimous vote of the membership, on 8-9-04 established policy that the Post will pay the membership dues for the first year for **new** , first time members, and for those members who are confined to a nursing home. This does not extend to transfers.

### **Korean War Memorial Dedication, Pierre SD 9-17-04**

Korean War Veterans of Post 207 attended the dedication ceremony at Pierre on 9-17-04. Those in attendance were: Kenneth Jark, Eugene Face, Herman Lier, and Gerald Wanttie. They reported that it was a most impressive ceremony.

### Saunders Field, Aberdeen Regional Airport

Some many years ago, the Aberdeen City Council had named the Regional Airport "Saunders Field." This was to honor Brig. Gen. Laverne G. Saunders, a highly decorated Veteran of WW2. Saunders was a native of the Stratford area and former member of Post 207. Also, the old terminal displayed a large photo of the General in the lobby for all to see, together with a description of the decorations he had been awarded.

A new Regional Terminal was built and dedicated on 11-11-03. There was a proposal by an Airport Board member to rename the field "Daschel Field" as a way of thanking Senator Tom Daschel. Senator Daschel is also a native of the Aberdeen area. There were letters of protest to the suggested name change by Veterans groups in the area. Senator Daschel then asked that his name be withdrawn, and to his everlasting credit the proposed name change was not anything he had requested or wanted. Authorities then announced the airport would continue to be known as "Saunders Field." However, they failed to move the General's portrait from the old terminal to the lobby of the new terminal.

Carlton Von Wagner, a retired accountant residing in Aberdeen, wrote a letter to the Editor of the Aberdeen American News, protesting the fact the photograph was not on display in the new Terminal and requesting an appearance before the Airport Board. Subsequent to the letter to the Editor, the portrait was mounted on a wall in the secured area of the terminal and could be viewed by those persons flying out of Aberdeen after they had passed security checks. The general public could not view the portrait from the lobby.

Mr. Von Wagner then asked the following group of men to accompany him to a meeting of the Airport Board; Don Whittlinger, Commander VFW Aberdeen, Al Sebert Commander of Post 24, Aberdeen, Joe Kelly Capt. 147th Field Artillery WW2, and Thomas E. Saunders, Commander Post 207, Stratford. This group met with the Airport Board on two occasions, 8-5-04 and 9-5-04. On the first visit, Board Members directed Staff members to move the General's portrait to a spot in the lobby where all could see it, and ultimately it was the hope the portrait would be moved to the West wall of the lobby and share that space with the plaque dedicating this building as a war memorial for all Veterans who had given their lives in the service of their country. At the last meeting, the Board informed the group they were preparing signage that would state "Welcome to Saunders Field" as visitors entered the terminal area and another that said "Thanks for visiting Saunders Field," on the exit road.

In addition to the above, Ben Victor, the sculptor, informed he intended to make a bronze profile of General Saunders and present it to the Airport Board, at no cost, to be mounted at an appropriate location in the main lobby.

### **Fall Tractor Pull 9-26-04**

Stratford American Legion Post 207, has, over the past few years, sponsored a Fall tractor pull held at the Stratford Park. Ronald "Jack" Gubin has served as coordinator for this event.

This year's pull was reported as the largest ever with 120 pulls. There were in excess of 60 tractors registered for the event.

Tractor pulls have developed into a family affair with some father-son combinations competing.

Post 207 again operated a concession stand and provided a flag-man and hook-up man.

Those members assisting this year were; Harley Hansen, Earl Shunkwiler, Norman Lee, George (Pat) Hansen, Verlin Stange, Eugene Face, Steve Face, Vern Prickett, Duane Jark and Thomas E. Saunders.

Lloyd Jark , again, graciously donated his time and Bob Cat, to maintain the track. We thank him for this donation to the pull.

### **Greg Milbrant -Homecoming 9-5-04**

Julie Milbrandt, Greg's wife, organized a homecoming party. Greg is a member of the 740th Transportation Reserve Unit, out of Brookings . He had been transferred to Brookings from the Aberdeen Unit. He was promoted to Master Sgt. The party was held at the family farm, NE of Stratford and was largely attended by fellow Legionnaires, family and friends.

### **Americanism**

Thomas E. Saunders, Commander, Post 207 was invited to appear before the Westerners on 9-10-04 and again on 10-5-04 before the Aberdeen Kiwanis Club. Saunders discussed the history of those Veterans from the Civil War, Spanish American War, and WW1 who were active in the development of Southern Brown County. He identified those Civil War and Spanish American War Veterans, now buried in the East and West (Oakwood) cemeteries. He spoke of some of their outstanding accomplishments. Also, he identified some of those Veterans from WW2 who made the supreme sacrifice and those that were highly decorated.

### **Annual Fund Raiser 11-6-04**

Post 207 held its fundraiser in early November this year so as not to conflict with other community events. This was the first year the event was not a Stag event, inviting the wives and others who wished to attend. As in the past, door prizes, turkey shoot and cash awards were made. We had a very good turn out; a fun evening was had. Food was supplied by Kristi Brunes of the B&S Bar. Our earnings for this party were in excess of \$3000.00

### **Veterans Day Pot Luck Dinner 11-7-04**

Every year on the Sunday preceding Veterans Day, the Auxiliary of Post 207 hosts a pot luck dinner to honor the Veterans from the area. This year was no exception, and we were honored by the presence of our State Commander Gene Schumacher and his wife. Those at the Head Table were Chaplain Eugene Face, Adjutant Vern Prickett, Commander Thomas E. Saunders, State Commander Gene Schumacher, and his wife, Sharon.

Commander Saunders called the group to attention and assisted by Jacob and Eric Milbrandt, sons of Greg Milbrandt, lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chaplain Eugene Face led the group in the table blessing.

After a wonderful dinner, State Commander Schumacher gave a short talk on his aims and wishes for the American Legion. He spoke of the need for all Vetern organizations to work together, to be heard as one voice before the Congress. Schumacher also spoke of the need to maintain and increase Post memberships, reminding that the Guard members currently in Iraq are eligible.

Post 207 had, during this year, authorized the expense of obtaining plaques that would identify those area residents who participated in various past wars since WW1. Allen Hoeft, whose brothers and a son had served in the Armed Forces, volunteered to prepare an appropriate background for the plaques. Plaques covering WW1, WW2, the Korean conflict, and Vietnam were unveiled for the attendees. Mr. Hoeft, who was in attendance, was thanked for his contribution to this project.

Kenneth Jark, Sgt. @q Arms, this year celebrated 50 years of membership in Post 207. Kenny was presented his 50 year pin by State Commander Schumacher assisted by Vern Prickett, Adjutant. Ken was also honored by the presence of his family to observe this event. The Post then presented Kenny with a large cake, some of which was shared with those present at the event.



A 25 year pin was presented to Orville Schlichting. Orville is a resident of the nursing home at Groton, S.D. Many were happy to greet him, and pleased that he could attend. A 60 year pin had been sent to Lynn Erdmann, a PUFL member of Post 207. He currently resides in Texas.

State Commander Schumacher and Adjutant Prickett then presented to Greg Milbrandt the Legion Medal of Honor for his recent service in Iraq. Commander Saunders then read the following prayer for those currently serving in the Armed Forces.

**A PRAYER FOR ALL THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES**

*O GOD OF MERCY, we beg You now to protect in a special way those who are fighting for us and for the country we love. Bless them and protect them. If they are tired, give them strength. If they are wounded and suffering, give them comfort. If they are lonely, touch them with Your gentle hand and let them know that You are near them. And if they should give their lives, grant them eternal peace. May they return safely to the arms of their families and friends. Hasten the day, dear Lord, when all may enjoy the blessings of peace once more. Amen*

Chaplain Eugene Face then gave the final blessing, bringing the events of the evening to a close.

**5th And Final Plaque**

A final plaque was prepared, identifying American Legion Post 207 members and Stratford area residents who served in the Armed Forces of the United States from 1978 to present. This includes Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Beirut, Persian Gulf Desert Shield-Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan, Iraqi Freedom, and SD National Guard service.

**Americanism-Veterans Involvement**  
**Settling of S. Brown County**

Commander Saunders was invited to appear before the Aberdeen Lions Club on 3-23-05. He identified those Civil War and WWI Veterans who were active in the development of Southern Brown County. Those Veterans were active as farmers, businessmen and Government leaders. He also covered the involvement of area residents from the Civil War through the current conflicts.

**Legionnaire of the Year**

Post 207, American Legion, Stratford SD on 3-13-05 elected Vern Prickett, Adjutant, as Legionnaire of the year for period 2004-05.

**Donations**

During the last reporting period, this Post made the following donations:

War Memorial Fund, Aberdeen Regional Fund	\$50.00
American Legion Family Relief Fund	25.00
City of Stratford, meeting site	100.00
Warner High School, Post Prom Party	100.00
Warner American Legion Baseball	150.00

**APPENDICES**

### ROSTER OF POST 207 MEMBERSHIP

- |      |  |              |
|------|--|--------------|
| (1)  | BAGGETT, Keith W. P.O. Box 435<br>Stratford, SD 57474                            | 605-395-6541 |
| (2)  | BARTZ, Randall K., 11532 Waldos Beach Rd.<br>Rosholt, SD 57260                   |              |
| (3)  | ELLINGSON, Richard 2702 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. SE,<br>Unit 108, Aberdeen, SD 57401 | 605-225-1821 |
| (4)  | ERDMANN, Lynn 1855 W. Southern,<br>#201 Apache Junction, AZ 85220                |              |
| (5)  | ERICKSON, Clarence 39757 141 <sup>st</sup> St.<br>Groton, SD 57445               | 605-395-6631 |
| (6)  | FACE, Eugene 39815 147 <sup>th</sup> St.<br>Stratford, SD 57474                  | 605-395-6608 |
| (7)  | FACE, Korinne J. P.O. Box 625<br>Stratford, SD 57474                             | 605-395-6911 |
| (8)  | FACE, Steven 39815 147 <sup>th</sup> St.<br>Stratford, SD 57474                  |              |
| (9)  | GUBIN, Ronald J. 14547 141 <sup>st</sup> St.<br>Stratford, SD                    | 605-395-6964 |
| (10) | HANSEN, George M., Jr. (Pat)<br>39578 141 <sup>st</sup> St. Stratford, SD 57474  | 605-226-2348 |
| (11) | HANSEN, Harley C. 14447 396 <sup>th</sup> Ave.<br>Stratford, SD 57474            | 605-395-6928 |
| (12) | HANSEN, Michael 620 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave. NE<br>Aberdeen, SD 57401                | 605-622-7838 |
| (13) | HOEFT, Myron 30185 Chualar Canyon Rd.,<br>Chualar, CA 93925                      |              |
| (14) | HUNDSTAD, James 13755 395 <sup>th</sup> Ave<br>Bath, SD 57474                    | 605-225-3093 |
| (15) | JARK, David L. 374 Sykes Creek Rd.<br>Rogue River, OR 97537                      |              |
| (16) | JARK, Duane L. P.O. Box 453<br>Stratford, SD 57474                               | 605-395-6549 |
| (17) | JARK, Kenneth 401 21 <sup>st</sup> Ave. NE<br>Aberdeen, SD 57401                 | 605-225-0510 |

- (18) KURTZ, David Beverly Health Care  
1015 3<sup>rd</sup> St., East, Redfield, SD57469 605-472-2282
- (19) LEE, Norman 38905 140<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Warner, SD 57479 605-229-5507
- (20) LIER, Herman 622 S. McCoy  
Aberdeen, SD 57401 605-725-5724
- (21) MARLETTE, Timothy D. P.O. Box 12  
Brentford, SD 57457 605-472-<sup>2</sup>2781
- (22) MILBRANDT, Greg 13933 399<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Groton, SD 57445 605-395-6515
- (23) PARDEW, Harold L. 40280 134<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Groton, SD 57445
- (24) PRICKETT, Vernon J. II P.O. Box 348  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6911
- (25) RASOR, Tina Hansen Carlson 5717  
Charlesgate Rd., Huber Heights, OH 45424
- (26) ROSSOW, Gerald Box 151 Independence,  
CA
- (27) SAUNDERS, Thomas E. 1515 E. Melgaard Rd.,  
Unit # 102, Aberdeen, SD 57401 605-229-5349
- (28) SCHLEY, Marvin 1115 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Aberdeen, S.D. 57401 605-225-1739
- (29) SCHLICHTING, Orville Beverley Nursing  
Home, Groton, S.D. 57445
- (30) SHUNKWILER, Earl G. 39806 149<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Stratford, S.D.57474 605-382-5879
- (31) STANGE, Verlin 14393 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6419
- (32) TAYLOR, Deanna P.O.Box 413  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6411
- (33) WANTTIE, Gerald 424 S 12<sup>th</sup> St.  
Aberdeen, SD 57401 605-225-8512
- (34) WAYMAN, Craig 38670 123<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Westport, SD 57481 605-229-1459
- (35) WAYMAN, Wendy Milbrandt 38670  
123rd St., Westport, SD 57481 605-229-1459

# Application for Post of The American Legion

Provisions of Constitution Adopted at Minneapolis Convention  
November 10, 11, 12, 1919



## ARTICLE IV.

### ELIGIBILITY.

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted or commissioned, and who served on active duty in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States at some time during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States, at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the Naval, Military or Air forces of any of the Governments associated with the United States during the Great War; provided, that no person shall be entitled to membership (a) who, being in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during said period, refused on conscientious, political, or other grounds, to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership as hereinabove provided.

## ARTICLE IX.

Section 1. Those who desire to form a Post shall make application for a charter to the Commander of the Department in which they reside. The charter shall be issued by the National Commander and National Adjutant upon receipt of the application properly executed by the charter members of the projected post, but only when such application is approved by the Commander of the Department, or by the Department Executive Committee. Post charters shall be countersigned by the Commander and the Adjutant of the Department.

Section 2. The minimum membership of a post shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Department in whose area it lies.

Section 3. Each Department may prescribe the Constitution of its posts. Post charters may be revoked by the Department Executive Committee with the approval of the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. No post shall be named after any living person.

**INSTRUCTIONS (Read carefully)**—Each local group will designate a representative to sign the certificate at the foot of this application and to receive the charter when issued. No application can be considered unless properly executed by at least fifteen men. Applications must be made in triplicate, one original bearing the signatures of fifteen applicants eligible for membership and two copies bearing the same fifteen names typewritten. All three will be forwarded to the Department Commander. The original application will be returned by indorsement to the Local Post with the charter. One copy of application will be retained by Department Headquarters, and the other by National Headquarters.

To State Commander

Department Commander of The American Legion (Department of So. Dak.)

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we have served in the military or naval forces of the United States, between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and are entitled to membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION under Article IV of the Constitution, as above quoted. We hereby request the

issuance of a charter for the formation of a Post at Stratford S. D., to be

Known as Stratford Post, Department of So. Dak., No. 207 On the

issuance of a charter we hereby agree to organize and maintain a Post under the above name with a minimum membership of fifteen. We hereby further agree to uphold the principles of THE AMERICAN LEGION and to comply with all rules and regulations prescribed by the Department and National Organization of the Legion.

NAMES	ADDRESSES
<u>Bruno Rock</u>	<u>Stratford S. D.</u>
<u>Harry E. Salk</u>	" " "
<u>Stebbing Francis Mikus</u>	" " "
<u>Robert Wieseback</u>	" " "
<u>Lawrence W. Wolking</u>	" " "
<u>Larry Ward Ashford</u>	" " "
<u>Paul Henry Brown</u>	" " "
<u>Robert J. Carr</u>	" " "
<u>Dennis J. Daly</u>	" " "
<u>Walter Benjamin Foster</u>	" " "
<u>Rollie S. Hartwell</u>	" " "
<u>Gerhard Charles Stange</u>	" " "
<u>Roeff Harris Herboth</u>	" " "
<u>Joseph Alexander Coleman</u>	" " "
<u>Henry A. Taylor</u>	" " "
<u>Stratford S. D.</u>	<u>Feb 5</u> , 19 <u>21</u>

I hereby certify to the accuracy and good faith of the above application. The charter when issued is to be mailed to me at the address below.

Harry E. Salk

23

Stratford S. Dak.

WORLD WAR I AREA VETERANS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 207 MEMBERS  
(1921 to 1946)

ED AMLEY	EMIL FRANCOLLI	GEORGE MIKE	MARTIN C. SKRAASTAD
MARVIN ANDERSON	LEROY FULLER **	STERLING FRANCIS MIKESELL * **	HUGH SMITH
SIGRUD ARNSTON **	CHARLES GABBERT **	ALEX MINN **	ED SOLBERG
HARRY WARD ASHFORD * **	ARTHUR GERHARTER	R.H. MISSELL	ALBERT SOPP
MICHAEL V. BAUER	SANFORD GULLICKSON	RAYMOND MITCHEL	GERHARD CHARLES STANGE * **
EDWARD J. BERGER	ALVIN GUNDERSON	LESTER MOULTON **	PAUL STANGE SR.
T.L. BROMMER	F.L. HAGEN	ARTHUR NELSON	CHARLES STEIN
PAUL HENRY BROWN * **	GUSTOV HALVERSON	MARTIN NELSON	L.S. STONE
GEO. W. BURKE **	CARL HANSEN	JOE NEVILLE	GEORGE L. STRAUCH
GERALD A. BURKE	ROLLIE S. HARTWELL * **	PAUL F. NICKEL	TED STREEN
ROBERT J. CARR * **	ROLFE HARRIS HESKETH * **	HANS H. OHLFEST	NICK STREET
FLOYD M. CHRISTMAN	ARCHIE R. HITE	ROBERT H. OTT	FLOYD SWANSTROM
JOSEPH ALEXANDER COLEMAN * **	ARTHUR W. HOLCOMB	HARRY PABST	HENRY R. TAYLOR * **
ALBERT B. CRIDDLE	WILLIAM A. JARK **	CHARLES POKORNEY **	HALVOR TIGEN
VIVIAN H. CRINER **	ERNEST A. JONES	ARTHUR D. RICHERT	HARRY TOLVSTAD
DENNIS F. DALY * **	JAKE KNOLL	BRUNO ROCK * **	ELI VELKE
ROBERT J. DANIELS	ALFRED KRAMP	HERMAN ROCK	LAWRENCE W. WALKING * **
EDWARD DANSREAU	SELMAR LANDLAND	W.A. ROSSOW **	JOHN W. WAYNE
H.E. DARCEY	LLOYD J. LARSON	ED SAMUELSON **	ROBERT WIEDENBACH
NED DARCEY	ALFRED LENLING	HERMAN SCHINKEL	PAUL WILSON
PATRICK M. DONHAM	SANFORD LUND	BERNARD SCHLEY	DON YOUNG
WALTER BLAIN ESTEE * **	V.G. MC CLEREY **	LOUIS SCHLICHTING	
HARRY E. FALK * **	LESTER MC MILLIN	WILLIAM SCHLICHTING	
EARL FIREY	GEORGE MELBY	OLIVER G. SCHUMACHER	

\*Charter Member Post 207  
\*\* Member Post 207 1921  
Source Material; Charter Application 1921  
Membership lists 1921-1946  
Auxillary & Cemetary records

**STRATFORD AREA RESIDENTS WHO HONORABLY**  
**SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE**  
**UNITED STATES DURING WW2**

*Bartz, Rudolph	Hafnor, Carl
*Bunsness, Joseph W.	Hafnor, Evelyn
Bunsness, Kenneth J.	Holcomb, John "Jack"
Bunsness, Mark	Hundstad, Bernard G.
Carmine, Darrel	Knox, Carol B.
Carmine, Duane	Knox, Richard E.
Carmine, Lee	Lorenz, Francis
Cowie, Reed	*McNeil, Earl "Dick"
*Dayton, Dale	Misslitz, Curtis
Dayton, Earl	Misslitz, Donald
Dayton, Robert	*Misslitz, Vernon
Dunker, Dale	*Moulton, Clifford
Dunker, Wallace	Moulton, Dale
Erdmann, Lynn	*Olson, Kenneth
Erdmann, Richard	Petersen, Ralph
*Erickson, Clarence	Radke, Verril R. "Mike"
*Erickson, Harvey	*Rawlings, James Mathew
*Face, Knolen	Robinson, Clarence
Floan, George	*Rock, Robert
Floan, Melvin	Samuelson, Maurice
*Floan, Raymond	Saunders, Laverne G.
*Gerharter, Vernon	*Saunders, Thomas E.

\*Stratford HS Graduate



\*Schley, Delmar

\*Schley, Kermit.

\*Schley, Melvin

\*Schley, Raymond

Schlichting, Delbert

Schlichting, Loyd

Schlichting, Orville

Stange, William Edgar

Stewart, Jack

Stoltenberg, Floyd

Svarstad, Albert E. (KIA)

Swenson, Harvey L. (KIA)

\*Westby, Morton K. (KIA)

\*Wood, Ervin (POW)

Wood, Harold

\*Stratford HS Graduate

AMERICAN LEGION POST 207 MEMBERS  
AND  
STRATFORD AREA RESIDENTS  
WHO HONORABLY SERVED IN THE  
ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES  
DURING THE KOREAN CONFLICT ERA  
6-25-50 TO 1-31-55

---

JAY DAVIS

ELMO ELLINGSON

RICHARD ELLINGSON

EUGENE FACE

WESLEY FACE

RICHARD FRANCOLI

ALLAN W. GERHARTER

RONALD "JACK" GUBIN

ROBERT HANSON

LEONARD HOEFT

KENNETH JARK

THURLO JARK

HERMAN LIER

CLARENCE "TURK" MC NEIL

GEORGE PAGEL

BARBARA STANGE QUILL

WARREN ROCK

LARRY ROSSOW

GORDON ROSSOW

WILLIAM "TUSH" SEBRING

DELMAR SCHLEY

DUANE SCHLEY

MARVIN SCHLEY

PAUL STANGE JR.

GERALD WANTTIE

ROY WOOD

AMERICAN LEGION POST 207 MEMBERS  
AND  
STRATFORD AREA RESIDENTS  
WHO HONORABLE SERVED IN THE  
ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES  
DURING THE VIETNAM ERA

2-28-61 to 5-7-75

---

KEITH BAGGETT	NORMAN LEE
RANDALL BARTZ	HAROLD PARDEW
DENNIS DAYTON	GEORGE MATHIEU JR.
DENNIS DUNKER	DAN MC COMSEY
EUGENE FACE	DON RADKE
NORMAN HAGEN	ROBERT RADKE
GEORGE (PAT) HANSEN	CHARLES DAVID REINHARDT
MICHAEL HANSEN	WILLIAM B. REINHARDT
HARWOOD HOEFT	ARTHUR L. ROBINSON
HENRY HOEFT JR.	FREDDIE ROBINSON
LEONARD HOEFT	KEVIN ROSSOW
JAMES HUNDSTAD	ROBERT SANDERS
DAVID JARK	LELAND STANGE
DUANE JARK	VERLIN STANGE
DUANE KRAMER	EARL SHUNK WILER
DAVID KURTZ	GERALD WANTTIE

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 207 MEMBERS  
AND  
STRATFORD AREA RESIDENTS  
SERVING IN ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES  
1978 TO 2005**

---

**LEBANON, GRENADA, PANAMA,  
BERUIT 8/24/82 TO 1/31/90**

KORINNE FACE  
STEVEN FACE  
HARLEY HANSEN  
VERN PRICKETT  
CRAIG ALLAN WAYMAN  
WENDY MILBRANDT WAYMAN

**PERSIAN GULF-DESERT SHIELD  
DESERT STORM ERA  
8/2/1990 TO PRESENT**

ADAM BRUNES  
WENDY BRUNES  
AMBER BRUNES CROUCH  
KORINNE FACE  
STEVEN FACE  
HARLEY HANSEN  
MYRON P. HOEFT  
CHRIS KASSUBE  
GREG MILBRANDT  
VERN PRICKETT  
TINA HANSEN RASOR  
FREDDIE ROBINSON  
EARL SHUNKWILER  
DEANNA TAYLOR  
CRAIG ALLAN WAYMAN  
WENDY MILBRANDT WAYMAN

**OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM  
AFGHANISTAN 9/1/2001 ERA**

AMBER BRUNES CROUCH  
STEVE FACE  
HARLEY HANSEN  
GREG MILBRANDT  
FREDDIE ROBINSON\*  
WENDY MILBRANDT WAYMAN

**OPERATION IRAQ FREEDOM ERA  
4/2002 TO PRESENT**

AMBER BRUNES CROUCH  
ADAM BRUNES  
STEVE-FACE  
GREG MILBRANDT  
FREDDIE ROBINSON  
KORINNE FACE  
ROBERT TAYLOR

**SD NG & RESERVE SERVICE**

JEAN REINHARDT, NG 1978-1979  
BRUCE REINHARDT 1985-1997

\*SERVED IN BOSNIA 1995

www.aberdeennews.com

Saturday, May 22, 2004

### **Stratford:** Memorial Day services planned

Stratford American Legion Post 207, together with the Legion Auxiliary, will have a Memorial Day program at the Community Hall on May 31 at 8 a.m.

Ceremonies will follow at the East Rondell Cemetery at 9 a.m., West Rondell

(Oakwood) at 9:30 a.m. and Scandinavian Church at 10 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

A plaque will be unveiled identifying those from the area who served during World War II.

*From staff reports*

# Composer puts musical memories on paper

*Aberdeen native has written a book*

**C**omposer, conductor, arranger and producer John Cacavas has written a book looking back on his life in music.

The book, which was released a few weeks ago, is called "It's More Than Do-Re-Mi: My Life in Music." He wrote it with his wife, Bonnie Becker Cacavas. Both are Aberdeen natives.

Cacavas' career began, as he says, as a "kid bandleader in Aberdeen."

He knew Ira Gershwin and Richard Rodgers. Guy Lombardo recorded his first song. During his career, he has done extensive work in television and movies.

The 73-year-old Cacavas, who lives in Beverly Hills, Calif., graduated from Aberdeen Central in 1948. His wife is a 1951 Central graduate.

"It's More Than Do-Re-Mi," published by Xlibris, is priced at \$22 for paperback and \$30 for hardcover.

Little Professor Book Center in Aberdeen has a limited supply of the book, but can order more. Engel Music Supply may also have the book down the road.

## Cresbard's busy past

Elwin Schmidt was at Cresbard School when it was a bustling place of learning.

Schmidt, who is now 80, worked in Cresbard for 14 years, from 1951 to 1964. "We had about 150 kids in high

school," he remembers, and eight bus lines delivered Cresbard's students to school each day.

Schmidt's time in Cresbard included three years as principal. He was also a teacher and superintendent.

The Cresbard school district is now being absorbed by the Faulkton, Ipswich and Northwestern school systems.

Schmidt, who now lives in Pierre, says with Cresbard's dropping enrollment, closing the school was the right thing to do.

But he and his wife, Ruth, enjoyed their time in Cresbard.

"It was a nice town," he says.

"And great people," Ruth says. Everyone there "worked with the school 100 percent."

After leaving Cresbard, Elwin Schmidt spent 18 years with the State Department of Education.



Jeff Bahr



Schmidt

## National morning show

Local personalities are no longer heard on the Z-97 morning show.

All programming heard throughout the day on the Aberdeen station, also known as KNBZ-FM 97.7, is now supplied by a national program service called Today's Best Hits. That programming includes the Jonathan and Mary morning show from 6 to 10 a.m.

The other two Pheasant Country stations in Aberdeen, KGIM-AM 1420 and KGIM-FM 103.7, still have local morning shows.

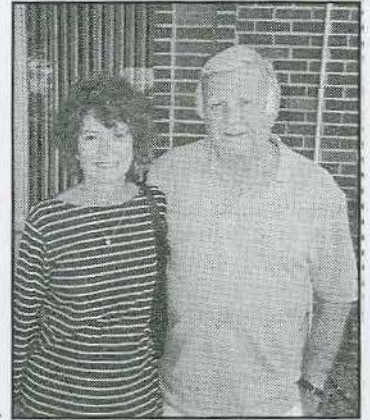
Pheasant Country general manager Brian Lundquist says the station is "never content with the way things are," and that another change will be introduced soon.

Recently the station gathered 150 people at the Johnson Fine Arts Center to comment on music, as it does every year. The music preferred by that group, he said, will soon be heard on the air.

## Major contribution

Here's a reminder of just how many Americans were involved in World War II.

The members of Stratford American Legion Post 207 figure that within a seven-mile radius of Stratford, 58 people served in the second World War.



American News Photo by Jeff Bahr

**Aberdeen return:** Composer Johnny Cacavas and his wife, Bonnie, visited Aberdeen in September 2003 for the 55th reunion of his 1948 Aberdeen Central class.

Included in that area were seven families with three sons each in the war, said post commander Tom Saunders.

## Young demographics

Who watches TV shows like "Blind Date"?

Young people. In an interview last month, KCPO owner Chuck Poppen cited the show as one of the more popular programs on his channel.

Poppen said "Blind Date" is a show "you may or may not be too happy with. It's kind of racy, but it's very popular with the younger demos."

Jeff Bahr is the American News Dakota Living editor. His e-mail address is [jbahr@aberdeennews.com](mailto:jbahr@aberdeennews.com).

**MEMORIAL DAY 2004**



Youth of the area presenting skit "America."

**Left to right:** Collin Jark, J. Campbell, Danti Baptalez, Chris Jark, Derrick Jark, Taylor Ellingson, Payton Ellingson, R. J. Campbell, Jessica Campbell, Mallory Jark.

Presentation of a plaque, identifying some 59 persons from the Stratford area who served in the Armed forces during WW2.



5-31-04

**L to R:** Vern Prickett, Adjutant and Thomas E. Saunders, Commander.



5-31-04

Vern Prickett, Adjutant





5-31-04

Sgt. At Arms Kenneth Jark, reading the roll call of the dead, buried in the three cemeteries visited by Post 207 on Memorial Day.

**L to R** in foreground: Clarence Erickson, Richard Ellingson, Earl Shunkwiler, Gerald Wanttie

#### POST MEMBERS



5-31-04

**L to R. Front Row:** Norman Lee, George "Pat" Hansen, Tom Saunders, Orville Schlichting, Kenneth Jark, Eugene Face, Deanna Taylor

**Back Row:** Harley Hansen, Earl Shunkwiler, Clarence Erickson, Gerald Wanttie, Verlin Stange, Richard Ellingson, Herman Lier, Duane Jark, Vern Prickett, Korinne Face.

**EAST RONDELL 2004**



**Background:** Sgt. at Arms Kenneth Jark

**Foreground:** Chaplain Eugene Face

**Flag Detail L to R:** Tom Saunders, Earl Shunkiwiler, Verlin Stange, Deanna Taylor

**Firing Squad L to R:** Harley Hansen, Norman Lee, Vern Prickett, George "Pat" Hansen

**Post Members L to R:** Herman Lier, Duane Jark, Clarence Erickson, Gerald Wanttie

**WEST RONDELL 2004**



5-31-04

**Background:** Anna Tribble, bugler

**L to R:** Tom Saunders, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Deanna Taylor, Harley Hansen, Norman Lee, Vern Prickett, George "Pat" Hansen, Herman Lier, Clarence Erickson, Duane Jark

**Foreground:** Ken Jark, Sgt. at Arms



5-31-04

**Front Row L to R:** Norman Lee, Harley Hansen, George "Pat" Hansen, Vern Prickett, Tom Saunders, Deanna Taylor

**Back Row L to R:** Anna Tribble, Ken Jark, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Eugene Face, Duane Jark, Herman Lier, Clarence Erickson, Gerald Wanttie

Depicted below are three of the remaining World War 2 Veterans belonging to Post 207. The fourth member, Lynn Erdmann, resides in Arizona. Those shown below had just completed participation in the 2004 Memorial Day services.



**L to R:** Clarence Erickson, Orville Schlichting, Thomas E. Saunders.

## SCHOOL NOTES

### Warner School selects Boys State participants

**T**he Warner School district has selected Jason Kay, Nathan Munger, Austin Schwan and Dirk Waite to attend Boys State this summer at Northern State University.

Kay and Waite are sponsored by the Rieck Morgan Legion Post No. 137 of Warner. Munger is sponsored by the Mansfield Legion and Schwan is sponsored by the Stratford Legion.

Kay is the son of Donneley and LaRita Kay of Warner. Munger is the son of Steve and Deb Munger of Mansfield. Schwan is the son of Steve and Sharon Schwan of Stratford. Waite is the son of Nadine Waite of Warner.



Kay



Munger



Schwan



Waite

Thursday, July 1, 2004

**Questions or Comments?**

Call City Editor Ian Fennell at (605) 622-2309 or 1-800-925-4100, during the day, or Patanna Zimmerman, (605) 622-2303 or 1-800-925-4100, evenings.

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## ACROSS THE REGION

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### Stratford plans activities for Independence Day

**S**tratford will celebrate Independence Day with several activities Sunday for all ages. Registration for a car show, sponsored by the BS Bar and Grill, is at 10 a.m. There is an entry fee. The car show runs from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is free.

A homemade ice cream social, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, will run from noon to 2 p.m. Free-will donations will be accepted.

The Stratford Community Children's Theater will perform at 3 p.m. behind the community hall. The parade begins at 4:30 p.m. A potluck picnic will be served at 6 p.m. Meat will be provided; those in attendance should bring their own utensils and a dish to pass. Games for kids of all ages begin around 7:30 p.m. The Fireworks Extravaganza begins around 10 p.m.

*From staff reports*

**Stratford Independence Day celebration, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., car show; noon-2 p.m., ice cream social; 3 p.m., Community Children's Theater performance; 4:30 p.m., parade; 10 p.m., fireworks.**

**All Class Reunion – Stratford High School 7-3-04**

Shown below are three members of the Stratford High School class of 1943, Veterans of WW2. There were two other class members who were also Veterans of WW2: Earl “Dick” McNeil, and Knolen Face. Clarence Erickson has received his 50-year pin as a member of Post 207, while Saunders has completed 24 years of service in Post 207.



**L to R:** Clarence Erickson, Raymond Schley, Thomas E. Saunders

**4<sup>th</sup> of July 2004**

As usual, the Color Guard of Post 207 led the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Stratford community parade. There was a larger than usual crowd this year due to the all class high school reunion. Most stayed for the picnic following the parade and the fireworks display that night.



**L to R:** George "Pat" Hansen, Vern Prickett, Earl Shunkwiler, Steven Face



## **SOUTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS**

**July 2004**



*Left to right Winners of the Post Narrative History are: First Place—Gertje-Van Lith Post No 229, Big Stone City, Historian Frank Zeek; Second Place—Stratford Post No 207, Historian Thomas E. Saunders accepting is District 14 Commander Gerald Sanborn; Third Place—Fort Randall Castle Post No 282, Pickstown, Historian Verlyn Baker on June 13, 2004 in Pierre.*

**Lynn Erdmann**

Lynn Erdmann, a PUFL member of Post 207, while serving in the US Army in Germany during WW2, was awarded the Silver Star for valor, in that he had crawled into a mine field to rescue a buddy who had stepped on a mine. A snapshot of Lynn was received at the Post, showing Lynn displaying the medal.



Sgt. Lynn Erdmann

**VETERANS STATUES, ABERDEEN REGIONAL AIRPORT**

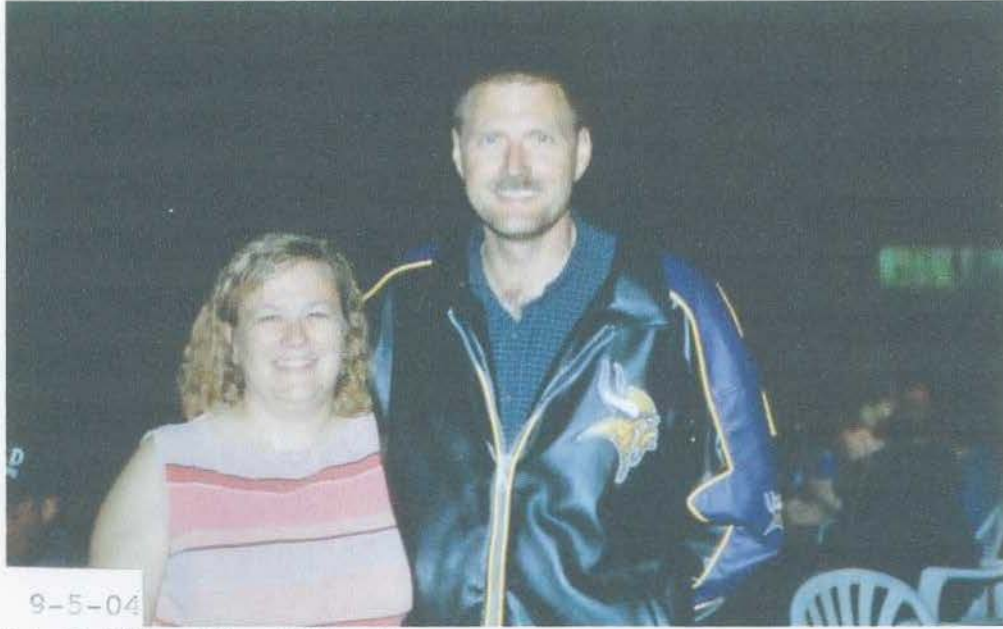
Ben Victor, sculptor, Northern State University, requested Veterans from the various wars since WW2 examine the second statue that was ready to be bronzed and placed with the first at the entrance to the Terminal building, Aberdeen Regional Airport. He asked that Veterans assure the equipment and dress was accurate for the period represented.

Pictured below are those WW2 Veterans who participated.



**L to R:** Don Whittlinger, Commander CC Coral VFW Post 17, Aberdeen, SD; Joseph Kelly, Capt. SD 147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery WW2; Curtis Misslitz, Post 207; Thomas E. Saunders, Commander, Legion Post 207, Sgt. US Army Air Corp WW2; Artist Ben Victor; Don Mogen, American Legion Post 24; Unknown, Aberdeen, SD

**Greg Milbrandt Welcome Home Party 9-5-04**



**L to R:** Julie and Greg Milbrandt



**L to R:** Greg Milbrandt, Unknowns, Anissa and Raymond Stange



**L to R:** Anna Tribble, Unknown, Vern Prickett, Unknown



**L to R:** Eugene Face, Jean Face, Phyllis Saunders



**L to R:** Jacie and Jerry Schley, Dustin Schley



**L to R:** Phyllis and Lloyd Jark

**VETERANS DAY POT LUCK 11-7-04**



**L to R:** Tom Saunders, Kenneth Jark, Gene Schumacher, State Commander American Legion



Ken Jark's cake



**L to R:** Adj. Vern Prickett, Orville Schlichting, Gene Schumacher, State Commander



**Back Row L to R:** George "Pat" Hansen, Harley Hansen, Verlin Stange, Duane Jark, Earl Shunkwiler, Larry Jark  
**Front Row L to R:** Orville Schlichting, Stan Monson, Marvin Milbrandt





11-7-04

**L to R:** Gene Schumacher, State Commander; Herman Lier, Richard Ellingson



11-7-04

Allen Hoeft prepared the board for the plaques.

11-12-04



Saunders

Misslitz

Thomas E. Saunders ,  
Curtis Misslitz,  
WW2 Veterans  
unveil statue

American News Photos by Dawn Dietrich

**On display:** Aberdeen area veterans unveiled the second soldier statue by Northern State University resident sculptor Ben Victor at the Aberdeen Regional Airport Thursday. The unveiling was one of many Veterans Day observations around the region.

# Veterans honored for sacrifices

*New sculpture at Aberdeen airport among highlights*

By Mike Corpus  
American News Writer

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month — when in 1918 the “War to End All Wars” ended — more than 1,000 gathered Thursday to honor those who have served in the nation’s armed forces.

A morning program at Aberdeen Central High School in the new Golden Eagles Arena included a musical and spoken tribute to area veterans.

Servicemen and women from all branches of the service and every war since World War II were present for the salute, which at times took on a celebratory atmosphere with music and applause.

Emcee Army Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Nelson, a retired Gulf War veteran, called the crowd to attention as the color guard carried the American flag into the arena and the Aberdeen Public Schools Elementary School band sang “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Pastor Rick Riedel of



**Celebrating service:** Heidi Senst, 16, Michelle Heckel, 15, and Dani Uttermark, 15, all sophomores at Aberdeen Central High School, wave flags while singing “God Bless America” during a Veterans Day program at the school in Aberdeen.

Plymouth Congregational Church delivered the invocation, and the children again sang, this time “Stars and Stripes Forever” and “God Bless America.”

With students waving flags, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion proudly wearing their service caps and a few current service members in

full battle dress uniform, Nelson recognized Aberdeen’s two former prisoners of war.

Nelson called the names of World War II Army Air Corps officers retired Lt. Col. Sydney Mortenson, who was unable to attend, and former 1st Lt. Richard Grandpre, who sat in a wheelchair in the front row.

Both were shot out of the skies over Europe. Grandpre,

who spent 22 months as a POW in German camps, saluted as the audience applauded his service and sacrifice.

Nelson also read the names of a number of area servicemen who were killed in Vietnam, and recognized those parents who were present.

The Central High Symphonic Band followed the recognition with its own musical salute to the various branches of the service.

A student called out the names of the services starting with the Army and ending with the Navy, playing each branch’s song while those veterans stood to be recognized.

Former State American Legion Commander Wayne “Red” Vetter of Cresbard gave the address of the day.

“There are certain things that we take for granted at times,” Vetter began his address. “Our freedom, our safety, a good job, and you can add to that our military.”

Vetter, a World War II veteran, reminded the crowd of the sacrifices made by those who have served, and of what those people fought for.

“This is your day,” he said

See VETERANS DAY, Page 3B



American News Photo by Dawn Dietrich

**Closer look:** Lila Crespin of Newport Beach, Calif., right, and World War II Veteran Bernard Fischbach of Mellette, look at Northern State University resident sculptor Ben Victor's latest sculpture Thursday. Crespin, Victor's grandmother, was in town for the unveiling of *Combat Soldier*, Victor's second statue at the Aberdeen Regional Airport.

## Veterans Day: 'Each generation has had its war'

Continued from Page 1B

to the veterans. "You who fought to preserve our right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness."

As he wound up his remarks, Vetter reminded the crowd of the 25 million veterans in the United States, and that half of those are younger than 65.

"World War I was not the War to End All Wars — every generation has had its war from Pearl Harbor to Baghdad," he said.

**New sculpture:** Later in the day, about 50 people gathered at the Aberdeen Regional Airport for the dedication of the second of three statues for the airport's war memorial.

The new statue — sculpted by Northern State University resident sculptor Ben Victor — shows a soldier kneeling and pointing with his left hand; an M-16 assault rifle is in his right hand.

At the dedication, Victor called it the *Combat Soldier*. The first statue, the *Victory Soldier*, was unveiled last Veterans Day and stands, holding an American flag, to the right of the new figure.

"It is my honor to be here today to dedicate this sculpture to the veterans," Victor

said before a detail of about a dozen veterans cut the rope and removed the tarp covering the new bronze sculpture.

Gasps and oohs could be heard over the biting prairie wind as the tarp came off and the crowd of Victor's family members, veterans and others began to applaud.

Victor said he hopes to have the third and final war sculpture — the *Aftermath Soldier* — completed and ready for dedication on Veterans Day 2005.

"I hope it speaks to everyone here," Victor said.

After the program, people milled around the memorial.

"You can almost see what he's thinking," said one woman in the crowd as she looked at the *Combat Soldier*.

Mike Erickson, a Vietnam veteran from Aberdeen, said he was thrilled with the outcome of the sculpture.

"It turned out better than when I saw it in clay — it's just a fantastic work," Erickson said.

A number of veterans were invited by Victor to see the clay sculpture earlier this year before he sent it to be cast in bronze.

Reporter Mike Corpos; (605) 622-2310 or 1-800-925-4100 ext. 310; mcorpos@aberdeennews.com

## Signs are welcome additions

**To the editor** — Our thanks to the Regional Airport Board for erecting signs that specify that the airfield is “Saunders Field.”

General Saunders was a WWII hero who does merit recognition and for whom the airport was named. The “Welcome to

Saunders Field” and the “Thank you for visiting Saunders Field” signs are welcome additions to the roadway into the new terminal.

Thank you.

**Carlton C. Van Wagner**  
*Aberdeen*

## Omission needs correcting

**To the editor** — I visited the new airport terminal building April 7 at about 8 p.m. I looked all over the building (some of it was blocked off) trying to find a picture and plaque honoring general Saunders. The airfield was named for him because of his exploits during World War II.

There was nothing dis-

played that would indicate the name of the airport and the reason it was named Saunders Field.

The airport manager and the airport board should correct this omission at once. And give the General the honor that is due him.

**Carlton C. Van Wagner**  
*Aberdeen*

Sunday, April 11, 2004 **5A**

**A M E R I C A N   N E W S**

Wednesday, December 22, 2004

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## Stratford fund-raiser had great help

**To the editor** — The Stratford American Legion Post 207 wants to give a special thank you to the following businesses who donated items to the 2004 Fund Raiser: Harry Implement, Bath Quick Stop, Taylor Seed, RDO Implement, REA Seed, Airport Cafe, H.C. Clark Implement, Pizza Ranch, Lakewood Mall, Pepsi Company, McDonald's, Coca-Cola Company, Economy Meat

Market, Artz Equipment Company, Aberdeen Equipment, First State Bank, Pioneer Ford, Bieglers Inc., Lust Chevy-Buick, Harr Motors, Chrysler Center and Dacotah Bank. Special thank you to the B.S. Bar of Stratford for preparing and serving the food. Also for everyone who came to support our event.

**Verlin Stange**

*Stratford American Legion Post 207*

**Christmas Youth Party 12-5-04**



**L to R:** Landon, Taylor, Payton, and Logan Ellingson, grandchildren of Richard Ellingson



Holly Jo Jark, granddaughter of Kenneth Jark

Civil War/Spanish American War Veterans  
Buried At East Rondell, West Rondell (Oakwood)  
& Scandinavian Church Cemeteries

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East Rondell

Civil War

James E. Robinson

West Rondell

Civil War

Elderkin P. Ashford

George Baker

William Harrison Bayne

Ralph Cowles

Eugene P. Roses

John Smith

Spanish American War

Homer Baker

Scandinavian Church Cemetery

Civil War & Spanish American War

Halvor Tiegen (Served in both wars)

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# The American Legion



**POST NO. 207  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
STRATFORD, SD 57474  
2006**

— THOMAS E. SAUNDERS —

**HISTORY  
OF  
POST NO. 207  
STRATFORD, SD 57474  
FOR 4-1-05 TO 4-30-06  
BY: THOMAS E. SAUNDERS**

## INTRODUCTION

This being the Centennial Year for the town of Stratford, it is appropriate that we also recall the circumstances of the founding of the American Legion. Officers of the American Expeditionary Forces in France in World War I, under the guidance of Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, proposed an organization of Veterans. The first organizational meeting took place in France in March of 1919. It considered every Veteran of the AEF to be a member of the Legion. Congress then granted the Legion its Charter in September of 1919. Stratford Post 207 was granted a Charter in 1921, and those who obtained that charter have been identified in previous histories. The goals of the American Legion are set forth hereafter in the Preamble to the Constitution, and are summed up in the phrase, "For God and Country."

The town of Stratford, founded in 1906, quickly grew, as did the membership made up of WWI Veterans. With the advent of WWI, there were many large families, living within a seven mile radius of Stratford who responded to the needs of their country, and upon their return were part of the original membership.

Members of this community have historically exhibited great patriotism and support for the Armed Forces. WW2 saw 7 families within this small area with three sons in the service at the same time.

Recently, the entire community supported the Post in their successful effort to erect a Veterans' Memorial, honoring all Veterans of all wars since WWI. This monument will be placed at the entrance of the Stratford City Park.

As in the past, thanks is extended to Kathy Williams for her assistance in producing this document and to Dakotah Bank, Aberdeen, for the use of their copying equipment, making the publishing of this History possible.

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Preamble to the Constitution

For  
**G**od and **C**ountry  
we associate ourselves together for the  
following purposes



To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autoeracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



## CHAPTER 1

### ROSTER OF POST OFFICERS

#### COMMANDER/HISTORIAN



THOMAS E. SAUNDERS. Veteran of WW2. Sgt. in US Army Air Corp. serving from 9/10/43 to 3/19/46, as Central Fire Control gunner on B-29 bomber. Civilian occupation: SA FBI retired; VP Dakotah Bank, Aberdeen, retired. Resides at 2103 Sapphire Court, Aberdeen, SD 57401. He is a 25-year member of Post 207.

#### VICE-COMMANDER



GREG G. MILBRANDT. Greg is a member of the SD National Guard, 740<sup>th</sup> Transportation Unit out of Brookings, SD. He had formerly served with the 142<sup>nd</sup> Unit of Aberdeen. Greg had previously served during the first Iraq war and was recalled to active duty, serving in Iraq since April of 2003. While on this tour of duty, he was promoted to Master Sgt. He is a 7-year member of Post 207.

**ADJUTANT**



**VERN PRICKETT.** Vern has served honorably in both the US Marine Corp and US Army. His combined service is from 1975 to Feb 1999 (Desert Storm). Vern served as a Transportation Officer. He is self employed in the dairy business. He resides at P.O. Box 348, Stratford, SD.

**SGT. AT ARMS**



**KENNETH JARK.** Ken served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict from 4/53 to 4/55, attaining the rank of Cpl. He farmed for many years in the Stratford area and is a partner in Jark Auction Service with his son Val and Merlin Worley. Ken received his 50 year membership pin in 2004. In the past, he was active in youth activities in the community and has served as Sgt @ Arms for many years. He is a 51-year member of Post 207.

**CHAPLAIN**



**EUGENE FACE.** Eugene served in the US Air Force and SD National Guard from 2/53 to 6/62 (Korean Conflict). He attained the rank of E6 with MOS Aircraft Mechanic. He resides at 39815 147<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD. Eugene is the father of Korinne Face and Steven Face, also members of Post 207. He is a 43-year member of Post 207.

**HISTORIAN**



**DEANNA TAYLOR.** Deanna served in the US Army from 4/82 to 3/91 (Desert Storm) attaining the rank of E5. She lives in Stratford and is employed in Aberdeen.

## CHAPTER 2

### ROSTER OF POST CHAIRS

#### MEMBERSHIP

VERLIN STANGE. Verlin served in the US Army from 11/1/61 to 8/9/63 (Berlin Crisis). MOS: Surveyor. Civilian Occupation: Farmer. Resides: 14393 397<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD. He is a 10-year member Post 207.

#### AMERICANISM OFFICER

RONALD "JACK" GUBIN. Jack served in the US Army from 1/53 to 1/56 (Korea). MOS: Truck Driver. Civilian Occupation: Farmer. Resides: 14547 398<sup>th</sup> Ave, Stratford, SD. He is a 48-year member Post 207.

#### SERVICE OFFICER

GEORGE "PAT" HANSEN (JR.). Pat served in the US Navy from 1957 to 1963 (Vietnam era). Resides: RFD Stratford, SD. Civilian Occupation: farmer, rural mail carrier. He is a 11-year member of Post 207. Pat is the father of Harley Hansen and Tina Hansen Rasor.

### ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

EARL SHUNKWILER. Earl served in the US Navy from 1968 to 1992 (Vietnam-Persian Gulf) in Ordinance and Machinist Mate. Earl resides at 39806 149<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD. He is employed in Maintenance at State Hospital, Redfield, SD. He is a 16-year member of Post 207.

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

HARLEY HANSEN. Harley is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer US Navy and is currently in the Reserve. He served 1984-92 SW Asia. He was recalled to active duty 2002, but is again in Reserve status. He was a Gunners Mate in the Navy and is currently employed by the US Post Office. He resides at 14447 396<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD. He is a 14-year member of Post 207.

**CHAPTER 3**  
**ONE-YEAR CHRONICLE**

**4-1-05 to 4-30-06**

**Election of Officers**

The following officers were unanimously re-elected on 4-11-05:

Commander/Historian	THOMAS E. SAUNDERS
Vice Commander	GREG G. MILBRANDT
Adjutant	VERN PRICKETT
Historian	DEANNA TAYLOR
Sgt. @ Arms	KENNETH JARK
Chaplain	EUGENE FACE

**Post Chairs**

The following members were re-appointed to the Post chairs by Commander Saunders for the following year:

Americanism Officer	JACK GUBIN
Public Affairs	GERALD WANTTIE
Membership	VERLIN STANGE
Service Officer	GEORGE "PAT" HANSEN, JR.
Athletic Director	EARL SHUNKWILER
Children & Youth	HARLEY HANSEN

**Boys State 2005**

The State Adjutant authorized Post 207 to sponsor two candidates for the 2005 Boys State Session. Nominated were Cody Tolvstad, son of Mark and Mary Tolvstad, a Junior at Warner High School and Laef Johnson, son of Bill and Darlene Johnson, a Junior at Groton High School.



### **Post 207 – 2005 Legionnaire of the Year**

Post 207 unanimously nominated Post Adjutant, Vern Prickett, for Legionnaire of the Year, for competition in District 14. A nominee from Eureka won the right to represent District 14. We know, however, that Vern was well qualified to represent District 14.

### **Spring Conference Dist. 14, Groton, SD**

The Commander, Pat Hansen (Post 207 Veterans Service Officer), and Herman Lier attended the District 14 Spring Conference at Groton on 4-5-06. Items covered were Membership and Student Loans. Opportunities were explained by Warren Aas, Service Officer and Zack Kern, local Veterans Service Officer. Election was held for County Officers and resulted in Dale Schrom as County Commander and Zack Kern as Vice-Commander. Department Commander Schumacher and State Adjutant Ron Boyd addressed the group.

### **Children and Youth**

Jacob Milbrandt, son of Greg and Julie Milbrandt, rural Groton, was a member of Groton's Destination Imagination Team, which participated in the Global Finals of that Organization at Knoxville, Tennessee on May 25-28, 2005.

The Groton Team was made up of second and third graders. Post 207 made a donation to assist Jacob in his travel expenses to Tennessee.

## Memorial Day 2005

Post members and Auxiliary of Post 207 met at the Community Hall, Stratford at 8:00 a.m. for a light breakfast and program prior to departing for the three cemeteries.

Commander Saunders led the group in the Pledge to the Flag, introduced some guests and reminded the attendees of the origin of Memorial Day. Attention was drawn to the plaques displayed on the North wall. Commander Saunders read the names of those involved in conflicts since Desert Storm through the present. Those names appear on the 5<sup>th</sup> and final plaque.

Post members were provided with copies of the 2004-05 Post Histories.

Adjutant Vern Prickett then read an inspiring letter from an Iraq Veteran as to the importance of Memorial Day and their mission in Iraq.

The Commander then asked for a moment of silence to remember those on active duty with the various Armed Forces of the United States.

Sgt. @ Arms Kenneth Jark then read the Roll Call of the Dead, those former members buried in the various cemeteries of the area.

Those making up the Detail of 2005 were:

Flag Bearers & Guard

Tim Marlette, Deanna Taylor  
Greg Milbrandt, Wendy Wayman

Firing Squad

Norman Lee, George Hansen  
Harley Hansen, Vern Prickett

Sgt. @ Arms

Kenneth Jark

Chaplain

Eugene Face

Others in Attendance

Gerald Wanttie, Thomas E.  
Saunders, Clarence Erickson  
Duane Jark, Verlin Stange  
Jack Gubin, Herman Lier  
Tina Hansen-Rasor

At the beginning of the program, Mallory Jark and Christopher Jark played a patriotic tune, Chris on drums and Mallory on horn.

#### **July 4<sup>th</sup> 2005**

Post 207 again led the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, an annual event in Stratford. Those making up the team this year were: George "Pat" and Harley Hansen, guards, Greg Milbrandt and Wendy Milbrandt Wayman, flag bearers. Pat and Harley are father and son; Greg and Wendy are brother and sister.

#### **Tractor Pull 9-25-05**

Post 207 again sponsored a Fall tractor pull under the overall supervision of Ronald "Jack" Gubin. There were not as many pullers as in previous years, but bad weather accounted for that. Members of Post 207 again ran the concession stand with ladies of the Auxiliary providing bars.

#### **Marvin Schley funeral 10-11-05**

Post 207 provided Military graveside rites for deceased Post Member Marvin Schley. Marvin had been a long time member and promoter of this Post. Those making up the Detail for this sad event were: Sgt. @ Arms Kenneth Jark; Bugler Chuck Mewing; Firing Squad George "Pat" Hansen, Steve Face, Norman Lee, and Tim Marlette; Flag Detail Earl Shunkwiler and Richard Ellingson; Honor Guards Norman Lee and Thomas E. Saunders. Other Post members in attendance were Clarence Erickson, Duane Jark, Verlin Stange, and Gerald Wantie. Four members took time from their harvesting duties to participate in honoring Marvin.

#### **Annual Fund Raiser**

The annual fund raiser was held 11-5-05 and netted \$1,977.01.

### Post 207 Dues Policy

Post 207, at its regular meeting on 11-13-05, agreed the Post will pay the annual membership dues for individuals under the following circumstances:

1. First year membership – not a renewal
2. Those members now confined to a nursing home.
3. Those members on active duty, Active Reserve and/or National Guard

Item #3, above, involved four members at this time, viz. Harley Hansen, Greg Milbrandt, Tina Rasor, and Wendy Milbrandt Wayman.

### Americanism

Post 207 has renewed the practice of reciting the Preamble to the Legion Constitution at the beginning of our meetings. This is a refresher of the goals of the American Legion.

The Commander, on 3/13/06, appeared before the entire high School and Middle School of Hutterville School, Stratford, SD. This is the only known Hutterite High School in South Dakota. The students, though pacifists by belief and training, were informed of the great role that Veterans played in the development of this area and the role the Cavalry played in securing the area for settlers. They asked many questions about the Commander's role in WW2 and the background and family history of Brig. General Laverne G. Saunders, who was raised on a farm a short distance from their Colony.

The Commander also represented Post 207 at the welcome home Ceremony for B Battery 2/147<sup>th</sup> FA SD NG on 2-12-05, the dedication of the final War Memorial Statue at the Aberdeen Regional Airport on 11-11-05, and the Red Cross Canteen in the Milwaukee Depot.

### Veterans Day Appreciation Pot Luck 11-13-05

Post 207 American Legion Auxiliary traditionally has sponsored a pot luck dinner to honor all Veterans of all Wars from this area. This year was no exception. Legion members were responsible for the program.

Kirk Easton, Superintendent of Schools, Warner School District, accompanied by his wife and children, talked of his experiences in Iraq as a member of the SD 147<sup>th</sup> National Guard Unit. He spoke of the groups' accomplishments and the need for their service in that area.

Post 207 has unanimously selected Loy Stange for Legion Award of Fireman of the Year 2005. Loy is Chief of the Stratford Volunteer Fire Department. Following the Legion's format, inquiry was made as to Loy's qualifications for this award. Loy, in the past, had attended many training sessions sponsored by the State of SD and graduated to an Instructor in this field of endeavor. Loy participates in many other events in the community of Stratford. He takes the responsibility for preparing the meat for the Stratford 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration picnic. He is very active in the Community Theatre, assisting in building and transportation of stage and equipment.

To show appreciation for all he has done for this community, Post 207 presented Loy with the Official Legion Form designation of Fireman of the Year, a book of letters from several Fire Chiefs in the area, and the Post also presented him with a wall clock depicting a pheasant scene. We were further able to honor him by arranging for his immediate family to be present.

Post 207 presented Americanism awards to the two Boys State Representatives for 2005, Cody Tolvstad and Laef Johnson.

Commander Saunders then asked for a moment of silence for those persons currently on active duty with the armed forces. He also made some brief comments regarding Legion Resolution #169, "Support for War on Terrorism."

The meeting was closed with the appropriate prayer, delivered by Post Chaplain Eugene Face.

### Veterans Memorial Monument

In late 2004 and throughout 2005, discussions were held at Post meetings as to the possibility of erecting a Veterans War Memorial, to honor all Veterans of the Stratford area, including all Veterans since WWI. George "Pat" Hansen and his son Harley had initiated this proposal, contacting sellers of monuments, securing pictures and determining ball park costs of such a project. In the Fall of 2005, the Hansens promoted a pancake feed at the Stratford Community Center, and since all products were donated, we netted approximately \$800.00, plus a donation of some \$200.00.

It was thought that since Stratford is celebrating their Centennial year, the whole community get behind the Monument project. To this end, an ad hoc committee was formed, made up of Pat Hansen, Alan Hoeft, Bill and Diane Klager, and Bonnie Reiss, President of the Post Auxiliary. Val Jark, of Jark Auction Service, volunteered the use of his services for an auction. Ron Glugla, a native of Stratford, volunteered the use of one of his storage facilities to store items donated for the auction. Alan and Bill went forth gathering items for the auction from businesses and private individuals in the Stratford, Groton, Aberdeen, Bath, and Warner areas.

The Auction was held at the Stratford Community Hall on 4-2-06, resulting in sales in excess of \$10,000. This will allow the Post to order the Monument that was agreed upon at a regular meeting of April 10, 2006. The wording has been approved by the entire membership. The monument will be erected on city property, just west of the entrance to the Stratford City Park. This

site will provide access to electrical power, so a Flag Pole will be erected where the Flag can fly on a 24 hour basis.

All those who donated to our auction were thanked by a letter to the editor of the Aberdeen American News, while individuals making donations received subsequent to the auction have been thanked by individual correspondence.

**Donations made this Time Frame**

Stratford Centennial Committee – Expenses Brown Co. Fair	\$100
Warner High School Post Prom Party	\$150
Stratford Community Hall Building Fund	\$1000
Anna Tribble, daughter of Korinne Face, Post Member To participate in SD All-Star Volley Ball	\$100
Jacob Milbrandt, Destination Imagination National Competition To assist with travel expense to Nashville, TN	\$100
Shrine – Circus tickets for area children	\$30

**2006 Boys State Designee**

Seth Erickson, son of John and Meri Erickson, grandson of Clarence Erickson is this years candidate for Boys State. He is a Junior at Groton High School.

**Addition to 5<sup>th</sup> Plaque**

John J. Reinhardt was a member of SDNG, enlisting in 1979. He died as the result of an auto accident in 1980, after having just completed Basic Training.



**APPENDICES**

### ROSTER OF POST 207 MEMBERSHIP

- (1) BAGGETT, Keith W. P.O. Box 435  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6541
- (2) BARTZ, Randall K., 11532 Waldos Beach Rd.  
Rosholt, SD 57260
- (3) BENDER, Marvin, 420 E. Ash St., Box 470  
Stratford, SD 605-228-2051
- (4) ELLINGSON, Richard 2702 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SE,  
Unit 108, Aberdeen, SD 57401 605-225-1821
- (5) ERDMANN, Lynn 1855 W. Southern,  
#201 Apache Junction, AZ 85220
- (6) ERICKSON, Clarence 39757 141<sup>st</sup> St.  
Groton, SD 57445 605-395-6631
- (7) FACE, Eugene 39815 147<sup>th</sup> St.  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6608
- (8) FACE, Korinne J. P.O. Box 625  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6911
- (9) FACE, Steven 39815 147<sup>th</sup> St.  
Stratford, SD 57474
- (10) GUBIN, Ronald J. 14547 141<sup>st</sup> St.  
Stratford, SD 605-395-6964
- (11) HANSEN, George M., Jr. (Pat)  
39578 141<sup>st</sup> St. Stratford, SD 57474 605-226-2348
- (12) HANSEN, Harley C. 14447 396<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6928
- (13) HANSEN, Michael 620 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Aberdeen, SD 57401 605-622-7838
- (14) HOEFT, Myron 30185 Chualar Canyon Rd.,  
Chualar, CA 93925
- (15) HUNDSTAD, James 13755 395<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bath, SD 57474 605-225-3093
- (16) JARK, David L. 374 Sykes Creek Rd.  
Rogue River, OR 97537
- (17) JARK, Duane L. P.O. Box 453  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6549
- (18) JARK, Kenneth 401 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE  
Aberdeen, SD 57401 605-225-0510

- (19) KURTZ, David Beverly Health Care  
1015 3<sup>rd</sup> St., East, Redfield, SD57469 605-472-2282
- (20) LEE, Norman 38905 140<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Warner, SD 57479 605-229-5507
- (21) LIER, Herman 622 S. McCoy  
Aberdeen, SD 57401 605-725-5724
- (22) MARLETTE, Timothy D. P.O. Box 12  
Brentford, SD 57457 605-2281715
- (23) MILBRANDT, Greg 13933 399<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Groton, SD 57445 605-395-6515
- (24) PRICKETT, Vernon J. II P.O. Box 348  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6911
- (25) RASOR, Tina Hansen Carlson 5717  
Charlesgate Rd., Huber Heights, OH 45424
- (26) SAUNDERS, Thomas E. 2103 Sapphire Court,  
Aberdeen, SD 57401 605-229-5349
- (27) SCHLICHTING, Orville Beverley Nursing  
Home, Groton, S.D. 57445
- (28) SHUNKWILER, Earl G. 39806 149<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Stratford, S.D.57474 605-382-5879
- (29) STANGE, Verlin 14393 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6419
- (30) TAYLOR, Deanna P.O.Box 413  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6411
- (31) WANTTIE, Gerald 424 S 12<sup>th</sup> St.  
Aberdeen, SD 57401 605-225-8512
- (32) WAYMAN, Craig 38670 123<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Westport, SD 57481 605-229-1459
- (33) WAYMAN, Wendy Milbrandt 38670  
123<sup>rd</sup> St., Westport, SD 57481 605-229-1459
- (34) WOOD, Shad 14320 403<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Stratford, SD 57474 605-395-6497

1-290-3928

Shad Wood  
1-605-395-6497

1-(290-3928

# American Legion



## POT POURRI OF FACTS AMERICAN LEGION POST 207 STRATFORD SD 57474

Post 207 was granted a Charter on 2-5-1921 to 15 Veterans of WW1.

One family has had continuous membership in Post 207 since 2-5-1921: William Jark – Kenneth Jark.

93 Veterans of WW1 were members of Post 207 from 1921 to 1946.

7 families had three sons serving in WW2 at the same time.

- (1) BUNSNESS: Joseph W., Kenneth J., Mark
- (2) CARMINE: Darrel, Duane, Lee
- (3) DAYTON: Dale, Earl, Robert
- (4) ERDMANN: Lynn, Richard, John "Jack" Holcomb
- (5) FLOAN: George, Melvin, Raymond
- (6) MISSLITZ: Curtis, Donald, Vernon
- (7) SCHLICHTING: Delbert, Lloyd, Orville

59 persons from the Stratford area served during WW2 (12-7-41 to 12-31-46).

Sgt. Lynn Erdmann was awarded the Silver Star for rescuing a buddy from a mine field.

Brig. Gen. Laverne G. Saunders was awarded the Navy Cross for his activity in the SW Pacific. This award not normally awarded to Army personnel.

Ervin G. Wood was a prisoner of war in Germany in WW2.

Three area residents were killed in action (KIA) during WW2. All were pilots. Albert SVARSTAD Navy Pilot; Harvey SWENSON B-29 bomber pilot; Ervin WESTBY B-24 bomber pilot. William Edgar STANGE was found dead at the Brooklyn Navy Pier, cause of death unknown.

26 persons from the Stratford area served in the Armed Forces during the Korean Conflict (6-25-50 to 1-31-55).

During the Vietnam era, (2-26-61 to 5-7-75) 32 area persons served in the armed forces of the USA.

From 1978 to 2005, 37 area persons served in the following conflicts:

Lebanon, Granada, Panama, Beirut (8-24-81 to 1-31-91)  
Desert Storm (8-2-1990 to Present)  
Afghanistan (4-1-2000 to Present)  
Iraqi Freedom (4-2000 to Present)  
National Guard service exclusive of above dates

Four ladies, making up 11% of current membership of Post 207 are:

Korinne FACE  
Tina Hansen RASOR  
Deanna TAYLOR  
Wendy Milbrandt WAYMAN

Duane JARK served as Adjutant of Post 207 for 24 years from 1974 to 1997.

Family Relationships of Post Members as of 2005

Father/Son	George "Pat" Hansen/Harley Hansen Eugene Face/Steven Face
Father/Daughter	George "Pat" Hansen/Tina Hansen Rasor Eugene Face/Korinne Face
Brothers	Michael Hansen/George "Pat" Hansen
Brother/Sister	Greg Milbrandt/Wendy Wayman Steven Face/Korinne Face
Husband/Wife	Vern Prickett/Korinne Face Craig "Duke" Wayman/ Wendy Milbrandt Wayman

Member Richard ELLINGSON has participated in every funeral ceremony of the Firing Squad for a period of 45 years.

Histories of Post 207 submitted for State Competition

2001-02	Honorable Mention
2002	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
2003	1 <sup>st</sup> Place State- Honorable Mention National
2004	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
2005	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place

Stratford Post 207 has sponsored the Fall Tractor pull of the antique tractor club for this area under the guidance of member Ronald "Jack" GUBIN.

Plaques identifying those from the area who served from WW1 to present are on display in the Stratford Community Center.

Welcome Home Ceremony  
B Battery 2/147th FA



Saturday  
February 12, 2005  
5:00 p.m.  
Barnett Center  
(Northern State University)  
Aberdeen, South Dakota

B Battery 2/147th FA

Welcome Home Ceremony  
Barnett Center  
(Northern State University)  
Saturday  
February 12, 2005  
5:00 p.m.

Music

Unit Members/Families Seated

Escort Distinguished Guests

Introductions/Acknowledgements

National Anthem

Invocation

Speakers

Closing Remarks

Roll Call

Reading of the Order

Special Message

Benediction

Receiving Line

Capt. Steven J. Siemonsma

Father James Morgan

Family Support Representative  
Aberdeen Mayor, Mike Lavsen  
Lt. Col. Jeffrey P. Marlette  
Maj. Gen. Michael A. Gorman  
Governor M. Michael Rounds

Capt. Steven J. Siemonsma

1st Sgt. Wayne A. Labelle

Adjutant

State Cmd. Sgt. Maj.  
Michael L. Birnbaum

Father James Morgan

# Aberdeen, Groton teams headed to Destination Imagination Global Finals

*Competition is May 25-28 in Knoxville, Tenn.*

By Russ Keen  
American News Writer

Lucas Carpenter, 9, Aberdeen, just about loses his cool in his portrayal of a pizza maker in Italy who gets a phone order for a pizza to be delivered to a New York City address.

The unintentional phone call went through by chance because some New York City kids were playing with a phone. Carpenter's character is determined to fill the order.

"How am I supposed to deliver a pizza to New York? How am I going to get my birth certificate and my visa?" he frets in an entertaining Italian accent.

His stress has a happy ending. Two weeks later, he delivers the soggy, disgusting pizza to a New York woman who by sheer coincidence turns out to be a long, lost friend from college. And, of course, the two live happily ever after.

Carpenter and five other Aberdeen kids will soon be on stage at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn., presenting their short skit, "Bridging Cultures Together with Pizza from Italy," at Destination Imagination Global Finals.

It's getting to be a tradition for kids from Aberdeen and Groton to compete every spring in the DI international finals, and this year is no exception. The Aberdeen team and one from Groton will be in Knoxville on May 25-28 to compete with kids from throughout the U.S. and about 30 other nations. Counting coaches, judges, competitors and parents, 12,000 to 14,000 typically attend the annual international event.

DI is designed to help kids learn how to solve problems creatively. For the Aberdeen team, the challenge they chose was to create a skit about bridging cultural differences.

event by receiving first places at state competition.

Aberdeen and Groton are the only towns representing northeast South Dakota, although 17 teams are going from South Dakota.

Three of the six kids on the

Aberdeen team are Global Finals veterans, having competed at Knoxville last May, where they placed 16th out of 54 teams in their division. They are Maggie Hepper, 9; Rachel Seaton, 10; and Carpenter. Hepper and Seaton are

fourth-graders at May Overby Elementary School. Carpenter is a fourth-grader at O.M. Tiffany Elementary.

Completing the Aberdeen team are Robin Doerr, 9, a May Overby third-grader; Dalton Petersen, 10, a May Overby fourth-grader; and Bobbi Remeleiner, 11, a May Overby fifth-grader.

The Groton team includes second-graders Katie Groebelinghoff, McKayla Harder, Jacob Milbrandt and Luke Smith and third-graders Kylie Hawkins, Cassandra Luttrell and Gaby Tinglund.

Their skit is improvisational, which means the kids must develop it in within the 30 minutes prior to performance, based on instructions received from Global Finals officials.

Opportunities to help: Both teams are raising money for travel and lodging. The Aberdeen school district provides no DI funding, although the May Overby PTA is a long-time supporter of the program.

Donations for the Aberdeen team should be taken to or mailed to May Overby, 612 14th Ave. S.E., Aberdeen, SD, 57401. Also, the team will give public performances of their skit at 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 2 in the May Overby gym, and donations can be given then.

The Groton team, which receives some assistance from the Groton school district and its Parent Advisory Committee, is holding a rummage sale on April 30 to help defray its costs. The sale will be in the Groton Area Elementary School gym, in conjunction with Groton's citywide rummage sale.

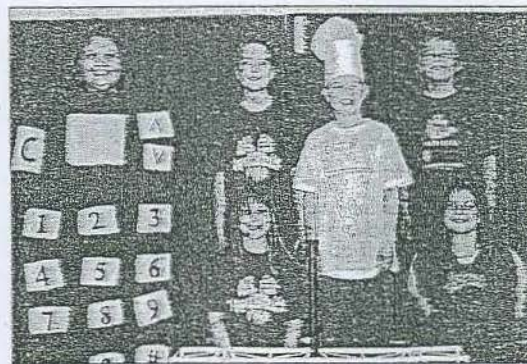
Also, Dairy Queen in Groton is hosting DI Day at the business from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday. A portion of sales during the five hours will be donated to DI. And from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday a pancake feed and creative basketball auction to benefit the team will be at the Groton Area High School gym.

The Groton team is also considering a public performance, but a date has not been



Courtesy photo

Groton competitors: The Destination Imagination team from Groton going to DI Global Finals in Knoxville, Tenn., includes from left in back, Luke Smith, Cassandra Luttrell and Kylie Hawkins, and from left in front Jacob Milbrandt, Katie Groebelinghoff and McKayla Harder. Gaby Tinglund is not pictured.



American News Photo by Russ Keen

Aberdeen team: The Destination Imagination team from Aberdeen heading for international competition at the University of Tennessee includes, kneeling in front from left, Maggie Hepper and Robin Doerr, and standing from left, Bobbi Remeleiner.

**Memorial Day 2005**



**L to R:** Duane Jark, Kenneth Jark, Tom Saunders, Gerald Wanttie, Bernie Jark, Harley Hansen at E. Rondell.



**L to R:** Kenneth Jark, Wendy Wayman, Greg Milbrandt, Tim Marlette, Deanna Taylor, Harley Hansen, Norman Lee, George "Pat" Hansen, Vern Prickett, Eugene Face at Scandinavia.





**L to R: Back Row:** Greg Milbrandt, Wendy Milbrandt Wayman, Harley Hansen, Eugene Face, Duane Jark, Jack Gubin, Clarence Erickson, Vern Prickett, Herman Lier, Trumpeter Joe Schwann **Front Row:** Kenneth Jark, Tina Hansen Rasor, Norman Lee, Gerald Wanttie, Thomas E. Saunders, Verlin Stange, Deanna Taylor, Tim Marlette at Oakwood.



**L to R: Flag Detail:** Wendy Wayman, Greg Milbrandt, Tim Marlette, Deanna Taylor. **Firing Squad:** Harley Hansen, Vern Prickett, Norman Lee, George "Pat" Hansen. **Others in Line up:** Eugene Face, Thomas E. Saunders, Gerald Wanttie, Clarence Erickson, Jack Gubin, Verlin Stange, Herman Lier at Scandinavia.

4<sup>th</sup> of July 2005



**L to R:** Harley Hansen, Greg Milbrandt, Wendy Wayman, George "Pat" Hansen



**L to R:** Harley Hansen, Greg Milbrandt, Wendy Wayman, George "Pat" Hansen



L to R: Ron Glugla, Phyllis Saunders, Thomas E. Saunders



Leon Stange



7-4-05

Children participating in Parade.



7-04-05

Orville Schlichting, also known as "Orville the Great"

## Obituaries

### Marvin R. Schley

**Aberdeen** — Marvin R. Schley, 78, Aberdeen, died Friday, Oct. 7, 2005, at Beverly Healthcare Center, Groton. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 214 Seventh Ave. S. W.



Schley

Aberdeen, with Rev. Wesley Hafner officiating.

Burial at Riverside Memorial Park. There will be military graveside rites by the Stratford American Legion Post #207.

Visitation will be 12 to 7 p.m. Monday and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tuesday, Miller Huebl Funeral Home, 1111 South Main St., and one hour prior to service at the church.

Marvin R. Schley was born June 19, 1927, at Aberdeen to Armund T. and Alvina A. (Erdmann) Schley. He attended rural school at East Rondell Rural School near Stratford and then attended Stratford High School, graduating in 1945. He then farmed with his brother at Stratford. He entered the United States Army Sept. 28, 1951, and was honorably discharged Oct. 1,

1959. He married Geraldine "Gerry" O'Brien on Nov. 14, 1954 at Aberdeen and they lived in Aberdeen, but Marv continued to farm near Stratford until 1981, when he retired.

He was baptized, confirmed and a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Stratford, charter and lifetime member of the Aberdeen Gun Club, Stratford American Legion Post #207, Aberdeen VFW, and a member of several bridge and whist clubs. Marv was a hunter and safety course instructor, he enjoyed trapshooting, hunting, gardening, traveling and playing cards. He will always be remembered for his sense of humor and storytelling.

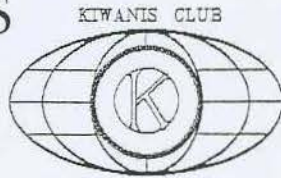
Survivors include his wife Geraldine "Gerry" Schley of Aberdeen; one brother, Wayne Schley of Mesa, Ariz.; three sisters, Elvera (James) Lane of Aberdeen, Evelyn (Norman) Brick of Aberdeen and Arlene (Wes) Elliott of Aberdeen and several nieces and nephews.

Marvin was preceded in death by his parents.

Active casketbearers will be Jerry Brick, Joel Brick, Jerry Schley, Dick Rossow, Duane Lenling and Dean Wasem.

Ushers will be Verlin Stange and Duane Jark.

# Kiwanis



# Ki-zette

EDITOR - FORREST C. ALLRED

OF ABERDEEN

P.O. BOX 1551

PRODUCTION - HYDE & ALLRED LAW OFFICE

ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57402-1551

November 1, 2005

## NEXT WEEK

Jeff Barr will speak on the newspaper business.

## THIS WEEK

Dr. Jerry Rosonke spoke about the history and culture of the Pledge of Allegiance. It is recited at multitudinous events of every kind and nature, but not a lot is known about its history.

In 1892 the United States had recovered from the worst effects of the Civil War and the country was experiencing an influx of immigrants from around the world. In 1891 about half a million had entered through New York. The country was also preparing for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America.

The pledge was published in the September 1892 issue of a popular magazine, *The Youth's Companion*. Daniel Ford was the owner of the magazine, and Francis Bellamy, a Christian Socialist minister, worked for the same publishing company. Today, Bellamy is generally thought to be the author. Pamphlets were sent to schools across the nation containing his work. At that time it read: "I pledge allegiance to my flag and to

the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

On Flag Day, June 14, 1923, the words "my flag" were modified to "the flag of the United States" and a year later the phrase "of America" was added. In 1942 Congress made the pledge part of the Flag Code. This was the first official sanction of the pledge. In 1945 Congress gave the pledge its official title, "The Pledge of Allegiance." It was previously known simply as the pledge to the flag. The last change occurred on June 14, 1954 when Congress officially added the phrase "under God," which has spawned litigation, and also legislation in Congress to the limit authority of federal courts to hear such cases, as permitted by Article III, Section 2, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

**VETERANS DAY POT LUCK DINNER**



**L to R:** Easton Family, Kirk Easton, Tom Saunders, Vern Prickett, Eugene Face



**L to R:** Cody Tolvstad, Laef Johnson, Vern Prickett, Eugene Face. Receiving Boys State Americanism awards.



11-13-05

**L to R:** Loy Stange, Vern Prickett. Receiving Fireman of the Year Award.



11-13-05

**L to R:** Tom Saunders, Vern Prickett, Loy Stange, Eugene Face





**L to R: Tom Saunders, Loy Stange, Vern Prickett**



**L to R: Phyllis Saunders, Darlene Wahl, Viola Stange, Wanda Stange, Leon Stange**



**L to R:** Kirk Easton family, Tom Saunders, Vern Prickett, Eugene Face



**L to R:** Laef Johnson, Cody Tolvstad, Vern Prickett

## City Officials

Mayor.....Mike Levsen  
Director of Transportation.....Dave Osborn

## Airport Board Members

Charles Bensen  
Steve Kaiser                      Dr. Patrick Schloss  
Mike Erickson                     Dr. K.E. Broadhurst

## City and County Representatives

City Councilman.....Jeff Mitchell  
Brown County Commissioner.....Mike Wiese

## Contributions

### The War Memorial Fund

#### Major Contributors

City of Aberdeen	Aberdeen Federal Credit Union
Brown County	Ken's SuperFair Foods
Dave and Marian Osborn	Tom & Danielle Aman Foundation
Kennon and Perlita Broadhurst	Floyd A. Miller
Charlie Jakober	Allen and Verna Kulm & Family
Ruby Golz	Jason Welk
William Taylor	Meier & Company
Kiwanis Activity Account	Helms & Associates
Aberdeen Airport Employees	Plains Commerce Bank
Aberdeen Flying Service	Northern Valley Communications
American Legion	Dacotah Bank

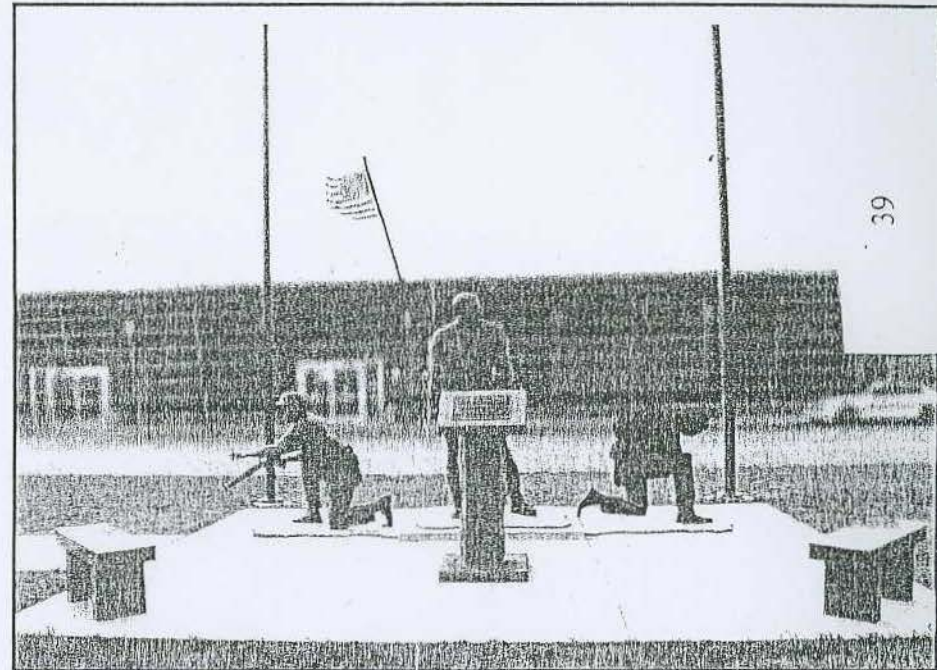
## Gifts in Kind

Helms and Associates	Jensen Rock & Sand
Quality Quick Print	Dahme Construction Co. Inc.
Upper Plains Construction	Ringgenberg Electric Inc.
Foote Creek Bed & Breakfast	Service Signs & Sales
VFW	Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce
Wright & Sudlow Cement Contractors	Northern State University
	Northeast Council of Governments

# Aberdeen Regional Airport

## Dedication of the War Memorial Statue

Aberdeen, South Dakota  
3 p.m.  
Friday, November 11, 2005



**Sculptures by Ben Victor**  
Northern State University Artist in Residence

# Our War Memorial

The Aberdeen region dedicates these sculptures to the brave men and women who served, and continue to serve to protect the values we all cherish:

**Freedom, Justice and  
Democracy.**

The War Memorial Sculptures recognize the courage they have shown and continue to show in the service of our great nation. They will never be forgotten.

Let us reflect on the past and hope that we might learn as a world to live in peace.

## Presiding

Dave Osborn

Director of Transportation

Presentation of colors.....Veterans Group

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem..... Aberdeen Regional Men's Chorus

Invocation .....Greg VandeKamp

Welcome.....The Honorable Mike Levensen  
Mayor, City of Aberdeen

Guest Speakers.....Mike Erickson  
Member of Aberdeen Airport Board

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth  
United States Representative

Judy Vrchota  
Area Director for U.S. Senator John Thune

The Honorable Tim Johnson  
United States Representative

Benjamin Franklin  
Sculptor of Men.

Commander, Sidney L. Smith Post 24, American Legion

ALP  
Commander, C.C. Croal Post 17, Veterans of Foreign Wars

"Who are the Brave"..... Aberdeen Regional Men's Chorus

Unveiling of the War Memorial Statue.....Pam Heiser

Paula Beckler

Dierdra Kolb

Carol Gage

Michelle Wilson

Rayma Scepaniak

"America the Beautiful".....Aberdeen Men's Chorus

Benediction.....Greg VandeKamp

Retiring of Colors.....Veterans Group

Refreshments, courtesy of NSU, are available in the Airport Terminal following Program.

Program Design Provided by Kaleidoscope Media and NSU University Relations  
Printing Courtesy of NSU

# Home of the WWII Pheasant Canteen

## MISSING MAN TABLE:

The table is round – to show our everlasting concern for our men still missing.

The cloth is white – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing, and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith, awaiting answers.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.

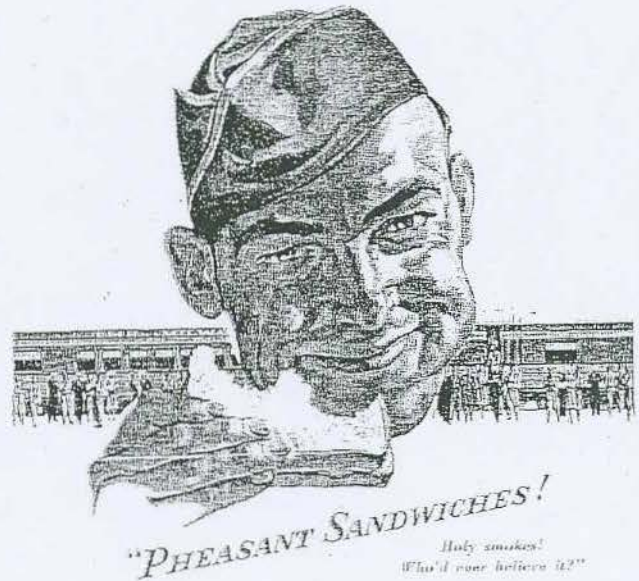
A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The glass is inverted – to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast.

The chairs are empty – they are missing.

Pricing donated by Quality Quick Print.



## Aberdeen, South Dakota

August 19, 1943

to

March 22, 1946

## A BRIEF HISTORY:

On August 19, 1943 concerned citizens in the Aberdeen community opened the Red Cross/USO Canteen in the depot of the Chicago-Milwaukee RR to provide free lunches and assistance to hundreds of troops traveling through Aberdeen on special trains. This unique service continued for 2 1/2 years until March 22, 1946 when the last troops were served.

During those 30 months more than 586,000 servicemen and women were served delicious home-made lunches. An average of 500 troops arrived on 4-6 trains each day. Sometimes as many as 1,500 troops came on a single day and into the night.

The menu began with ground ham sandwiches, cake, cookies, donuts, fresh fruit, pie, milk and coffee. A birthday cake was always ready for anyone celebrating a birthday. In December of 1943 some farmers began bringing pheasants to the canteen workers and the pheasant sandwich became a significant part of the menu. When the troops passed the word along to friends and family about Aberdeen they referred to the "Pheasant Canteen." At one time nearly 1,000 birds were in storage for the canteen workers.

The generosity of the people was almost unbelievable. Most of the food was donated. Various groups organized fund raisers to support the canteen. Volunteers who prepared and served the food came from nearly 40 communities. Pheasant hunts were organized and the Chicago-Milwaukee RR transported many donations to Aberdeen. The cost to operate the canteen averaged \$560 per month for additional supplies which were not donated.

During the holidays there was a lighted Christmas tree and on December 24, 25 and 26 troops received a Christmas gift. At Easter colored eggs were prepared.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower and presidential candidate Harry S. Truman were served at the canteen.

The canteen was officially closed and the space was vacated on March 31, 1946. Funds remaining in the canteen account were deposited in the Brown County Red Cross Disaster Fund and remain there today.

# THANK YOU

## Many helped with auction

**To the editor** — April 2 the Stratford American Legion Post No. 207 held a charity auction to raise funds for a Veteran's Memorial. We'd like to thank the following business for their contributions: Harry Implement, Farmers Union Oil (Ferney), James Valley Telecommunications, Pioneer Ford, The Jungle, S&S Lumber, Dairy Queen (Groton), Coco's, Specialty Manufacturing, Midland Press, The Millstone, Aberdeen Chrysler, S.D. Wheat Growers (Bath), Economy Meat Market, AJ's Casino, North Central Farmers Elevator, First State Bank (Warner), Saks, Schley Farms, Stratford Legion Auxiliary, Erdman Seed Company, BS Bar & Grill, Young's Farms, Gary's Body Shop, Hoffer Repairs, Truck World, T-N Tax Service, Whitehouse Inn, Car Quest, Harr's Motor, Artz, Hedahl's, Johnson Motors, Pierson Ford, Macs, Lust, Biegler Motors, Keeley Lumber, Runnings, Firestone, Kessler's, Ken's, Graham Tire, EconoFoods, RDO, Aberdeen Equipment, Lake-

wood Mall, Butler Cat, REA Hybrids, HC Clark Inc., Crawford's, Hub City Feed, K-Mart, Jark/Worlie Auction Service and Rausch Brothers.

We would also like to thank the following individuals: Allen and Connie Hoeft, Tom and Phyllis Saunders, Lloyd and Phyllis Jark, Harley and Sheri Hansen, Bonnie Reiss, Tim Marlette, Shad Wood, Duane and Mary Jane Jark, Jack and Marge Gubin, Wanda and Leon Stange, Bernie and Tanya Jark, Bill and Diane Klager, Frank and Julie Twiggs, Don and Kristi Brunes, Kurt and Brian Hoeft, MaryLouise and Jerry Brown, Helen Sumption, Ruth Mikkonen, Barbara Hoops, Marv Bender, Al and Inell Ryckman, John and Nicole Ellingson, Mark and Mary Tolvstad, Dale Dunker, Al Bagget, Wayne Larson, Fred Palmer, Ron and Carol Glugla and Herman Lehr.

### **Pat Hansen**

### **Allen Hoeft**

*Stratford American Legion Post 207, Veteran's Memorial Fund committee.*

# Legion District 14 holds convention

*From staff reports*

Legionnaires from Aberdeen and Leola captured the key leadership positions in the South Dakota American Legion within that district during the annual District 14 Spring Convention of The American Legion of South Dakota.

The meeting took place in Aberdeen on Thursday night. Del Heupel of Aberdeen, a member of the Eureka American Legion Post, and David Yost were elected to two-year terms as the District 14 commander and District 14 vice commander.

Richard Kezar of Aberdeen was selected as the

## *Commander, vice commander elected*

District 14 Legionnaire of the Year. Kezar received an award signifying the honor from State Legion Commander Phil Anderson of Piedmont, who presented other major awards and also addressed convention delegates.

District 14 consists of 20 Legion posts in Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, McPherson and Walworth counties.

Elected as county commanders for the coming year were Dale Strom of Aberdeen, Brown County; Kenneth Vilhauer of Hosmer,

Edmunds County; Dan Yost of Leola, McPherson County; and Arthur Jung of Selby, Walworth County.

Elected as county vice commanders were Zach Kern of Groton, Brown County; Dwight Leher of Roscoe, Edmunds County; Gary Hoffman of Long Lake, McPherson County; and Jack Lemburg of Selby, Walworth County.

Campbell County was not represented at the convention and will hold its election for commander and vice commander at a later date.

The convention was opened by Aberdeen Post Commander Al Sebert and conducted by Heupel, the outgoing District 14 vice commander. Anderson recognized outgoing District 14 Commander Gerald Sanborn of Leola and presented him

with a Past District Commander patch for his Legion cap.

Among those attending the convention were Past Department Commander Walt Lindemann of Eureka, State Vice Commander Robert Ching of Castlewood, State Adjutant Ron Boyd of Watertown, State Veterans Service Officer Warren Aas of Watertown, and District 3 Commander Albert Bekaert of Gary. Also in attendance were Wendell Rye of Claremont, chairman of the department constitution and bylaws committee, and Ron Hofer of Roscoe, member of the department rehabilitation committee.

State Commander Anderson presented membership awards to the American Legion Posts located in Claremont, Hecla, Pollock, Hosmer, Columbia, Aberdeen and Stratford.

[www.aberdeennews.com](http://www.aberdeennews.com)

**8A** Tuesday, April 11, 2006

### **Stratford: \$10,000 raised for memorial**

More than \$10,000 has been raised for a veterans' memorial in Stratford.

The primary fundraiser for the project was a charity auction April 2 held by Stratford American Legion Post No. 207.

The committee

presented a preliminary design to the Legion Post Monday. The goal is to have the main stone of the memorial set by the Stratford Centennial Celebration on June 30 through July 2.

*From staff reports*



# Railroad chooses name of Stratford

*Residents share a 'what's next?' feeling*

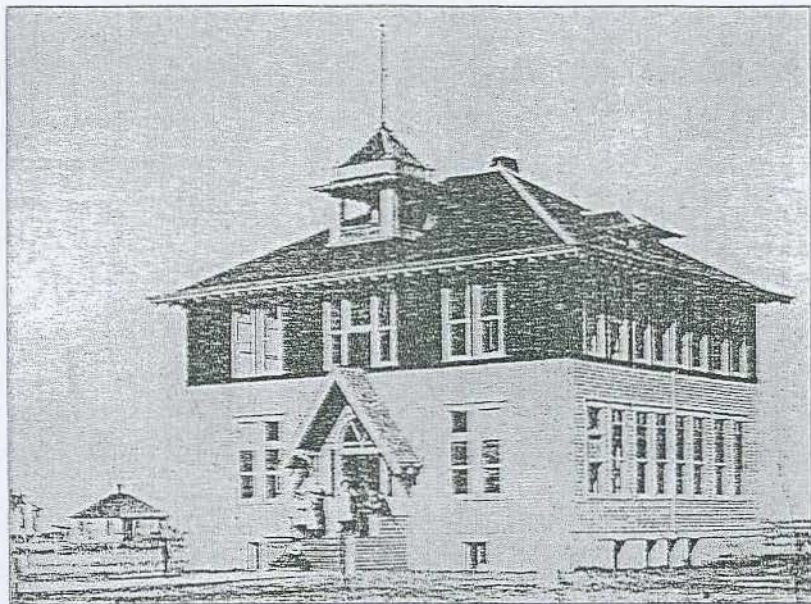
*By Kristi Bruner*

Stratford, located in East Rondell Township, was a late-comer in Brown County, platted in October 1906. The town was founded on the last rail line to be built, the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway.

It was almost two years later that the first train came through.

Settlers had been in the area for years, using Rondell as a trade center. The name Rondell was transferred to Stratford at first, but railroad officials feared there would be confusion since Rondell sounded so much like Randolph, which was a town further southeast. To end the confusion, the railroad chose the name Stratford.

Stratford quickly grew and prospered. The town reached its peak with a population of 600 in about five years. It boasted two banks, a meat market, the Pioneer Hotel, four elevators, two churches, dray & transfer companies, a newspaper, two hardware dealers, three doctors, three restaurants, three saloons, a pool room, two blacksmith shops, a barber and bath, a



*Courtesy photo*

**No longer standing:** The Stratford school burned to the ground in February 1943.

confectionery, a drugstore, an implement dealership, a flour and feedmill, a furniture store, three lumberyards, a loan office, a millner's shop, a real estate office and a shoe store.

Citizens brought trees from the banks of the James River to give shade and beauty to the town's streets.

On June 18, 1919, Stratford was incorporated.

Small towns in northeast South Dakota usually have many things in common. Close-knit church and family affiliations and civic loyalty are among the assets that bring strength and unity to little communities, even when the

population of the community in question plummets to fewer than 90 people. Stratford has never lost any of the adhesive bonds that make it unique among small towns.

The high school was closed in 1956 and the students were sent to Warner. In 1977, the railroad line was abandoned.

**Stratford  
Centennial - Celebration  
Events Calendar**

**June 30**

- Miss Firecracker Contest & Karaoke at BS Bar & Grill

**July 1**

- Car show.
- Beard and bonnet judging.
- Parade.
- All School Reunion and dinner.
- Street dance.

**July 2**

- Community church service in the park.
- Kiddie Tractor Pull.
- Antique Tractor Pull.
- Chili Cook-off.

*The weekend will include a craft fair, flea market, food booths, drink tank and community theater production.*

*For more information about the Stratford Centennial, contact Duane Ivers (605) 395-6549.*

The last elevator closed in 2002.

Stratford's future could appear bleak if one were to just look at the surface. This tiny town has withstood many assaults since its incorporation and will most likely withstand many more. But if there is an attitude that permeates the heart of Stratford, it would have to be something like, "Don't tell us we can't!"

Stratford has the reputation of pulling together and making things happen with volunteer organizations as the driving force.

Local organizations include the American Legion and its Auxiliary, the Lions Club, Extension Club, 4-H Club, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Stratford Volunteer Fire Department and the local community theater.

Recent accomplishments include a four-bay fire station, a new concession stand at the city ballpark and a starring role in the most recent Williams & Ree movie. Current projects include erecting a Veterans' War Memorial at the entrance to the city park and building an addition to the community hall that will house a permanent stage for Stratford - Community Theater.

See ENTERTAINMENT, Page 39.

## Entertainment: Brings community together

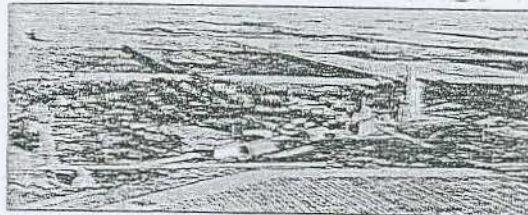
*Continued from Page 38*

Each winter this tiny community produces and hosts eight nights of dinner theater, complete with a full-length production, white tablecloths, a delicious meal and handsome waiters in white shirts and

bow ties. This sounds like a lofty pastime when a casual observer notices the preponderance of denim and flannel, coveralls, overalls and heavy work boots softened by grain dust and grease. One also quickly picks up on the easy camaraderie that exists amongst the

entire group. It is evident that this community comes together not only as theater members, but as neighbors and friends.

Reminiscing about "days gone by" is typical to small town residents, but in Stratford there is also the overwhelming feeling of "what's next?"



Bird's-eye view: A recent aerial shot of Stratford.

*Courtesy photo*

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# The American Legion



**POST NO. 207  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
STRATFORD, SD 57474  
2007**

HISTORY  
OF  
AMERICAN LEGION POST # 207  
STRATFORD S.D. 57474  
PERIOD 5-1-06 TO 4-30-07  
BY: THOMAS E. SAUNDERS  
KORINNE FACE

## INTRODUCTION

The year 2006, was the Centennial Year for the community of Stratford, and the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday of American Legion Post 207, with Post 207 begin involved in many of the Centennial events. Some activities included the unearthing of a time Capsule, buried 25 years ago. Post 207 Flag Detail led the Centennial parade and also participated in a similar event at Brentford, S.D. and Aberdeen, SD. The Detail also played a major part in the dedication of a Veterans Memorial at the Stratford Park on 7-02-06.

Post 207 is probably typical of small town posts throughout the area. 21% of our members live away from the area, wishing to keep ties with their home town, 6% are in nursing homes, 9% currently serving in one of the armed forces, active, reserve or National Guard. This leaves a heavy burden on those living in the community. An example is our Adjutant, Vern Prickett, who is also the Mayor of Stratford.

The current Post Historian is retiring from that position. Korinne face, a Post member and Veteran of Desert Storm has agreed to take over this function in the future. The current Historian is most grateful for the support received in the past from Kathy Williams, Kelly Face and Dacotah Bank of Aberdeen who offered the use of their copying equipment. Korinne, Kathy and Kelly are sisters, daughters of Eugene Face, Chaplain

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Preamble to the Constitution

For  
**God and Country**  
we associate ourselves together for the  
following purposes

o o o

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



## CHAPTER 1

### ROSTER OF POST OFFICERS

#### COMMANDER/HISTORIAN



**Thomas E. Saunders.** Veteran of WWII. Sgt. In US Army Air Corp. serving from 9/10/43 to 3/19/46, as Central Fire Control gunner on B-29 bomber. Civilian occupation: SA FBI retired, VP Dakotah Bank, Aberdeen, retired. Resides at 2103 Saphire Court, Aberdeen, SD 57401. he is a 26 year member of Post 207.

#### VICE-COMMANDER



**Greg G. Milbradt** Greg is a member of the SD National Guard, 740<sup>th</sup> Transportation Unit out of Brookings, SD. He had formerly served with the 147<sup>th</sup> Unit of Aberdeen. Greg had previously served during Desert Storm and was recalled to active duty, serving in Iraq from 4/03 to . While on this tour of duty, he was promoted to Master Sgt. He is a 6 year member of Post 207.

**ADJUTANT**



**Vern Prickett.** Vern has served honorably in both the US Marine Corp and the SD National Guard. His combined service is from 1975 to Feb. 1999. He served as a Transportation Officer in Desert Storm with the Unit from Clear Lake, SD. He is self employed in the dairy business. He resides at 310 E. Nelson, Stratford, SD.

**SGT. AT ARMS**



**Kenneth Jark** Ken served in the US Army during the Korean conflict from 4/53 to 4/55, attaining the rank of CP:. He farmed for many years in the Stratford area and is a partner in Jark Auction Service with his son Val and Merlin Worley. Ken received his 50 year membership pin in 2004. In the past, he was active in youth activities in the community and has served as Sgt @ Arms for many years. He is a 51 year member of Post 207

CHAPLAIN



**Eugene Face.** Eugene served in the US Air Force and SD National Guard from 2/53 to 6/62 (Korean Conflict). He attained the rank of E6 with MOS Aircraft Mechanic. He resides at 39815 147<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD. Eugene is the father of Korinne Face and Steven Face, also member of Post 207. He is a 44 year member of Post 207

## CHAPTER 2

### ROSTER OF POST CHAIRS

#### MEMBERSHIP

Verlin Stange: SN 17527556. PFC US

Army from 11/1/61 to 8/9/63 (Berlin Crisis).

MOS: Surveyor. Civilian Occupation:

Farmer. Resides at 14393 397<sup>th</sup> Ave.,

Stratford, SD. Telephone: 605-395-6419. 9

year member of Post 207

#### AMERICANISM OFFICER

Ronald "Jack" Gubin: SN RA 17371827.

PFC US Army 1/53 to 1/56 (Korean

Conflict). MOS: Truck Driver. Civilian

Occupation: Farmer. Resides at 14547

398<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD. Telephone: 605-

395-6964. 47 year member of Post 207

#### SERVICE OFFICER

George "Pat" Hansen (Jr.): SN 4948179.

B-5 US Navy. Served 1957-1963 (Vietnam

Era). Awarded Good Conduct medal.

Resides: RFD, Stratford, SD. Telephone:

605-226-2348. Civilian Occupation:

farmer, rural mail carrier, Conde SD. 10

year member of Post 207. Pat is also the

father of Harley Hansen, one of two father-

son combinations in this Post.

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

**Earl Shunkwiler;** ASN 504662772. US Navy, E6, 1968 to 1992 (Vietnam-Persian Gulf). MOS: Av. Ordinance, Machinist Mate. Resides: 39806 149<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD. Telephone: 605-395-5879. Civilian Occupation: Maintenance, State Hospital, Redfield, SD. 15 year member of Post 207.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**Harley Hansen;** SN 503868479. US Navy E1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer, Served 1984-1992 (Desert Storm). Recalled to active duty 2002. Awarded: Navy Achievement/Armed Forces Ex. SW Asia, Navy Good conduct Medal. MOS: Gunners Mate. Civilian Occupation: US Post Office. Resides: 1447 396<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD. 13 year member of Post 207

**CHAPTER 3**  
**ONE YEAR CHRONICLE**  
**5-1-06 TO 4-30-07**

**Election of Officers**

On May 8, 2006, the following officers were unanimously re-elected:

Commander	THOMAS E. SAUNDERS
Vice-Commander	GREG MILBRANDT
Adjutant	VERN PRICKETT
Historian	THOMAS E. SAUNDERS
Sgt. @ Arms	KENNETH JARK
Chaplain	EUGENE FACE

**Post Chairs**

The following were re-appointed by Commander Saunders:

Americanism Officer	RONALD (JACK) GUBIN
Public Affairs	GERALD WANTTIE
Membership	VERLIN STANGE
Service Officer	GEORGE (PAT) HANSEN
Athletic Officer	EARL SHUNKWILER
Children & Youth	HARLEY HANSEN

**Time Capsule Recovery**

On 5-27-06, members of American Legion Post 207, with Past Commander Duane Jark at the grill, had a picnic at the Stratford Community hall, to be followed by a scheduled practice of the Memorial Day detail.



Flag Detail – Post the Colors, Legionnaires, Hand Salute ”2”

**COMMANDER:** Members of Post 207, Department of South Dakota, The American Legion and friends:

“We are gathered today for a grateful and patriotic duty, to dedicate the Flag Pole and Memorial, the Flag being the emblem of the United States of America and the American Legion. We dedicate this monument as a perpetual memorial to our Comrades who died in their country’s service, and to those who offered their lives during times of war. May we again dedicate our organization and ourselves to the sacred ideals which are here represented, ever remembering that the American Legion’s principle service is for God & Country. The Chaplain will ask the blessing of God upon these ceremonies.

**CHAPLAIN:** Eugene initial prayer. Legionnaires uncover for prayer.

**COMMANDER:** In memory of those who have given their all to this country, who have made the supreme sacrifice and have answered the call of the Great Commander of all Divisions, we will stand in silence with bowed heads. (30 seconds) Also, keep safe those members of this post currently serving on active or reserve duty, Greg Milbrandt, Wendy Milbrandt Wayman, Harley Hanson, Tina Hanson Razor and Richard Hilgemann, grandson of the Commander, currently serving with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, Bagdad.

### Boys State 2006

On 3-13-06, Post 207 voted to sponsor Seth Erickson, son of John Erickson, and grandson of Clarence Erickson, a 59 year member of Post 207 and a 1942 attendee of Boys State. Seth was a Junior at Groton High School, and our sponsoring of Seth was graciously approved by the Groton American Legion Post.

### Memorial Day 5-29-06

On 5-29-06, the Legion Auxiliary of Post 207, sponsored a juice, donut and coffee breakfast at the Stratford Community Hall for all Post members and those from the community who wished to attend. This even has become a traditional Memorial Day function, prior to Post 207 performing their ceremony at three cemeteries in the area, East Rondell, West Rondell, (Oakwood) and the Scandinavian Cemetery, north of Stratford.

A short program followed the breakfast with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commander Saunders. A quartet, made up of Kathy Williams, Christi Brunes, Wendy Brunes and Jean Face, accompanied by Charlene Blondo on Piano sang a series of patriotic songs, including each of the Service songs.

Jaci Schley, Post 207 Auxiliary, made a presentation of a most unusual plaque to the Post Commander. It was made by Patricia Fries, calligraphy artist of Aberdeen. The Commander was completely surprised and humbled by this gift and expressed his sincere thanks.

Sgt. @ Arms Kenneth Jark then read the roll call of the dead, which includes all former members, or residents of the area that are buried in the cemeteries visited by Post 207.

Jason Williams then gave an impressive rendering of the classic poem,  
"In Flander's Field."

Those making up the detail for Memorial Day 2006, were:

Sgt. @ Arms	Kenneth Jark
Chaplain	Eugene Face
Flag Detail	Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Tim Marlette, Vern Prickett
Firing Squad	Steve Face, Norman Lee, George (Pat) Hansen, Harley Hansen
Bugler	Anna Tribble

Other Post members who lined up behind the Detail were: Clarence Erickson, Duane Jark, Richard Ellingson, Herman Lier, Gerald Wanttie, Jack Gubin and Thomas Saunders.

Commander Saunders then closed the program with a reading of what appears on the cover of the Legion Magazine, by Woodrow Wilson, former President, who believed in the importance of respect for the Flag generation. "This Flag, which we honor and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation." Woodrow Wilson 1917.

The crowd then dispersed to the various cemeteries.

As of 5-19-06 the following have made contributions to the Veterans Memorial Fund, of Post 207, Stratford.

Lyle Thompson	\$200.00
CARP	609.38
Clarence Erickson	50.00
Post 207 Auxiliary	140.00
Fred Palmer	20.00
Lynn Erdmann	50.00
Ned & Lola Dickson	50.00
Geraldine Schley	20.00
Arthur (Artie) Robinson	100.00
Gregg Saunders	50.00
Dale Dunker	250.00
Wayne Larson	10.00
Allen Baggett	200.00
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Chili Feed)	400.00
Total:	\$2,999.38

"Thank You" notes, bearing the Legion seal, were mailed to each of the above donors on 5-18-06.

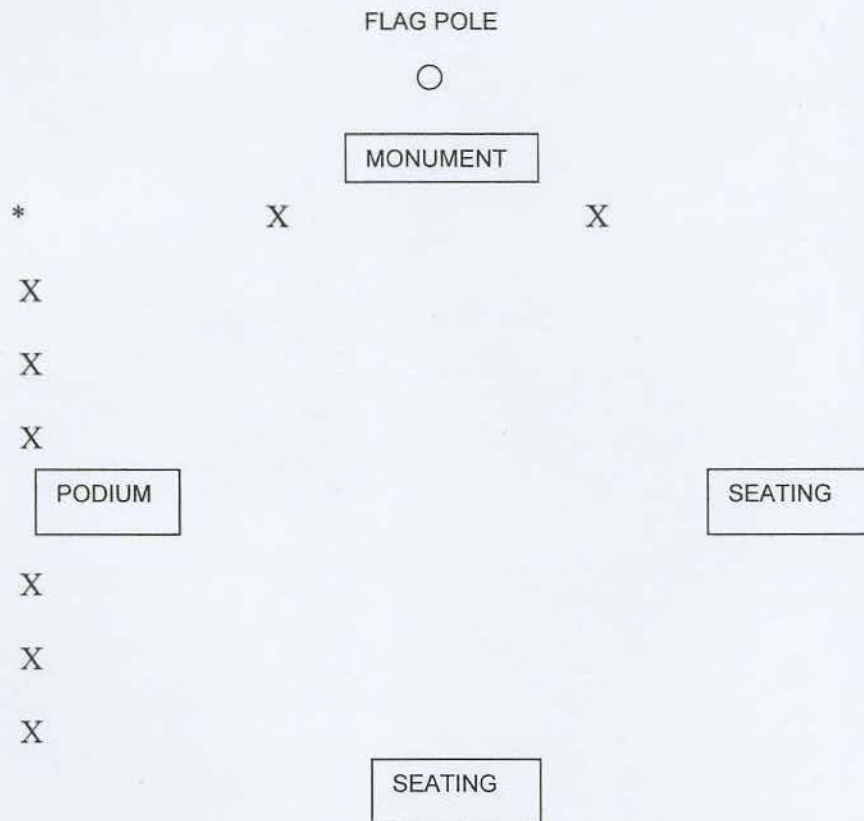
**DEDICATION CEREMONY**

**7-02-06**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST #207**

**CITY PARK ENTRANCE**

**STRATFORD, SD 57474**



- I. Commander: Brings group to order, Directs the Flag Detail to post the colors on each side of covered monument. Detail: Tim Marlette, George (Pat) Hansen, Steve Face, Harley Hansen

\*Made up of District 14 Commander, Brown County Commander, Adjutant, Chaplain, Speaker, Commander, Senator John Thune

Also, it was planned to unearth the time capsule that had been buried 25 years ago at a location near the NW corner of the Community tennis court.

After the Memorial Day practice, Post members and many from the community retired to the capsule burial site and with shovels in hand began the process of recovery of the time capsule. Over the last 25 years, a nearby tree had grown considerable with its roots entwined about the capsule. After much effort, Alan Hoeft, with his tractor and bucket, was able to extract the capsules (two ammunition boxes) from the ground. The capsules were covered with a heavy layer of tar and were a complete external mess. It was agreed that efforts would be made to clean them up and that they would not be opened until the time of the Kangaroo Court on 6-29-06, during the Centennial Celebration activities.

On 6-20-06, the Honorable Meryl Taylor, Judge, Stratford Centennial Kangaroo Court, relinquished some time for the opening of the capsules. Alan Hoeft, with his trusty loader delivered the boxes to the stage area of the Community Hall and with much supervision from the crowd then present. Alan, after opening the containers, handed the items to Commander Saunders, who held them up for all to see. There was an abundance of Groton and Aberdeen newspapers of that era, pictures of people then in the community, Sale Bills from Jark Auction Service and a pint of whiskey, placed there by Richard Francoli. All items were then displayed in the Community Hall for all to see.

**COMMANDER:** Introduce those persons at the Podium. Del Hueple, District 14 Commander; Dale Strom, Brown County Commander; Eugene Face, Chaplain; Duane Jark, Past Commander; Vern Prickett, Adjutant Post 207, who will introduce the speaker Merle Kjer. Senator John Thune, formal introduction later. Also, \*those other Legion Post Flag Details that participated in the parade.

**COMMANDER:** Introduce Adjutant who will introduce main speaker

#### **PRESENTATION ADDRESS**

**COMMANDER:** Direct member of flag detail to advance with folded flag and present same to Past Commander Jark and Adjutant Prickett. Jark and Prickett will then attach and raise the flag on the new pole. While flag is being raised, attendees are asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and Legionnaires will offer hand salute.

Upon completion of the flag raising, Jark and Prickett will uncover the memorial.

Upon completion of this, Barb Paepke will lead the attendees in the National anthem.

\*Posts participating, Brentford; Ralph Borge, Randy Stoltenberg, Colin Williams, Lauren Stuck, Claremont; Warren Pierson, Vern Swanson, Ed Neff, Wendell Raye, Pierpont and Warner Posts also participated.

**COMMANDER:** "In the name of Post 207, Department of South Dakota, The American Legion, I dedicate this Memorial and Flag Pole. I dedicate them to the memory of those who fell in the service of our Country. I dedicate them in the name of those who offered their lives so Justice, Freedom and Democracy might survive to be the victorious ideals of the peoples of the world. The lives of those who have made the supreme sacrifice are glorious before us; their deeds are an inspiration. As they served America in time of war, yielding their last full measure of devotion, may we serve America in time of peace.

"I dedicate this monument and flag to them, and with it I dedicate this Post to the Faithful service of our country and to preservation of the memories of those who dies that Liberty might Live."

**COMMANER:** Ladies & Gentlemen. When one who has so many demands of his time and talent, will make the effort to join us in our Centennial Celebration and Dedication Ceremonies, it is truly a great honor to the Community of Stratford. Senator, I know that you have given of your time that could have been spent with your family. I want you to be aware that the Patriotism manifested by those of this community in the past has been overwhelming. Since granted a charter in 1921, until 2006 some 90+ Veterans of WWI were members of Post 207. WWII saw 7 families from this area with 3 sons in the service at the same time. My entire High School class of 1943 (5 boys) are all Veterans of WWII. Ladies & Gentleman, would you give a warm Stratford welcome to The Honorable John Thune, US Senator, State of SD.



**Senator John Thune+**

His comments were congratulatory in nature and were very appropriate for the occasion.

**COMMANDER:** Acknowledge the add hoc Committee made up of Alan Hoeft, Bill Klager and his wife, Dianne Mann-Klager, George (Pat) Hansen, Bonnie Reiss, Jark Auction and all those of the area who gave financial support to this project.

**CHAPLAIN:** Final Benediction:

Oh God, we ask thy blessing on all of us assembled here for the dedication of this memorial. Grant we ask thee, that these grounds be hallowed with the deeds of love and service for God & Country, instill into the hearts of all this, the inspiration to be true to the ideals of the American Legion. May this memorial be for those who made it possible a joy and a pride and a lasting memorial to their service in time of War and their loyalty and love in time of peace. Amen”

### AMERICANISM; PROPER FLAG DISPOSAL

On 10-6-06, at the request of the Aberdeen Christian School, E. Melgaard Rd., Aberdeen, SD, members of American Legion Post 207, Stratford, performed the ceremony of the Dignified Disposal of Unserviceable Flags before the entire student body, 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades and staff. Due to inclement weather, the actual outdoor burning of the flags was cancelled. The burning portion was simulated inside and explained to the students. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Class joined the Commander in leading all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Legion pamphlet “Flag of the United States, etc.” was given to each of the attendees with the hope they would take it home and discuss the contents with their parents.

Those making up the detail were; Observers-Herman Lier, Post 207, Larry Nupren, District 14 Americanism Officer; Disposal Detail: Vern Prickett, Acting Sgt.@ Arms, (Adjutant Post 207), Gerald Wanttie and Duane Jark; Vice Commander Greg Milbrandt, Commander Thomas E Saunder, Chaplain, Eugene Face.

### Americanism

On 11-2-06, the Commander made an appearance before the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, Knights of Columbus of Aberdeen, SD to discuss the upcoming Veterans' Day Holiday on 11-11-06. The Commander discussed the evolution of the holiday and the involvement of Veterans of the various wars since the Civil War in the development of the Brown County area.

### Veterans Day Pot Luck Dinner 11-12-06

On Sunday evening 11-12-06, the Legion Auxiliary of American Legion Post 207, Stratford, SD, sponsored their annual pot luck dinner to honor all veterans, of all wars, from this area. This year the affair was honored by the presence of Gunner Baatrup, South Dakota Departmental Commander. After the Pledge of Allegiance and recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion, and the table prayer, given by Eugene Face, Post 207 Chaplain, those in attendance enjoyed a delicious meal provided by the Auxiliary.

Subsequent to the meal, Commander Baatrup delivered some comments about the goals of his administration and the condition of the SD State Veterans Home. He also encouraged the Post to meet their membership goal.

Following Commander Baatrup, there was a presentation of a 50 year Membership key to Marilyn Stange of Post 207 Auxiliary. She was presented with a patriotic quilt, made by Korinne Face, member of Post 207.

Commander Saunders then read a story about the history of Veterans Day that appeared in "Annie's Mailbox, Aberdeen American News," on 11-11-06. Saunders also read an email of a reader's complaint to the Phoenix Sun, and the Flight commander's response. His response was beautiful.

Gifts of items from the Stratford Centennial were presented to Commander Baatrup and his wife. The meeting was brought to a close with a prayer from Chaplain Face. It was a wonderful, meaningful event indeed.

### Donations Made This Time Period

The Community of Stratford was most generous in their giving toward the expense of the Veterans Monument, as were many organizations from the Community. The Post 207, in their deliberations felt that excess funds received, over and above actual expense of the monument, should stay in the community and be use for needed, worthwhile projects here.

There follows some of the donations made with respect to that policy.

Stratford Town Counsel for repairs to the roof	\$1,500.00
Stratford Community Theatre Group to purchase chairs	1,500.00
Veterans' Home repair to Barber Shop	100.00
Warner Post Prom	125.00
Anna Tribble, All Star Games participant	100.00
Warner Legion Baseball	200.00
Jacob Milbrandt, National DI participant	100.00
Warner Football Program	25.00

### Boys State Nominee 2007

Robert Erickson, grandson of Post member Clarence Erickson was chosen as the 2007 Boys State Attendee. Robert lives in the Stratford area and is a Junior at Warner High School.

APPENDIX

### ROSTER OF POST 207 MEMBERSHIP

- (1) BAGGETT, Keith  
PO Box 345, Stratford, SD 57474 .....605-395-6541
- (2) BARTZ, Randal K  
11532 Waldos Beach Rd., Rosholt, SD 57260 .....
- (3) BENDER, Marvin  
420 E. Ash St., Stratford, SD 57474 .....605-228-2051
- (4) ELLINGSON, Richard  
2702 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SE, Unit 108, Aberdeen SD 57401 .....504-225-1821
- (5) ERDMANN, Lynn  
1855 W. Souther, #201, Apache Junction, AZ 85220 .....
- (6) ERICKSON, Clarence  
39757 141<sup>st</sup> ST., Groton, SD 57445.....605-395-6631
- (7) FACE, Eugene  
39815 147<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD 57474.....605-395-6911
- (8) FACE, Korinne  
PO Box 425, Stratford, SD 57474 .....605-395-6911
- (9) FACE, Steven  
39815 147<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD 57474.....605-395-6608
- (10) GUBIN, Ronald J  
14547 141<sup>st</sup> St., Stratford, SD 57474 .....605-395-6964
- (11) HANSEN, George, M., Jr. (Pat)  
39578 141<sup>st</sup>, Stratford, SD 57474 .....605-226-2348
- (12) HANSEN, Harley C.  
14447 396<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD 57474 .....605-395-6928
- (13) HANSEN, Michael  
620 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Aberdeen, SD 57401 .....605-622-7838
- (14) HOEFT, Myron  
30185 Chualar Canyon Rd., Chualar, CA 93925.....
- (15) HUNDSTAD, James  
3755 395<sup>th</sup> Ave, Bath, SD 57272 .....605-225-3093
- (16) JARK, David  
374 Sykes Creek Rd., Rogue River, OR 97535 .....
- (17) JARK, Duane  
PO Box 453, Stratford, SD 57474 .....605-395-6549
- (18) JARK, Kenneth  
401 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE, Aberdeen, SD 57401 .....605-225-0510

- (19) KURTZ, David  
Beverly Health Care, 1015 3<sup>rd</sup> St. E., Redfield, SD 57469 .....605-472-2282
- (20) LEE, Norman  
38905 140<sup>th</sup> St., Warner, SD 57479 .....605-229-5507
- (21) LIER, Herman  
622 S. McCoy, Aberdeen, SD 57401 .....605-725-5724
- (22) MARLETTE, Timothy D.  
PO Box 12, Brentford, SD 57457 .....605-228-1715
- (23) MILBRANDT, Greg  
13933 399<sup>th</sup> Ave., Groton, SD 57445 .....605-395-6515
- (24) PARDUE, Harold  
2022 S. Sherman Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57101 .....
- (25) PRICKETT, Vernon J. II  
PO Box 348, Stratford, SD 57474 .....605-395-6911
- (26) RASOR, Tina Hansen Carlson  
Charlesgate Rd., Huber Heights, OH 45424.....
- (27) SAUNDERS, Thomas E.  
2103 Saphire Court, Aberdeen, SD 57401.....605-229-5349
- (28) SCHLICHTING, Orville  
Beverly Nursing Home, Groton, SD 57445.....
- (29) SHUNKWILER, Earl G.  
39806 149<sup>th</sup> St., Stratford, SD 57474.....605-382-5879
- (30) STANGE, Verlin  
14393 39<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD 57474 .....605-395-6419
- (31) TWIGGS, Frank  
Stratford, SD 57474 .....
- (32) WANTTIE, Gerald  
424 S 12<sup>th</sup> St., Aberdeen, SD 57401 .....605-225-8512
- (33) WAYMAN, Wendy Milbrandt  
38670 123<sup>rd</sup> St., Westport, SD 57481 .....605-229-1459
- (34) WOOD, Shad  
14320 403<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Stratford, SD 57474 .....605-395-6497





Courtesy photos

**Serious labor:** Northern State University football players did heavy labor in Stratford on April 29 as part of the team's fourth annual Day of Champions.

## 'Day of Champions' brings out athletes

*Members of Northern football team do work in Aberdeen, Stratford, Ipswich*

By Gretchen Mayer  
*American News Writer*

On April 29, 50 Northern football players, closely monitored by their coaches, hauled dirt, painted, dug holes, tore up fence, mowed, raked and scraped paint. One might wonder whether this is a strange new training method.

In fact, this is the fourth time the Northern team has volunteered an entire day to perform community work — this year in Aberdeen, Ipswich and Stratford.

"They were willing to do anything and we worked them hard," said Tiger Post board member Renae Gauer. Tiger Post is a community center for kids in Ipswich. Eight players planted trees, moved planters, scooped sand and applied weather-proofing

in Stratford. 14 players and two coaches helped renovate the new community center. They painted, hauled gravel and cleared dead trees out of the picnic area.

"They did good work," said city council member Allen Hoeft. He explained that the players worked on four other buildings in town, getting them in ship-shape condition for the Stratford centennial celebration this summer.

The Northern players and

coaches were in Stratford from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Tom Saunders, commander of Stratford's Legion Post, said the players painted anything that didn't move.

"They did literally thousands of dollars' work if we had to pay to have it done. And they got it done in one day. They did a hell of a job," said Saunders, who lives in Aberdeen.

In Aberdeen, a group of 15 players worked at the Boys & Girls Club and at The Learning Tree Daycare. At the daycare, they removed and scrubbed the playground equipment, replaced the matting and wood chips, shoveled sand and built a retaining wall. At the Boys & Girls Club they painted, did yard work and picked up trash.

The "Day of Champions" is carried out in conjunction with the United Way of Northeastern South Dakota. The Aberdeen Sertoma Club provided funds for food while Pepsi and The Salvation Army provided drinks for the volunteers.

The eight hours of labor by 50 volunteers added up to 400 total hours of volunteer work.

The event began as a fall activity. Current NSU head football coach Chris Boden has moved the project to one that will be done annually every spring.



**Doing work with a smile:** From left, Andy Fergen, Gary Benefiel and Brent Stanek were among the NSU football players doing volunteer work in Stratford on April 29.



Portion of NSU football players who participated in work day. Supervised by Nancy Jark, standing extreme right of 2<sup>nd</sup> row, and Alan Hoeft, kneeling on extreme right.

**Post 207 provided a breakfast for the group before they entered into their labors.**

# Railroad chooses name of Stratford

*Residents share a 'what's next?' feeling*

*By Kristi Brunas*

Stratford, located in East Rondell Township, was a late-comer in Brown County, platted in October 1906. The town was founded on the last rail line to be built, the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway.

It was almost two years later that the first train came through.

Settlers had been in the area for years, using Rondell as a trade center. The name Rondell was transferred to Stratford at first, but railroad officials feared there would be confusion since Rondell sounded so much like Randolph, which was a town further southeast. To end the confusion, the railroad chose the name Stratford.

Stratford quickly grew and prospered. The town reached its peak with a population of 600 in about five years. It boasted two banks, a meat market, the Pioneer Hotel, four elevators, two churches, dray & transfer companies, a newspaper, two hardware dealers, three doctors, three restaurants, three saloons, a pool room, two blacksmith shops, a barber and bath, a



*Courtesy photo*

**No longer standing:** The Stratford school burned to the ground in February 1943.

confectionery, a drugstore, an implement dealership, a flour and feedmill, a furniture store, three lumberyards, a loan office, a millner's shop, a real estate office and a shoe store.

Citizens brought trees from the banks of the James River to give shade and beauty to the town's streets.

On June 18, 1919, Stratford was incorporated.

Small towns in northeast South Dakota usually have many things in common. Close-knit church and family affiliations and civic loyalty are among the assets that bring strength and unity to little communities, even when the

population of the community in question plummets to fewer than 90 people. Stratford has never lost any of the adhesive bonds that make it unique among small towns.

The high school was closed in 1956 and the students were sent to Warner. In 1977, the railroad line was abandoned.

## Stratford Centennial Celebration Events Calendar

### June 30

- Miss Firecracker Contest & Karaoke at BS Bar & Grill.

### July 1

- Car show.
- Beard and bonnet judging.
- Parade.
- All School Reunion and dinner.
- Street dance.

### July 2

- Community church service in the park.
- Kiddie Tractor Pull.
- Antique Tractor Pull.
- Chili Cook-off.

*The weekend will include a craft fair, flea market, food booths, dunk tank and community theater production.*

*For more information about the Stratford Centennial, contact Duane Jark (605) 395-6549.*

The last elevator closed in 2002.

Stratford's future could appear bleak if one were to just look at the surface. This tiny town has withstood many assaults since its incorporation and will most likely withstand many more. But if there is an attitude that permeates the heart of Stratford, it would have to be something like, "Don't tell us we can't!"

Stratford has the reputation of pulling together and making things happen with volunteer organizations as the driving force.

Local organizations include the American Legion and its Auxiliary, the Lions Club, Extension Club, 4-H Club, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Stratford Volunteer Fire Department and the local community theater.

Recent accomplishments include a four-bay fire station, a new concession stand at the city ballpark and a starring role in the most recent Williams & Ree movie. Current projects include erecting a Veterans' War Memorial at the entrance to the city park and building an addition to the community hall that will house a permanent stage for Stratford Community Theater.

See ENTERTAINMENT, Page 39.

## Entertainment: Brings community together

*Continued from Page 38*

Each winter this tiny community produces and hosts eight nights of dinner theater, complete with a full-length production, white tablecloths, a delicious meal and handsome waiters in white shirts and

bow ties. This sounds like a lofty pastime when a casual observer notices the preponderance of denim and flannel, coveralls, overalls and heavy work boots softened by grain dust and grease. One also quickly picks up on the easy camaraderie that exists amongst the

entire group. It is evident that this community comes together not only as theater members, but as neighbors and friends.

Reminiscing about "days gone by" is typical to small town residents, but in Stratford there is also the overwhelming feeling of "what's next?"



Bird's-eye view: A recent aerial shot of Stratford.

*Courtesy photo*

[www.aberdeennews.com](http://www.aberdeennews.com)

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Questions or Comments?

Call (605) 225-4100 or 1-800-925-4100.

1

11

### Stratford: Memorial Day rounds set

The Stratford American Legion Post 207 and Auxiliary has set its schedule for Memorial Day.

Participants will meet at the Community Hall at 8 a.m. for breakfast and a short program. Gatherings are planned for 9 a.m. at the East Rondell Cemetery,

9:30 a.m. at the West Rondell (Oakwood) Cemetery and 10 a.m. at the Scandinavian Church Cemetery.

All those having friends or relatives buried in the above cemeteries are welcome to attend.

*From staff reports*

TIME CAPSULE RECOVERY 5-27-06



L to R: Harley Hansen, Connie Hoeft, Lloyd Jark, Vern Prickett



L to R: Connie Hoeft, Bonnie Reiss



L to R: Duane Jark, Tom Saunders, Alan Hoeft, Vern Prickett

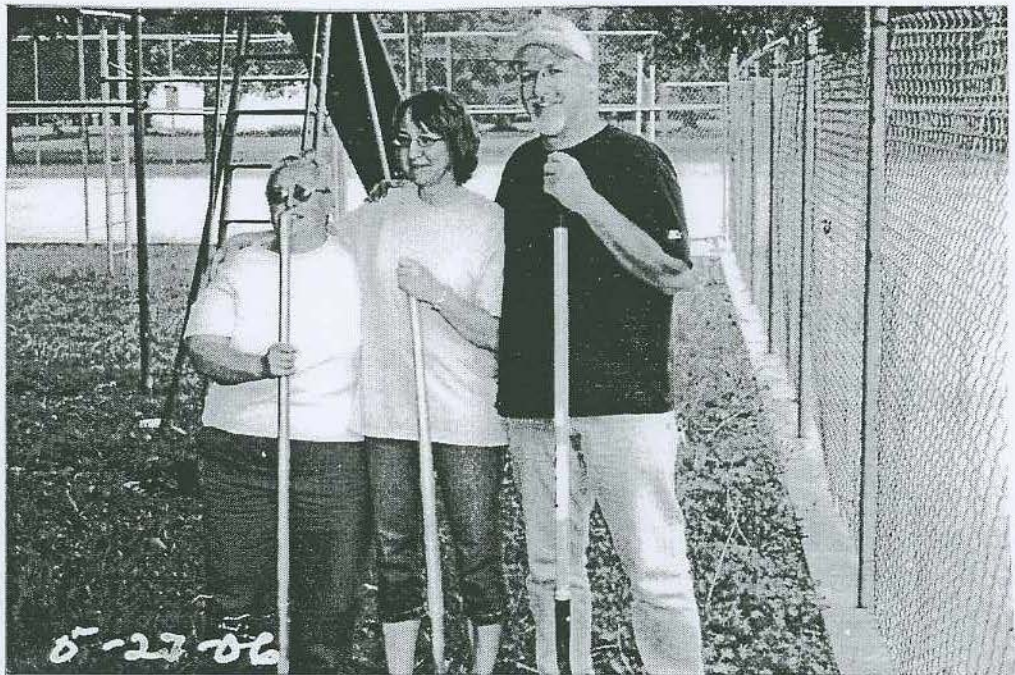


L to R: Bonnie reiss, Duane Jark, Bernie Jark, Alan Hoeft, Connie Hoeft, Jerry Wanttie





L to R: Connie Hoeft, Bonnie Reiss



L to R: Connie Hoeft, Bonnie Reiss, Bernie Jark

# Remember families of fallen heroes on Memorial Day

WASHINGTON — Memorial Day is hard upon us, and hard on us as well.

While most Americans celebrate the holiday as the first long weekend of summer, the rest of us will be honoring the sacrifice of countless American lives during 230 years of our nation's history. Winning our independence was bloody work; defending our freedom has been even bloodier.

We are a nation at war this year, just as we have been for the last five years since the terror attacks on innocent American citizens on Sept. 11, 2001. We are at war; but who among us knows the true cost of war, and who pays the price?

The answer to that question is, of course, our living veterans of wars.

All but 50 of the 5 million veterans of World War I are gone from among us. Only about 3.5 million of 16 million American veterans of World War II are still alive. Some 3.2 million veterans of the Korean War are still alive. About 2.5 million of the

3.4 million who served in the Vietnam War theater are still living.

They surely know the true cost of war.

The knowledge of that cost is borne even more keenly by the widows and children, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters of those who gave their lives in battle in our country's wars.

There are so many of them, and more coming with each passing day in the wars we are fighting now.

The children of war, especially, have so large a claim on our hearts. They have lost fathers, and now even their mothers, in today's wars. The estimate is that Iraq alone has left 3,000 children without one parent or with no parent at all.

This Memorial Day I will be thinking particularly of



**Joseph Galloway**

the five children of the two Army pilots of a Kiowa Warrior helicopter shot down in Mosul, Iraq, on Jan. 13. Their fathers, CWO3 Mitchell K. Carver Jr., 31, of Charlotte, N.C., and CWO2 Kyle E. Jackson, 28, of Sarasota, Fla., were flying cover for a small three-vehicle patrol of Stryker armored vehicles at the time.

I was riding in one of those Strykers at the time and was at the crash site within minutes.

At that moment I knew that within a matter of a few hours Army sedans with a chaplain and a casualty notification officer would be pulling up outside houses bearing the news that would shatter happy lives. I knew that those young children would carry holes in their hearts all their lives — holes where a father was supposed to dwell.

My friend Karen Spears Zacharias lost her father, Sgt. David Spears, in Vietnam in 1966 when she was 9. She's written a book about what that one death among 58,250

in that war did to the lives of her mother, her two siblings and herself. It's out in paperback with a new title: "After the Flag Has Been Folded."

She travels around the country talking to new widows and their heartbroken children. She tries to help them understand that they are not alone.

So this Memorial Day, think of all our fallen servicemen in America's wars. But think especially of those innocents they left behind — so filled with pride, so filled with grief, so filled with pain. They are there in many American cities and towns.

Reach out to them. Tell them you thank them for their family's great sacrifice. Tell them we grieve with them. Offer them any help they need. Tell them they are not alone.

*Joseph L. Galloway is the senior military correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers. Readers may write to him at: Knight Ridder Washington Bureau, 700 12th St. N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005-3994. His column appears most Fridays.*

# The American Legion



## National Commander Tom Bock Certificate of Appreciation

Presented To

**Thomas Saunders, Commander  
Stratford Post 207  
Department of South Dakota**

In appreciation for your successful membership program in 2006. Your post was successful in accomplishing 100 percent of its annual membership goal, a sure sign that the leadership, comradeship, and member involvement at your post contribute to an atmosphere of success.

*You should be justly proud of your Legionnaires.*

The American Legion strongly believes that an effective membership program within each Post is vitally important to the positive perception of our members and programs within the community. Your excellent care of your membership is a strong indicator that you are successful in all your programs. Legionnaires and indeed all veterans want to stay involved with a winning organization.

In witness whereof, this testimonial of personal gratitude is presented by the undersigned and duly attested this membership year of 2006.

ATTEST:

A cursive signature of Thomas L. Bock.

National Commander

A cursive signature of Rob W. Edwards.

National Adjutant

MEMORIAL DAY 5-29-06



Jaci Schley



L to R: Thomas Saunders, Jaci Schley



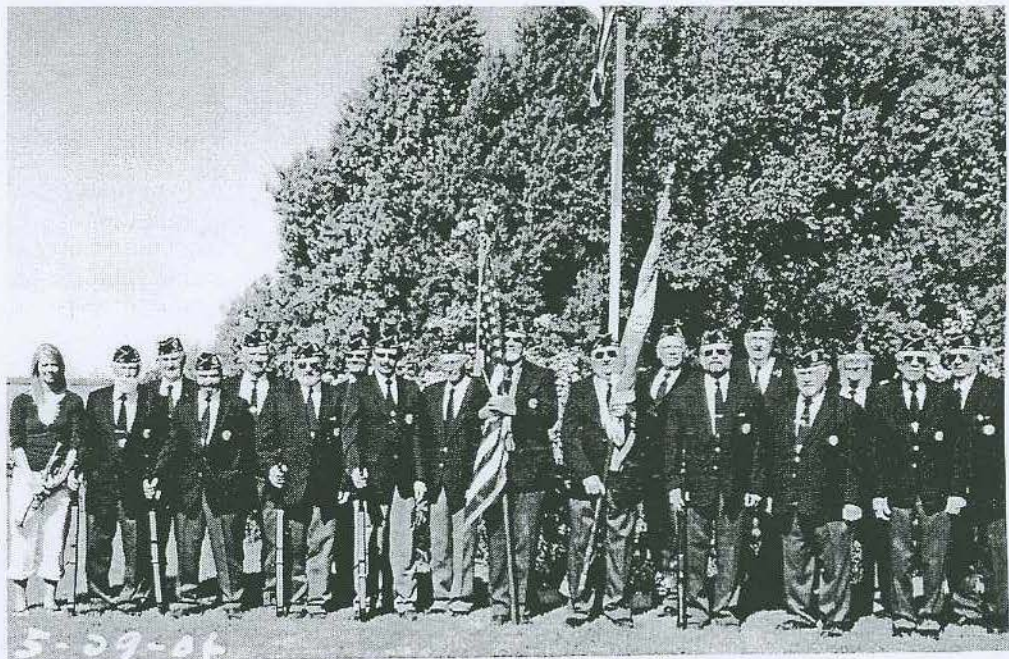
Community Hall, Stratford, Duane Jark - foreground



Oakwood Cemetery: Ron Gubin, Jack Gubin, Marge Gubin, Darrin Gubin



Eugene Face - Chaplain



Oakwood Cemetery

Front Row L to R: Anna Tribble, Norman Lee, Pat Hansen, Tim Marlette, Harley Hansen, Clarence Erickson, Earl Shunkwiler, Verlin Stange, Jerry Wanttie, Herman Leir

Back Row L to R: Thomas E Saunders, Kenneth Jark, Steve Face, Duane Jark, Richard Elickson, Eugene Face, Ronald Gubin



Oakwood Cemetery 2006



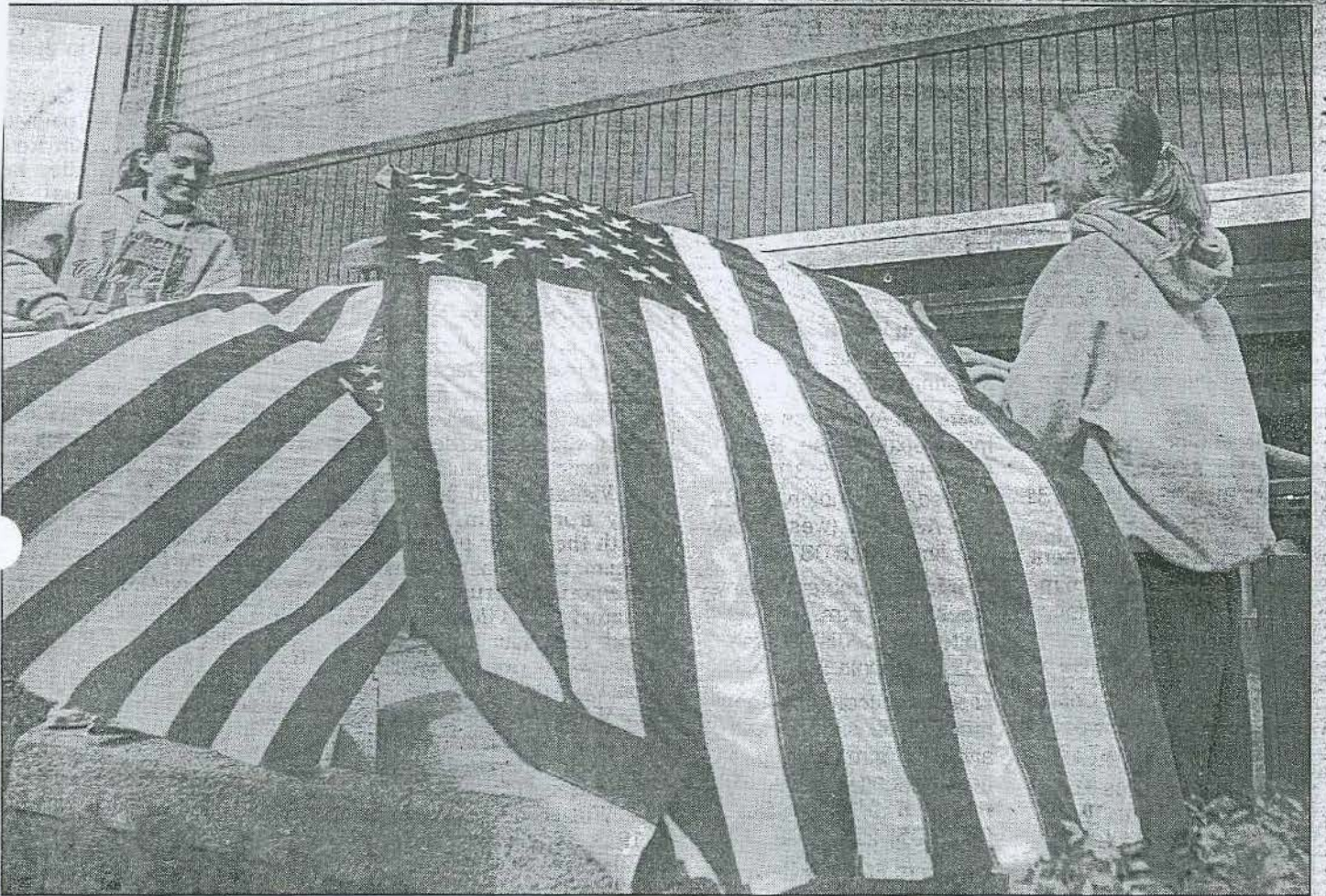
Oakwood Cemetery 2006

[www.aberdeennews.com](http://www.aberdeennews.com)

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Questions or Comments?

Call (605) 225-4100 or 1-800-925-4100.



*American News Photo by Dawn Dietrich-Sahli*

**The Stars and Stripes:** Briana Jung, left, and Alyssa Jung roll flags up Saturday along Main Street in Aberdeen. Their father, Stan, is president of the Exchange Club of Aberdeen, which displays flags on all major holidays and special occasions, including the Oz Festival on Saturday. The Girl Scouts will display flags for the Exchange Club today, which is Flag Day.

# Area veterans promote protection of Old Glory



By Angela Mettler

American News Writer

**V**ietnam veteran Allan Ochsner of Aberdeen doesn't believe an amendment is necessary to protect the U.S. flag from desecration.

"Being an American citizen that fought for this country, I feel that we don't need the amendment because if somebody does that in front of me, I will take care of it to the best of my abilities," he said.

A bill proposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting the physical desecration of the U.S. flag is expected to come before the U.S. Senate in the next week or so. Sens. John Thune, R-S.D., and Tim Johnson, D-S.D., were both original co-sponsors of the bill.

On June 22, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives passed such a bill that reads "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." Rep. Stephanie Herseth, D-S.D., was an original co-sponsor of the bill.

Ochsner, commander of the Disabled American Veterans in Aberdeen, doesn't think the proposed amendment would infringe on First Amendment rights, as some have argued.

Other Aberdeen-area veterans agreed with Ochsner. Tom Saunders of Aberdeen, commander of the Stratford American Legion and a World War II veteran, hopes the legislation passes.

"It's long overdue," he said. "It's a real simple, straightforward amendment."

Don Whittlinger of Aberdeen, past Veterans of Foreign Wars commander, and current VFW Commander Al Waltman of Aberdeen believe the flag should be respected but aren't sure whether a constitutional amendment is necessary.

"Maybe we shouldn't have to go through legislation to get that kind of protection on the flag, but I think it's a very important issue," Waltman said.

## Stars, stripes displayed today, Flag Day

Whittlinger is concerned that the legislation is too broad and could affect the burning ceremony that retires old flags.

"There should be a solution (included in the legislation) to getting rid of those flags that no longer should be used," he said.

Al Sebert of Aberdeen, Aberdeen American Legion commander, compares flag-burning as a statement to burning down someone's home — he believes people don't have that right.

"I think we have to have (the legislation) because I don't think that what we've got is working," he said. "(The flag) is a symbol of our county, our liberty, everything that we fight for. We went to wars to protect that flag."

The amendment is especially at the forefront today, Flag Day.

**Flags displayed today:** The Exchange Club of Aberdeen displays flags around town between 14 and 16 times per

year, including Flag Day, said Club President Stan Jung of Aberdeen.

"We stand to promote Americanism and remember those who have died (for our country)," Jung said.

Flags are flown on all major holidays and special occasions, such as the Oz Festival, Brown County Fair and various organizations' district or state meetings.

"It's probably the only flag that flies in the world today that allows all the great things that we enjoy in this country," Waltman said. "I think we're pretty fortunate that we live here."

During each special event, 450 flags are displayed, many on Main Street. They are put up on seven routes beginning about 5:30 a.m. and taken down about 5:30 p.m.

**Can sponsor flags:** The Exchange Club pays youth organizations such as the Girl Scouts and BMX club to

See **FLAGS**, Page 4B

## Flags: Exchange Club will retire some

*Continued from Page 1B*

put up and take down flags. Businesses, individuals and groups can sponsor a flag for \$35 per year.

During the Exchange Club's meeting on June 25, the club will retire flags that are no longer in good condition to be flown.

Jung said the club retires 1,000 to 2,000 flags per year and gives some to the Boy Scouts for its flag retirement ceremony.

Flags that need to be retired are accepted year-round by Exchange Club members.

### *History dates back to June 14, 1777*

The Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, the American flag.

No matter which name it's called, the flag is a symbol of the United States.

According to the National Flag Foundation, the U.S. flag was adopted on June 14, 1777. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 Flag Day in 1916, but the holiday didn't receive its official congressional

designation until 1949.

The Exchange Club also promotes flag etiquette. The flag must be properly lit if flying at night; otherwise, it may be flown from sunrise to sunset. The blue union field should always be displayed in the upper left.

For more information on the flag and flag etiquette, visit the National Flag Foundation online at the [W e b s i t e www.americanflags.org](http://www.americanflags.org).

## **SOUTH DAKOTA LEGION NEWS**

**July 2006**

**PAGE 8**

### **History Contest Winners Announced**

Each year, The American Legion Department of South Dakota encourages all Posts to ensure that their individual Post Historians properly document the history of their Posts.

In an attempt to stimulate additional interest in that documentation, the Department sponsors a contest where all Posts can enter their histories in a contest where Post Histories are judged in two separate categories. Those categories are Post yearbook and Post Narrative History. Department Historian Charemon Dunham of Iroquois chair a committee of selected volunteers who judge the histories at the Department Convention.

Judged as this year's winner in the Post Yearbook were:

First Place – Carroll McDonald Post #246, Wall, Historian Gordon Peterson.

Second Place – Sidney L. Smith Post #24, Aberdeen, Historian Dale Strom.

Third Place – William Reaves Post #7, Huron, Historian Franz Lorenz.

Judged as this year's winners in the Post Narrative History Contest were:

First Place – DeSmet Post #138, DeSmet, Historian Kyle K. Richards.

Second Place – Sidney L. Smith Post #24, Aberdeen, Historian Dale Strom.

Third Place – Stratford Post #207, Stratford, Historian Thomas Saunders.

Each winner was presented with a plaque to be displayed in their Post Home.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Thursday, June 29, 2006

- 7:30 pm - Kangaroo Court - Community Hall
- 8:00 pm - Open time capsule - Community Hall
- 8:30 pm - Reconvene Kangaroo Court - Community Hall

### Friday, June 30, 2006

- 7:00 pm - Theater performance - Community Hall
- 8:00 pm - Miss Firecracker Contest - Community Hall

### Saturday, July 1, 2006

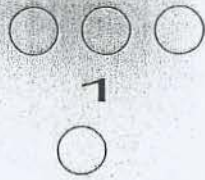
- 9:00-Noon - Car Show - east of B&S Bar & Grill
- 10:00-6:00 pm - Craft Booths & Vendors open - Rondell Avenue
- 10:00 am - Theater performance - Community Hall
- 11:00 am - Pet Show - Ball Park
- Noon - Car Show Awards - Stage on Rondell Avenue
- 12:30 pm - Beard & Bonnet Judging - stage on Rondell Avenue
- 2:00 pm - Parade (see reverse for parade route)
- 4:00 pm - Dedication of Veterans Memorial - Ball Park
- 5:00 pm - All School Reunion Registration - Community Center
- 6:00 - 9:00 pm - All School Reunion Dinner - Community Center
- 9:00 pm - Dance to "Independence" - Tennis Court

### Sunday, July 2, 2006

- 8:00 am - Pancake breakfast - BS Bar & Grill
- 10:00 am - Community Church Service - Ball Park
- 11:00 am - 6:00 pm - Craft Booths & Vendors open - Rondell Avenue
- Noon - Kids' Tractor Pull - Ball Park
- 1:00 pm - Theater performance - Community Hall
- 2:00 pm - Old Time Tractor Pull - Ball Park
- 2:30 pm - Children's Theater Production - Community Hall
- 3:00 pm - Chili Cook-Off Judging and Tasting - east of BS Bar & Grill

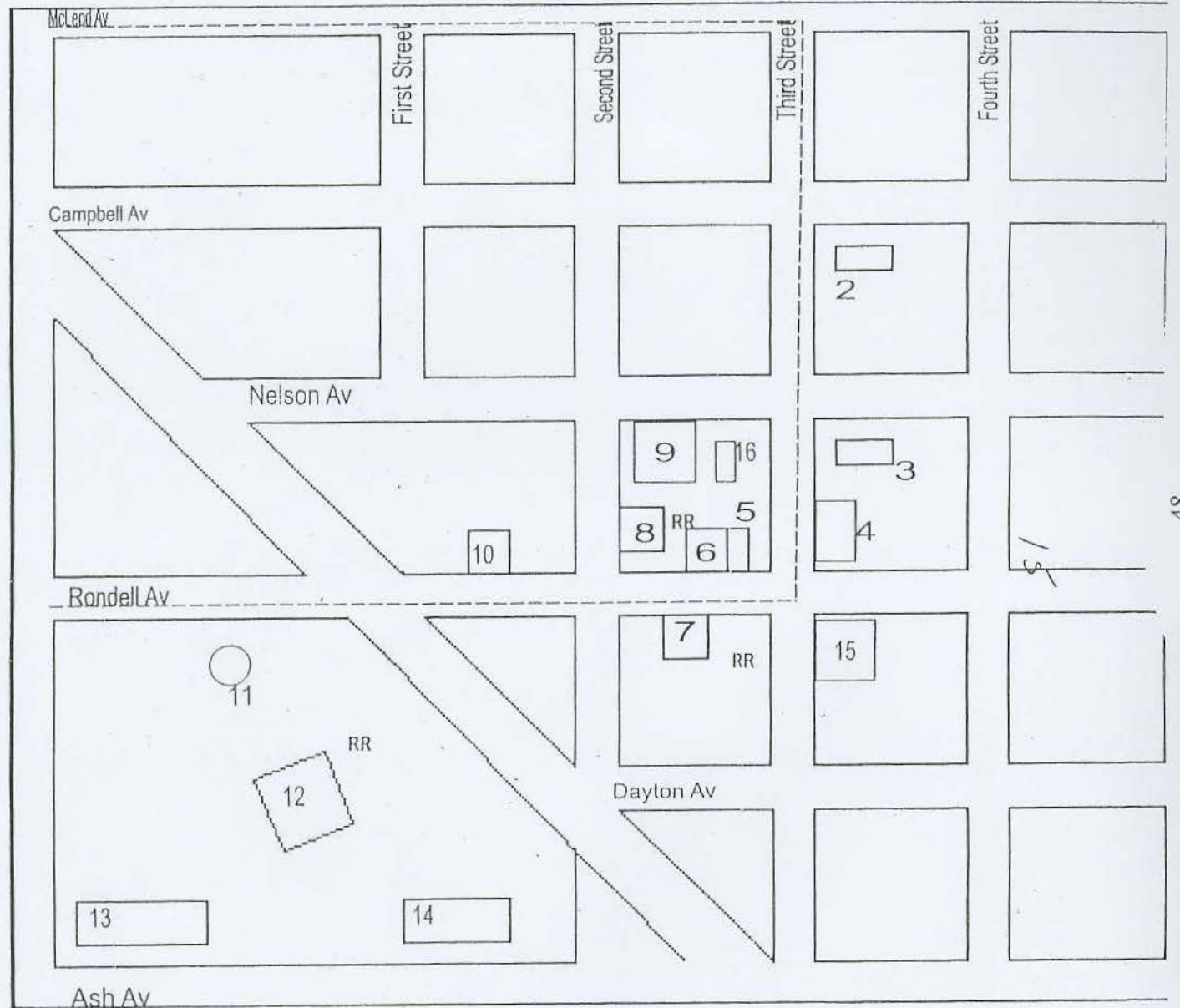
NO PARKING ON PARADE ROUTE. Additional parking at ball park. There will be people movers running throughout town during the celebration.

The City of Stratford would like to send a big thank you to the many individuals and businesses that contributed in any way to the Stratford Centennial. Your help made this celebration a memorable success.



Legend

- 1 Parade Staging Area
- 2 Lutheran Church
- 3 Presbyterian Church
- 4 Gordon Mack Display
- 5 B&S Bar
- 6 Community Hall
- 7 Old Fire Station
- 8 New Fire Station
- 9 Community Park & Tennis Court
- 10 Baribeau Honey Co.
- 11 Veteran's Memorial
- 12 Ball Park
- 13 Picnic Area
- 14 Tractor Pull
- 15 Handicap Parking
- 16 Tent, Rest Area
- Parade Route
- RR Portable Restrooms



# Stratford, South Dakota

1906 - 2006

Please do not park along the parade route.  
Additional parking is available at the ball park.

# Stratford Centennial Community Theater Presents

## ADULT PLAY

*The Wild Flowering of Chastity*

Or

*Chaste Across The Stage*

*A Melodrama by Dutton Foster*

*Produced by Special Arrangement with the Dramatic Publishing company of Woodstock Illinois.*

### Performance times:

**June 30, 7:00 pm**

**July 1, 10:00 am**

**July 2, 1:00 pm**

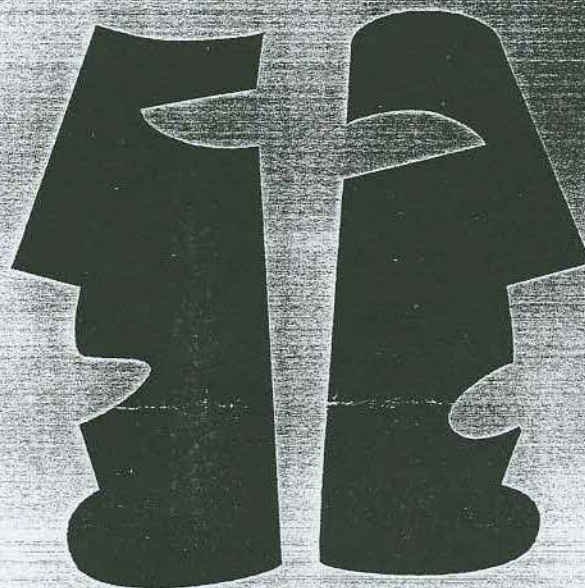
### FEATURING:

*Greed, Treachery, Drunkenness &  
Other Entertaining Human Foibles*

### TAKE HEED:

*This divertissement is Devoid of Social Value to  
Most States Of The Union.*

*A Free Will donation will be taken. Proceeds will  
be given to Larry & Jean Lowe whose home  
burned earlier this year.*



## KIDS PLAY

Stratford Community Kid's Theatre  
presents

**ANANSI and the MOSS COVERED ROCK**

*A Musical with music and lyrics by  
Ron Fink and John Heath*

*Produced by special arrangement with Bad  
Wolf Press of Camarillo, CA*

### Performance time:

**Sunday, July 2, 3:00 pm.**

*A FREE WILL Donation will be taken at the  
door*

Contact Kristi Bruner at 605-226-1305, or check out the website at [www.stratfordsd.com](http://www.stratfordsd.com)

## S.D. senator to visit Mobridge, Stratford

By Russ Keen  
*American News Writer*

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., plans to attend festivities in Mobridge and Stratford on Saturday.

At 1 p.m., he will attend events at the city park in Mobridge and discuss drought-related



issues. Mobridge celebrates its centennial this weekend.

At 4 p.m., the senator will participate in the dedication of the Veterans Memorial in Stratford, which also is celebrating its centennial.

Thune also plans to be in Miller on Saturday morning to be in the 10 a.m. parade celebrating Miller's 125th birthday and to participate in the dedication of the Veterans Memorial following the parade.



UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

JOHN THUNE  
SOUTH DAKOTA

June 19, 2006

Mayor Vern Prickett  
City of Stratford  
310 East Nelson Avenue  
Stratford, SD 57474-0348

Dear Mayor Prickett:

*Vern*

I am writing to congratulate you and the Stratford community as you celebrate Stratford's Centennial Celebration. This is truly a milestone accomplishment in a community's history.

The heart of South Dakota lies in its small towns and the Stratford community plays an important role in continuing to make South Dakota a great place to live and do business. I have enclosed a copy of the Congressional Record Statement celebrating this important event.

Again, congratulations on this historic occasion and thank you for your service to the Stratford community and the state of South Dakota.

Kindest regards,

Senator John Thune

*Congratulations Stratford!*

NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE





United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2006

No. 79

## *Senate*

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the city of Stratford which is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Located in Brown County, Stratford was founded in 1906 as an agricultural community. Stratford is a welcoming community that reflects the values and principles that we as Americans hold dear.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the citizens of Stratford to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their fine city.

# Stratford celebrating 100th birthday

*From staff reports*

Just because Stratford is turning 100 years old, doesn't mean that its beauty queens are going to be that old.

In fact, if you want to watch the Miss Firecracker contest during Stratford's Centennial celebration, you'd better have a strong heart. And stomach. The breathtaking beauty of grown men in evening gowns or swimsuits may just be too much to bare, 'er, bear.

Stratford's 100th birthday begins June 29, with a 7:30 p.m. Kangaroo Court and continues July 1 and 2 with two full days of events.

Throughout the celebration there will be a dunk tank, craft and flea market and food booths.

Stratfordians are particularly proud of the new addition and stage of the Community Center. Several events are scheduled for the new stage.

The evening events on Friday begins with the first performance of "The

## Party runs June 29-July 2

Wildflowering of Chastity," (or "Chaste Across the Stage.") followed by the Miss Firecracker Contest. A male version of Riverdance, which, according to co-facilitator Kristi Bruner, is "hilarious," will be performed while the judges determine which lucky man will be crowned Miss Firecracker. Mark Tolvstad, also known as Lou Evers, the distinguished shoe salesman in the Stratford Community theater production of "The Perils of Lu Lu," returns to emcee the event.

There is no charge for the performances, but a free-will offering will be taken to donate to Jean and Larry Lowe, whose house burned down.

"We are looking for people who are interested in having craft and flea market booths and for entrants in the Miss Firecracker contest, parade, chili cook off and pet show," said a press release. Visit the Website at

www.stratfordsd.com or contact Duane Jark at (605) 395-6549; Jacie Schley at (605) 395-6611 or Kristi Bruner at (605) 226-1305.

The schedule of events for the Stratford Community Centennial celebration June 29 through July 2:

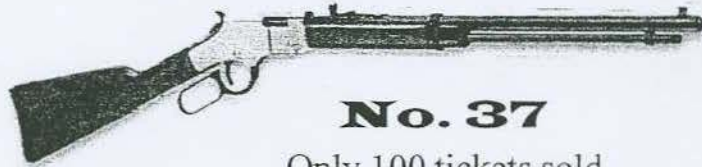
- Thursday, June 29**
- 7:30 p.m. Kangaroo Court
- 8 p.m. Open time capsule
- 8:30 p.m. Reconvene Kangaroo Court
- Friday, June 30**
- 7 p.m. Theater performance "The Wildflowering of Chastity"
- 8 p.m. Miss Firecracker Contest
- Saturday, July 1**
- 9 a.m.-noon, Car Show
- 10 a.m. Theater performance "The Wildflowering of Chastity"
- 11 a.m. Pet Show
- Noon, Car Show Awards
- 12:30 p.m. Beard and Bonnet Judging
- 2 p.m. Parade
- 4 p.m. Dedication of Veterans Memorial
- 5 p.m. All School Reunion Registration
- 6-9 p.m. All School Reunion Dinner
- 9 p.m. Dance to Independence
- Sunday, July 2**
- 8 a.m. Pancake breakfast at the Community Center
- 10 a.m. Community Church Service in the park
- Noon, Kids' Tractor Pull
- 1 p.m. Theater performance "The Wildflowering of Chastity"
- 2 p.m. Old Time Tractor Pull
- 3 p.m. Chili Cook-Off Judging and Tasting

# THE DAKOTAS

The following is an example of the tickets sold during the Centennial Celebration, by Post 207. The winner of the weapon was Anthony Schwan, of Aberdeen, SD.



**Stratford Centennial**  
**Henry Goldenboy .22**  
**Lever Action Hex Barrel**  
**Commemorative Rifle Raffle**  
**Drawing: July 1, 2006**



**No. 37**

Only 100 tickets sold

# Veterans memorial to be unveiled

*Pet show, melodrama, Miss Firecracker contest part of Stratford bash*

By Gretchen Mayer  
American News Writer

Unlike the Westminster dog show, the judging at the Stratford Centennial Pet Show will be less intense. Much less intense. The animals probably won't have pedigrees and pet "enhancement" will be overlooked.

If you're planning to enter your pet in the "Fluffiest Dog or Cat" category, feel free to tease and hair spray as much as your critter will tolerate.

The contest is scheduled for Saturday at 11 a.m. in the Stratford ballpark. Other categories are: Fattest Dog or Cat, Most Unusual Pet, Ugliest Pet, Pet/Owner look-alike contest and Best Pet Trick.

At 2:30 p.m. on Sunday on the new stage at the Community Center, nearly 20 kids will present "Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock."

All this centennial fun kicked off Thursday night with a kangaroo court and wraps up on Sunday with Chili Cook-off judging.

For committee member Kristi Brunes, the exhaustive months of planning are nearly at an end. Besides seeing all the work finally come to fruition, Brunes is looking forward to the parade.

"We'll have a lot of entries," she said. "I quit counting at 70. We've got fire differant sets of legion guards comin g."



American News Photos by Dawn Dietrich-Sahli

**Practice makes perfect:** Stratford Community Theatre actors practice their performance for the centennial on the new stage at the Community Center. Merrill Taylor is the villain along with Beth Hoeft as the aunt, right, and Nancy Jark as Chasity Wildflower, right. The one-act melodrama, "The Wildflowering of Chastity," lasts about 45 minutes. It will be presented today at 7 p.m., Saturday at 10 a.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. Admission is a free-will offering.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., will give a presentation. Schley can't describe the memorial because no one has really seen it. The committee held a pancake supper and an auction to raise more than \$9,000. "Everyone was so generous at the auction. There was a bidding war to see which eggs would go for more — Brown County eggs or Spink County eggs. The dozen went for \$19."

Other events scheduled for this weekend are a car show, a dance, three presentations of a melodrama and the all-school reunion. A flyover is also a possibility.

The one-act melodrama, "The Wildflowering of Chastity," lasts about 45 minutes. It will be presented today at 7 p.m., Saturday at 10 a.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. Admission is a free-will offering.

Brunes has been waiting about eight years to do "The Wildflowering of Chastity." And finally, the opportunity arrived.

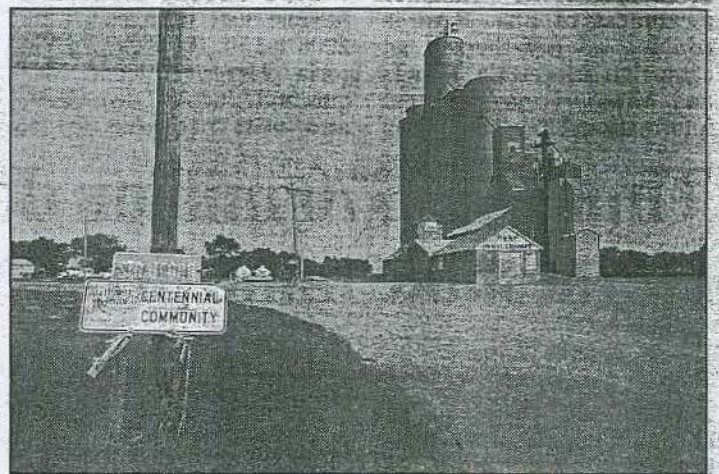
Stratford has expanded its community center with this weekend in mind. The addition includes a new permanent stage, dressing rooms and a storage area. The

She's also looking forward to the Miss Firecracker contest. Will all the contestants shave their legs?

"Probably not," said Brunes, "most of them won't even shave their beards."

According to Jacie Schley, "Everything is falling into place. My extension club, the Rondell Royals, has worked hard on the Miss Firecracker contest and it is going to be a hoot."

One thing Schley is excited about is the new Veterans Memorial, which will be unveiled after the parade.



**Time to celebrate:** The community of Stratford is honoring its centennial this weekend. Events include a parade, a car show, a dance and the Stratford Centennial Pet Show.

addition was built with all-volunteer labor, headed by Allen Hoeft.

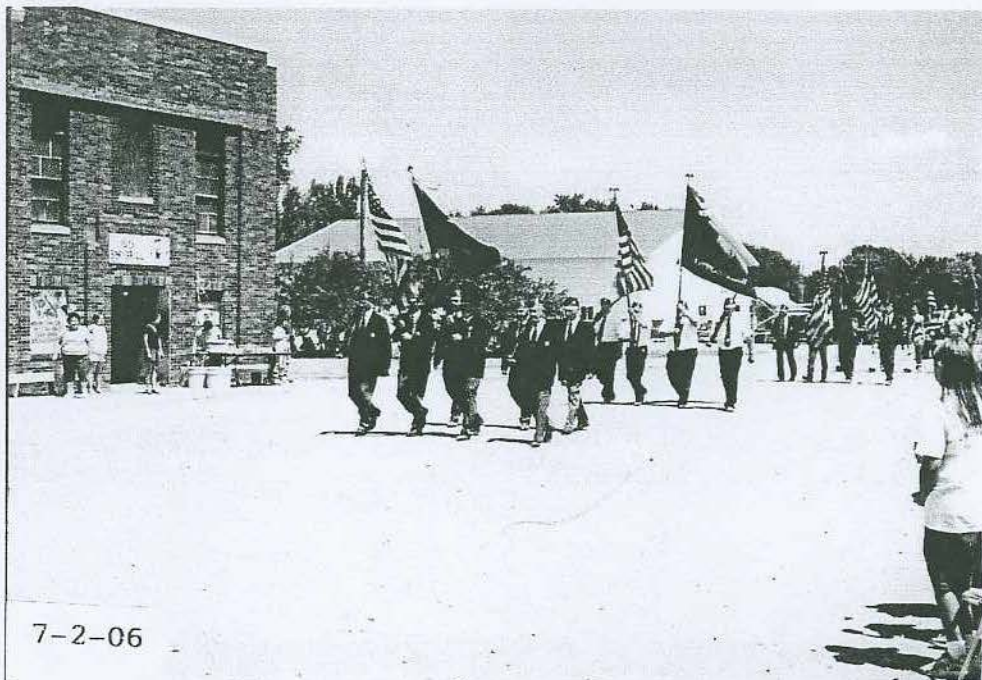
- Today**
- 7 p.m., Stratford Community Theatre presents "The Wildflowering of Chastity"
  - 8 p.m., Miss Firecracker Contest
- Saturday**
- 9 a.m.-noon, Car Show
  - 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Craft Fair and Flea Market
  - 10 a.m., Stratford Community Theatre presents "The Wildflowering of Chastity"
  - 11 a.m., Pet Show
  - 12:30 p.m., Beard and Bonnet Judging
  - 2 p.m., Parade
  - 4 p.m., Dedication of Veterans Memorial

- 5 p.m., All-School Reunion Registration
  - 6-9 p.m., All-School Reunion Dinner
  - 9 p.m., Community dance with Independence
- Sunday**
- 8 a.m., Pancake breakfast at the Community Center
  - 10 a.m., Community Church Service in the park
  - 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Craft Fair and Flea Market
  - Noon, Kids Tractor Pull
  - 1 p.m., Stratford Community Theatre presents "The Wildflowering of Chastity"
  - 2 p.m., Old Time Tractor Pull
  - 2:30 p.m., Children's Theater performance
  - 3 p.m., Chili Cook-Off Judging and Tasting

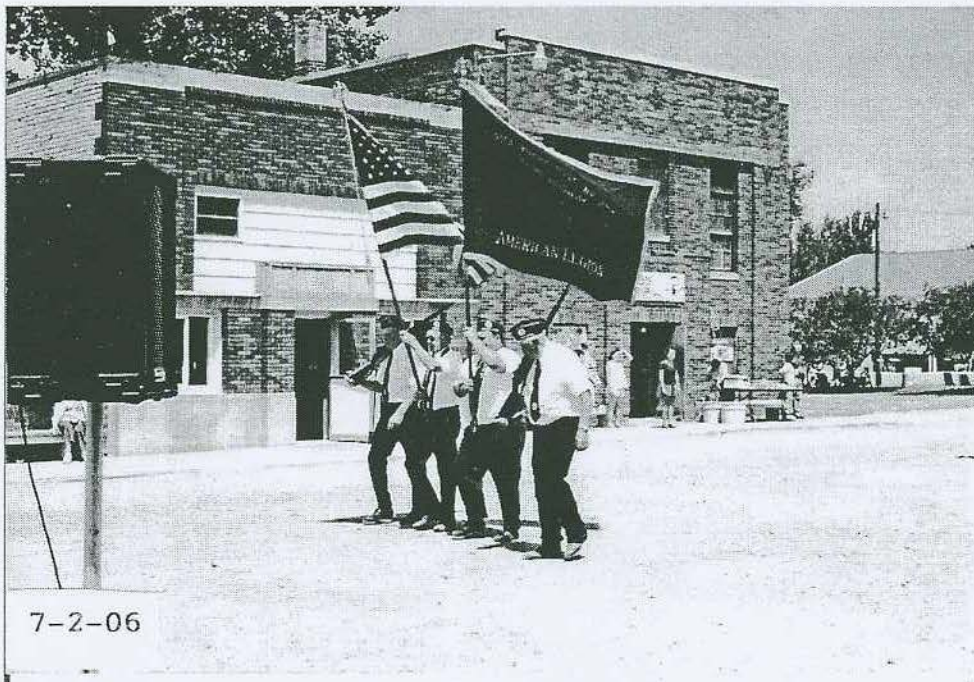
CENTENNIAL PARADE STRATFORD, SD 7-02-06



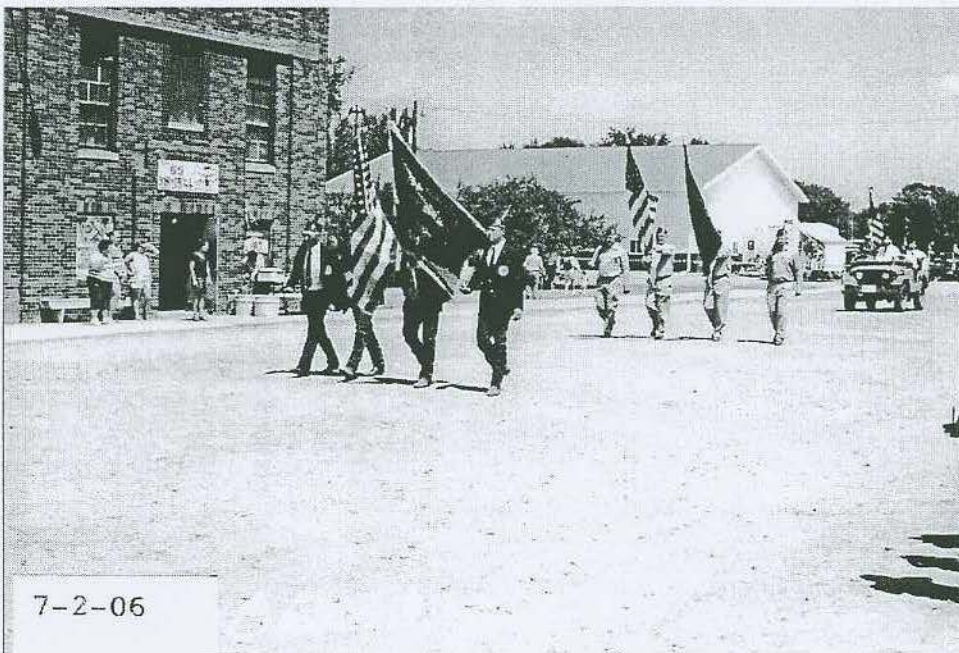
Front Line L to R: Steve Face, Harley Hansen, Tim Marlette, Marvin Bender 2nd line, L to R, Verne Prickett, Pat Hansen, Clarence Erickson.



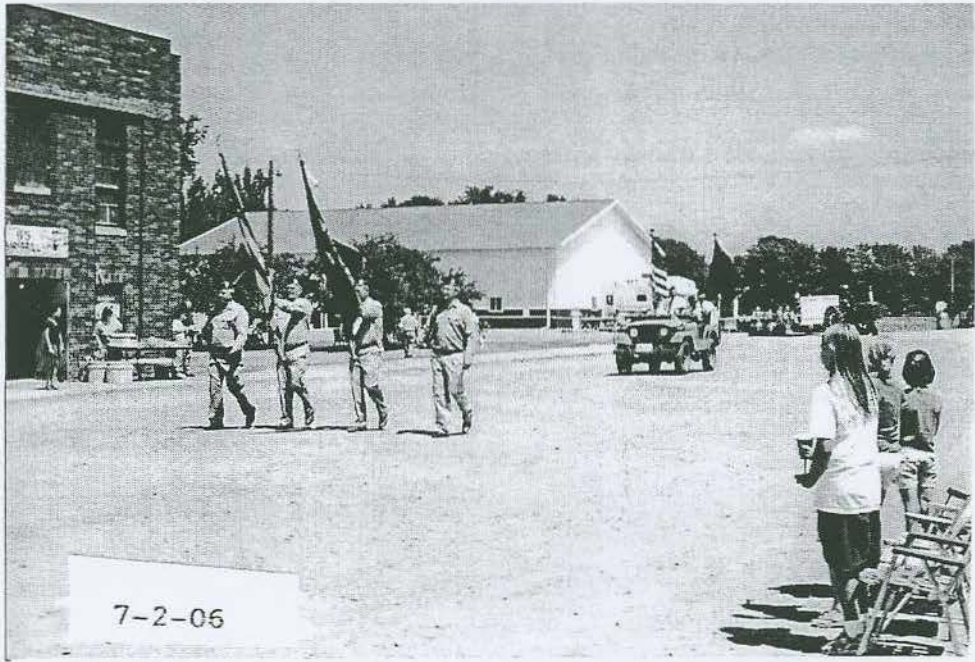
American Legion Post 207, leading the parade of Colors 7-2-06



Warner Flag Detail



Pierpont, Brentford, Claremont Details



Brentford Detail



Claremont Detail



VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION STRATFORD COMMUNITY

PARK 7-02-06



Overview of Dedication Ceremony



Commander Saunders greeting the attendees



L to R: Duane Jark, Past Commander, Merle Kjer, Speaker, Eugene Face, Chaplain, Vern Prickett, Adjutant, John Thune, US Senator



L to R: Awaiting delivery of new Flag; Merle Kjer, Commander Saunders, Past Commander Duane Jark, Adjutant Vern Prickett



Tim Marlette of Flag Detail, delivered new Flag to Past Commander Duane Jark and Adjutant Vern Prickett to be raised for the first time on new pole.



Upon completion of Flag raising, Barb Paepke lead the entire assembly in the National Anthem.



Past Commander Duane Jark and Adjutant Vern Prickett complete flag raising ceremony.



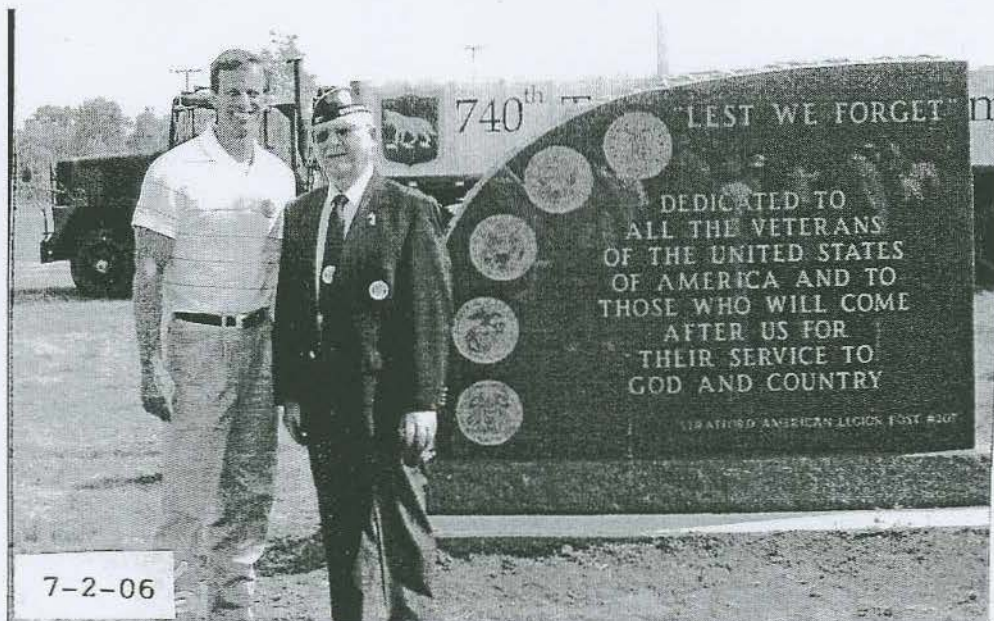
US Senator John Thune – addressing the assembled



Commander Saunders presenting Senator Thune with memorabilia from Stratford Centennial Celebration



Kneeling L to R: Vern Prickett, George (Pat) Hansen, harley Hansen, Steve Face, Clarence Erickson  
 Standing L to R: Duane Jark, Herman Lier, Thomas E. Saunders, Gerald Wanttie, Eugene Face, Marvin Bender, Kenneth Jark



US Senator John Thune, Commander Thomas E. Saunders

## Stratford Centennial help valued

**To the editor** — What a fun time in Stratford. Thank you to all who helped in any way to bring the Stratford Centennial Celebration to fruition.

We want to thank South Dakota Wheat Growers and North Central Farmers Elevator for their donations, Gary's Auto, BS Bar & Grill, Aberdeen Rural Firemen for security, Brown County Fair for use of people movers, Mark Tolvstad and Dusty Schley for entertainment at the Miss Firecracker contest, Jark & Worlie Auction for the use of their sound system, Stratford American Legion and Auxiliary, Veteran's Memorial ad hoc committee, Rondell Royals Extension Club, Nancy Krumm for the pet show, Korrie Face for putting together a DVD of Stratford pictures, the Rev. Bill Paepke for leading us in such a memorable church service, Jack Gubin for organizing the tractor pull,

Tom Lammon and his band "Independence," alumni committee, craft and food vendors, history book committee, those who helped in the last-minute change of venue for the Miss Firecracker contest, Eugene Face for manning the collectibles table, the Stratford Community Theater, those who had items for display, Dakota Press for the great photo coverage, Miss Firecracker judges Tom Bertsch, Audrey Paepke, Trudy Schaunaman, Dick Kolker, and, last but not least, for the refreshing ice cream that was served.

Special thanks to the Stratford Centennial Committee for all their hard work during the past two years. You guys did a great job. As our T-shirts stated, "If you're lucky enough to be from Stratford, you're lucky enough."

**Jacie Schley**  
Stratford

## Dedication of memorial appreciated

**To the editor** — Sincere thanks is extended to the following who contributed to the successful dedication of the Veterans Memorial at the Stratford City Park on July 1: Sen. John Thune for his presence and comments; Del Heupel, District 14 Commander, American Legion; Dale Strom, Brown County Commander, American Legion; the Flag Details of the American Legion Posts from Brentford, Warner, Pierpont and Claremont who participated in the Centennial parade and dedication; Merle Kjer, speaker for the dedication; Barbara Paepke who led the group in singing the national anthem, and the memorial ad hoc committee made up of George "Pat" Hansen, Alan Hoeft and Bill and Diane Klager, who were instrumental in raising the funds for the memorial.

**Thomas E. Saunders**

*Commander, Legion Post 207 Stratford*



[www.aberdeennews.com](http://www.aberdeennews.com)

# Thank You

## Stratford fundraiser help appreciated

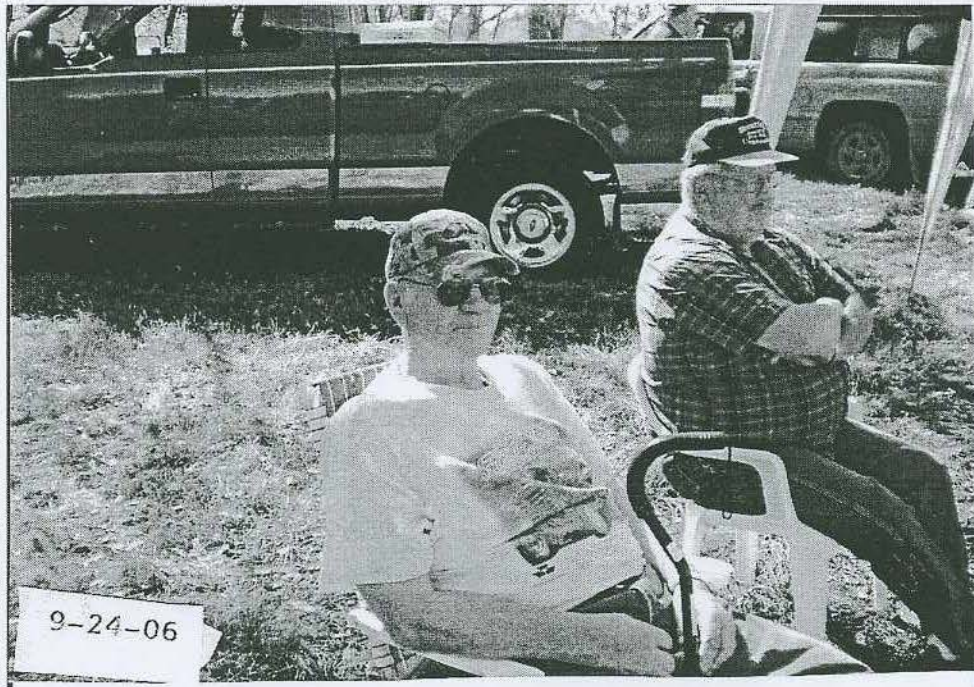
**To the editor** — The Stratford American Legion Post 207 wants to give a special thank you to the following businesses who donated items to the 2006 fundraiser: RDO Equipment, Butler-Cat Equipment, Artz Equipment, Lakewood Mall, Taylor Seed, Farmers Union of Ferney, Dakota Bank of

Aberdeen, First State Bank of Warner, Frohling Meat Market and Economy Meat Market.

Also, a thank you to all who purchased tickets and attended the event.

**Verlin Stange**  
*Stratford American Legion  
Post 207*

TRACTOR PULL, STRATFORD COMMUNITY PARK 9-24-06



On Left: Ronald (Jack) Gubin, long time organizer of Large attended tractor pull in the area



Tractors arriving for the pull



Starting the pull – contestant Randy Stoltenberg



L to R: Concession workers, Eugene Face, Verlin Stange

# Grandma's favoritism hurting grandkids

## Annie's Mailbox

have thought about standing up to her, but she has a very quick tongue and is a master at manipulation. Any suggestions on how to cope with the monster-in-law? — Outlaws in Iowa

**Dear Iowa:** How does your husband feel about this? Can he stand up to his mother? She should absolutely know that her blatant favoritism is ruining her relationship with the grandchildren, not to mention with her son and daughter-in-law. However, if you can't convince her to change her ways, keeping your distance is the best option. Your children should not be subjected to such unkindness.

### Origins of Veterans Day

**Dear Annie:** I would like to clarify the origins of Veterans



**Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar**

Day. Company B of the 137th Infantry of the Kansas National Guard was called into active duty on Jan. 6, 1941. One of those soldiers was Private First Class John (Bull) Cooper. Pfc. Cooper was killed in action on Dec. 20, 1944, in Germany. He received the Silver Star for his gallantry under fire.

Cooper's uncle was Emporia, Kan., shoe repairman Al King. King and his wife, Gertrude, helped raise John Cooper, and were devastated by the loss. King started looking for a way to honor his nephew. His idea was to change Armistice Day, a holiday set aside to honor the end of WWI, into an all-inclusive national holiday honoring all servicemen and women of all conflicts past, present and future.

King gained the support of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, AmVets and American War Dads. He found another ally in U.S. Rep. Ed Rees, also from Emporia. Rees wrote the act effecting the change, and both houses of Congress passed it. President Eisenhower, another Kansan, signed the bill into law on June 1, 1954.

The first nationwide cele-

bration of this new holiday was held on Nov. 11, 1954. Emporia, of course, held the very first "All Veterans Day" on Nov. 11, 1953. — Greg Jordan, Executive Director, Lyon County Historical Society

**Dear Greg Jordan:** We appreciate the history lesson and send our deepest gratitude to all the veterans who have served their country. Happy Veterans Day.

PROPER FLAG DISPOSAL TRAINING AT ABERDEEN CHRISTIAN

SCHOOL, ABERDEEN, SD 10-06-06



L to R: Herman Lier, Larry Nuprem Dist 14 Americanism Officer, Duane Jark, Jerry Wanttie, Vern Prickett, Greg Milbrandt, Thomas Saunders, Eugene Face



L to R: Duane Jark, Jerry Wanttie, Vern Prickett, Greg Milbrandt, Thomas Saunders, Eugene Face



L to R: Duane Jark, Jerry Wanttie, Vern Jark at burn barrel, Greg Milbrandt, Thomas E. Saunders, Eugene Face, offering hand salute

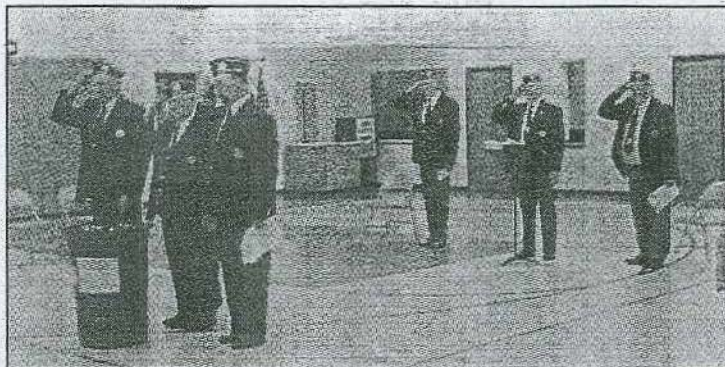


Commander Saunders, explaining importance of ceremony

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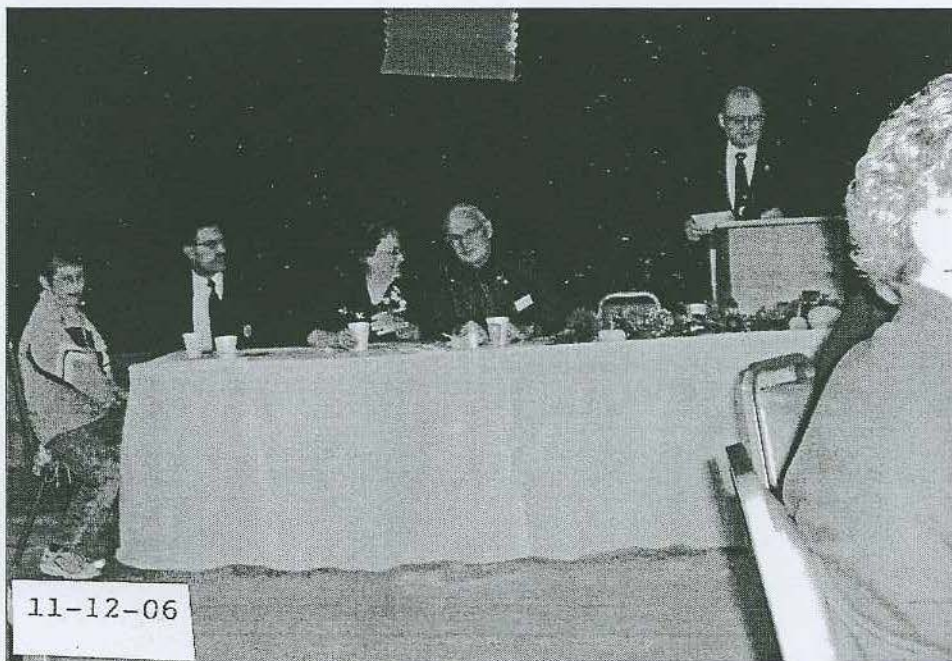


On October 6, 2006, the Stratford American Legion Post 207 demonstrated proper flag disposal procedures for grades K-8 of the Baptist Christian School in Aberdeen, SD. (Left to Right) Duane Jark, Gerald Wantie and Vern Prickett. In the back row (left to right) Greg Milbrandt, Thomas Saunders, and Eugene Face.

VETERANS DAY POT LUCK DINNER 11-12-06



L to R: Commander Saunders, SD Departmental Commander Gunner Gaatrup at podium, Adj. Vern Prickett, Bonnie Reiss, President Post 207 Auxiliary, Eugene Face Post Chaplain



L to R: Vice Commander Greg Milbrandt & son, Mrs. Baatrup, Dept. Commander Baatrup, Thomas E. Saunders





L to R: Commander Saunders, Departmental Commander Baatrup, Adj. Vern Prickett



Marilyn Stange, displaying 50 year membership award, designed and made by Korinne Face

CHRISTMAS PARTY 12-02-06



L to R: Santa, aka Jerry Schley & two elves, Bonnie Reiss and Kristi Brunes



L to R: Dick Ellingson Grandchildren, Landon, Taylor, Logan and Payton



Santa with Brian and Beth Hoeft children



Nicole and Landon Ellingson on Santa's lap

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