

1941

FORT LEONARD WOOD

In the Beginning

January 9

Pulaski County Democrat

FIRST CONTINGENT OF SOLDIERS ARRIVE AT FORT LEONARD WOOD THIS WEEK

130 ENGINEERS AND 30 OFFICERS
ARE FROM FT. RILEY, KANS.

EXPECT 1200 BY END OF WEEK

The editor of the *Democrat* spent an educational and a pleasant hour yesterday (Wednesday) morning at Fort Leonard Wood (that is the name given to the new 7th Corps Area Training center army camp 6 miles south of Waynesville).

With a pass issued by C. M. Brisch of Waynesville, who is chief police officer at the cantonment, I was admitted to the grounds where in company of Mr. Brisch I was allowed to go through every part of the camp.

First visit was to the barracks which are rapidly nearing completion. About 130 soldiers and 30 officers arrived this week already and are quartered in two of the incomplete barracks and one of the mess kitchens. The men are from Company B, 6th Engineers Battalion of the 6th division. They come from Ft. Riley, Kansas, we were informed by Lieutenant W. H. Van Atta, Company Commander.

Lieut. Van Atta added that the people of Waynesville and other nearby towns make arrangements for entertainment and amusement of the incoming soldiers. He informed us further that arrangements are made to take the men to Lebanon high school gymnasium during the week for recreation. They probably will later use the gymnasium here.

From Sergeant S. E. Alden we learned that at present the engineers are getting their water from the Blue Spring and Big Piney River. They have portable purification units with

which they treat all their drinking water.

In two days they start building a purification unit on the Big Piney River for a source of water supply. They are also installing as quickly as they come in various kitchen equipment, refrigerators, ranges, etc.

Their next duty is the construction of a landing field for General Strong, Corps Area Commander, whose headquarters are in Omaha, Nebraska. This field is for the use of the general on inspection trips, etc.

Lieutenant Colonel George W. West, who is now at the campsite, is to assume the duties of camp quartermaster. Lieut. Col. West was very helpful in assisting us in getting information concerning the growth of the camp.

Buildings at the cantonment are seemingly mushrooming out of the ground. Where day before yesterday there were only concrete pilings for foundations today stood barracks almost completed. Lumber piles stood two stories high and looked like houses. Bulldozers kept busy on roads in the area were leveling what are soon to be streets. A gullied 3/4 mile strip lies between the section of barracks to be occupied by the 6th Engineers and on the other side will be leveled for a parade ground.

Two of the buildings in the long

row of barracks west of the parade ground are to be used for temporary hospitals. A large hospital building is going up south of the parade grounds. (This near the jct. of the old Foster Ford Road with the old Big Piney road).

The unit now quartered here is completely motorized. There will be about 776 men in this battalion when it reaches its full strength (war strength). Water of the Big Piney will be impounded in the Ramsey Bend for use of pontoon work. Boats to be used are large and make necessary the impounding of this water.

The landing field to be built for the Corps Area Commander is to be located southwest of the camp-site proper.

Within the week about 1200 men are expected to be quartered at the camp. There are about 5,000 workmen engaged on work at the camp and railroad works at present with additional men being hired daily.

Work on sewerage, water lines and power lines is progressing rapidly with many small power plants already in use. A large fleet of trucks is hauling gravel from both the east and west sides of the camp for roads and also for use in foundations and footings for buildings under construction. A proposed extension

Dear Readers.....

In this news recap of the beginning of Fort Leonard Wood, we also reprint excerpts from a column called "Dear Readers..." written by Ruth Long, owner and publisher of the *Pulaski County Democrat*. Ruth and husband V. V. Long bought the *Democrat* in September of 1914. When V. V. Long secured the postmastership in November of 1933, he ceased active management of the paper. His wife Ruth became publisher and their son, Douglas E., editor and business manager. Ruth wrote a weekly column called "Dear Readers..." News about neighbors and former county residents was interspersed with gems of local history. Ruth's column reports the emergence of Fort Leonard Wood but her account is a personal one of the boom years of World War II. She notes the changing landscape, expresses awe at the huge military effort and influx of people, while sometimes lamenting the change. We offer her perspective alongside the news articles, all of which are from the *Democrat*.

to the present proposed extension of the west boundary of the camp is noted to have included approximately 30,000 more acres west of the present site.

The population of Waynesville has grown from a little more than 400 before Fort Wood was established here to about 2500 now, and growing still. One cafe with 21 employees here accommodates about 1,000 people daily (open 24 hours). Every available means of furnishing sleeping quarters is being taxed. A traffic jam occurs with every change of shift at the camp (there are three 8-hour shifts daily).

All parking space is taken most of the day around the public square here. Plans are being pushed for construction of buildings for all types of new business as well as dwellings. Army officials are asking the city to get ready for the accom-



Carpenters and painters are putting the finishing touches on the exteriors of barracks. Each two-story barrack housed 64 men. By the end of April 1941, 600 barracks were built. During that period, buildings were constructed at the rate of one every 45 minutes. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas

modation of at least 1400 officers and their families.

Dear Readers...

Before I write of other things, I know that you are anxious to hear about the 7th Corps Training Area near here. More men are working each day (some have had to lay off on account of influenza) but still they continue to come here from every part of the country and crowds continue to grow in Waynesville, Crocker, Dixon and Richland and as far as Lebanon.

About 175 officers and men arrived at the camp (they have named it Fort Leonard Wood) Sunday of the 6th Engineers battalion and 6th army division from Ft. Riley, Kans. The lieutenant in charge made arrangements here through Clark D. Stutler, superintendent of the Waynesville schools, to use the school gymnasium for showers for the men and shaves two nights each week for such facilities have not yet been completed at the campsite. The barracks are made of frame construction, two stories, to house 64 men each and each have their own heating plant and all are made on concrete bases...

January 16

Dear Readers...

All of you who live away from here can't possibly realize the COLOSSAL changes being made in the little city of Waynesville and the entire south part of the county. For we who live

here can't; we are too exhausted.

The LEISURELY and PATIENT plodding of years has gone and in its place is hustle, bustle and hurry. The normal population of Waynesville has changed in a few weeks from 500 persons to around 3,000. We feel that we are being carried out to sea by a racing rip tide.

The housing problem is ACUTE, with people coming in CONTINUALLY and we have to send them to other towns in the county. All the resorts and cabins over a wide territory have been filled to capacity. Many are asking Waynesville residents and home owners to make room in store rooms, garages and even chicken houses.

With all of this I have been asked by many regarding the CRIME SITUATION, and I can TRUTHFULLY and GLADLY say that SO FAR AS I KNOW, WE HAVE NONE. City Marshal J. H. Hensley told me Monday morning that he had ONLY ARRESTED one drunk, who was placed in the city jail Saturday night, plead guilty and was released Monday morning.

For several years the CRIMINAL cases on the Circuit Court docket have dropped, and I WOULD NOT SAY THAT WE ARE GETTING BETTER, for I've no wings on anything but the birds and among birds we ALWAYS have a FEW BUZZARDS.

There MAY BE MORE BOOZE sold lately than before but I don't know about it and crowds are on the

streets continually and ESPECIALLY from 4 o'clock on until fairly late at night. We have NO POOL HALLS, at this time, but don't know how long it will be until there will be what they call RECREATION CLUBS.

January 23

Meet At Bloodland School to Discuss Plans for Abandoning

Mr. Britton and Mr. Lee of the U. S. Forestry Service Department in Springfield met at the Bloodland school Monday evening to discuss plans for the disbanding of the school and the sale of the Bloodland Consolidated Districts, all of which lays within the boundary of the 7th corps training area.

Members of the Board of Education who met with them were: Alf Landers, president, John Helton, Olney Scott, Gus Gaede and the secretary and treasurer, Lester O'Quin, one member being absent, Earl Williams. County Superintendent of Schools, A. Cal Thomson, was also present at the conference.

The Department offered \$14,500 for the building and grounds (equipment to be sold at a separate sale) that will be used to pay on \$6,500 worth of bonds and other indebtedness.

Rowland Bell is superintendent of the schools at Bloodland. Unless an emergency arises the school will continue until the close of the term.

Dry Creek School Closed Last Friday

The Dry Creek school, located

southeast of Waynesville, closed Friday, January 17th, on account of the danger to the children because of the heavy traffic along the road by the school. Thirty-four pupils were enrolled and Mrs. Emerson Storie of Hanna and Miss Clara Woody of Palace were the teachers.

Dear Readers...

...Of course the BOOM in connection with the army training camp is the GREATEST item of news and interest AND YET, for myself, I would like to GET AWAY FROM IT ALL, occasionally, at least.

To begin with, we were very well satisfied with things as they were. Most of us who live here are SMALL TOWN PEOPLE. We like to KNOW our neighbors but all that is past, whether we like it or not!

Most of the people we meet are AS WE ARE—they realize we are OVERCROWDED and that WORK takes precedence over everything. Most of the people are gracious and congenial and then there are a FEW who ARE NOT PLEASED WITH ANYTHING and who GRIPE about any and everything. You must understand that I have not met up with any of the last named group and am speaking from SECONDHAND information.

MORE people continue to come here every day and the HOUSING PROBLEM becomes more ACUTE. BEFORE THE BOOM we had scarcely enough houses to meet our own needs.

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I have also noted the past few days LIQUOR BOTTLES thrown hither and yon about streets and alleys but with all this I have noted NO DRUNKENNESS, however I'm out on the streets after dark very seldom, so I would not be the LAST WORD ALONG THAT LINE.

I'm afraid you will accuse me of being a pessimist this week! The army camp has been closed SOLIDLY against visitors since last week unless you have a C. M. Q. button—men working, heavy trucks loaded to the hilt with materials and the MUD make driving conditions hazardous. Visitors may see much of what is going on and being done as they drive along No. 17 but not the Main Section.

The U. S. Forestry Department has options on over 90,000 acres of land, but that don't mean they will take over that much, unless it becomes NECESSARY.

January 30
Is the Lid Coming Off In
Waynesville?

Unless prompt action is taken by proper authorities at once Waynesville is facing the prospect of wide open gambling dens and bawdy houses. Daily reports of increased vice of all forms in our town do not sound the least encouraging.

While there is no open display of excessive drunkenness on our streets due to vigilance of our enforcement officers they have some-

thing to cope within the city.

Waynesville is inadequately policed and the city treasury is not in a very healthy condition so that it is going to be necessary for us to dig into our pocketbooks to finance additional enforcement officers. Our present city and county officers while doing their best must have help to cope with the situation.

There are about 4,000 people living in Waynesville today in the space populated by about 600 two months ago. As a group the new influx is we

believe better than the average, however, such a number brings so many increased problems that greater vigilance must be exercised.

February 6

Dear Readers...

Well, in regard to the BIG BOOM and the army camp being built south of here when you who are away from here come to visit us you will find that WE HAVE CHANGED from a people who could take time to visit most any-

time, we have become a HARRIED, WORK-WORN people with scarcely any time to eat or sleep, and that ONLY IN SNATCHES.

More people arrive here every day and the towns over the county, Richland, Dixon and Crocker are "full" and homes and resorts over a wide area are "running over" and C. M. Dean, Lebanon business man told me Sunday that Lebanon has no empty houses or apartments. Mrs. Russell Lander near town told me that she had rented out her chicken house—it's a modern, comfortable chicken house, however. You would hardly believe, unless you could see, how even a bed, in run-down ramshackle houses are being eagerly taken. The dilapidated log cabin on what is known as the Dick Phillips place east of Waynesville on U. S. 66 is jammed with cots where men are glad to pay good prices for a place to lay their weary heads!

The training center taken over by Uncle Sam is one of my favorite spots for recreation for it contains some very large springs, known far and wide, is a hunters' and fishermen's paradise. Since I am a very patriotic person, that will be a part of my sacrifice, if you could call it a sacrifice. The whole section is one of Nature's beauty spots and I shall miss the drives and the picnics that I have enjoyed in that area and all my friends who will move away sometime this Spring.



Fort Leonard Wood, MO Feb. 8—BOGGED DOWN—This is a sample of the mud construction workers are fighting these days in building Fort Leonard Wood, the army's training camp in the Ozarks, where eventually 36,000 troops will be centered. Despite such mud which has bogged down tractors, work is being pushed ahead at a fast pace. AP Wirephoto 1941. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

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February 20
**Doubling of Size of Fort Leonard
 Wood Barracks Area**

Camp officials were quoted this week as having said the present size of Fort Leonard Wood will be doubled, extending two miles further south of its location.

The barracks area will extend over two additional sections to the south at the present site.

It was estimated that this addition will almost re-double the original size of the cantonment area and extend the active working period over more than another year.

Meanwhile the marathon race of clerks in local business establishments continues unabated. Population estimates have risen from the 4,000 guess two weeks ago to between 4500 and 5000 now in greater Waynesville. Of this number approximately 1000 are quartered in trailers in and near the city limits.

More than 200 trailers have been counted in the local area.

Dear Readers...

MORE PEOPLE and GREATER TRAFFIC is the order of the day and the night, too, and for over a week crowds have PACKED THE STREETS LIKE SARDINES. People STAND IN LINE here at the bank, cafes, general and grocery stores and ONE CONTINUOUS LINE, all DAY at the POST OFFICE where two shifts of clerks are being put on as soon as it is possible and as soon as HEALTH will permit for some of the EXPERIENCED help are still on the SICK LIST and the POSTMASTER (MY BOSS) is only ABLE to be THERE a short WHILE each DAY now, as he has been suffering from the flu and a severe sore throat. Parcel post consignments are so heavy now that I can't begin to tell you HOW BIG THEY ARE! AS SOON as POSSIBLE the windows

will be kept open longer to try to move the MOUNTAINS OF MAIL QUICKER...

I have been reliably informed that 5 out of the 500 young men stationed at Fort Leonard Wood now have married taxi dancers at the Wye east of here which is causing much concern among the officers. It looks like the boys have been USING THEIR FEET instead of THEIR HEADS!

The survey for the Frisco spur crosses the ridge to the rear of Blue Spring on the Big Piney and up Dry Creek entering Ft. Wood at or near the Dry Creek school, according to the best information I have been able to get.

February 27

Dear Readers...

At Fort Leonard Wood south of here things are beginning to TAKE SHAPE and the MUDDY MESS that covered the entire camp has

resolved itself into graded roads and streets.

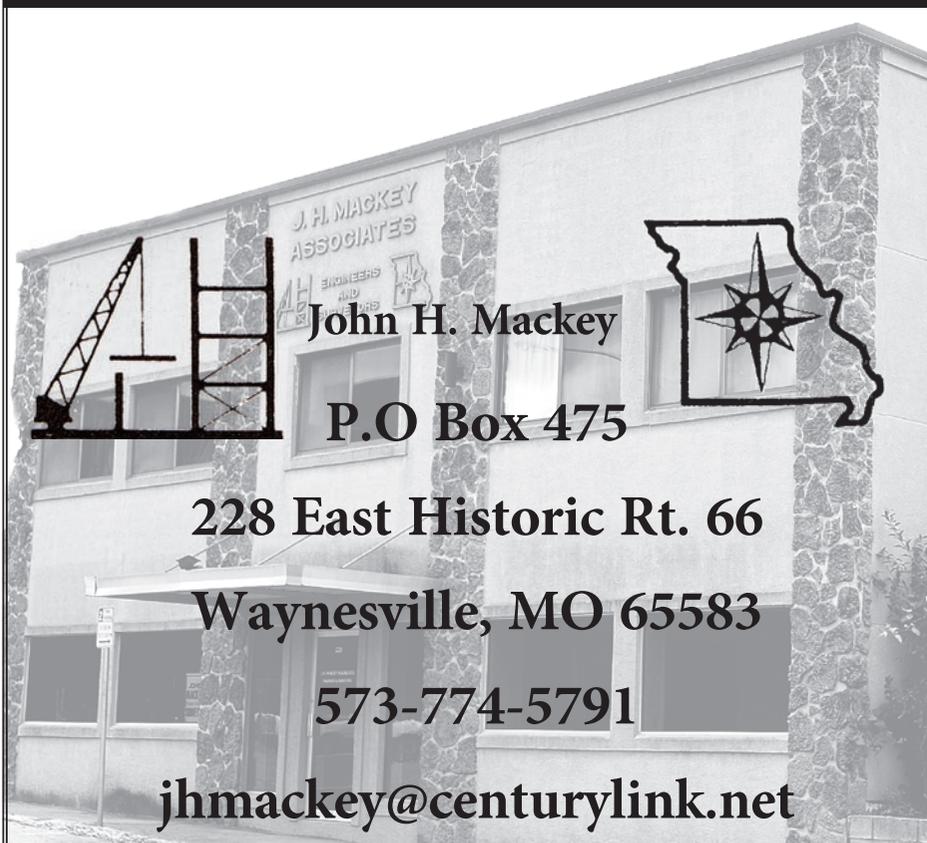
A 500,000-gallon tank for water for the Fort has been erected which sounds like a lot of water but I'll leave to the engineers to take care of the water situation there.

March 6
**TRAFFIC COUNT AT WILDWOOD
 SHOWS CONGESTION**

A count of the cars and trucks passing the Wildwood junction of highway 17 at the army camp shows the extreme congestion on that and other nearby roads now.

In a check February 21st a total of 19,387 cars and trucks were counted in a 24-hour period. Of this number 14,612 were passenger cars and 4,775 were trucks. The same day between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. 2,550 cars and truck were counted and in the afternoon in the hour between 5:00 and 6:00 there were 2,369 cars

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School Expansion Next Year Expected To Be Seven-Fold

At present there are just under 600 students in the [Waynesville] school and the expected increase would bring the enrollment to about 4200. This increase would mean that 100 more classrooms and 100 more instructors would be needed as an addition to the present plant's facilities.

Dear Readers...

Each week since THIS BOOM commenced in early November I have kept you posted on things that HAVE HAPPENED HERE and it seems that THIS TOWN booms more each evening, with greater crowds on the streets and people BEGGING for places to stay but there is no room.

You who knew us as a SETTLED and SEDATE old town BEFORE the BOOM wouldn't know us now. Here we are with all our PRE-CIVIL WAR history and can BOAST an OLD FORT with the BIG SPRING and the RIPPLING ROUBIDOUX whose crystal clear water flow around the old TOWN, teaming with fish and during the summer many of the CITIZENS took time off to fish, swim, drive motor boats and the YOUNGER SET rode surf boards at the mouth of the Roubidoux where it empties into the Gasconade River near here.

Over 400 abstracts were made here for the U. S. Forestry Service on land bought by the War Department for the Fort Leonard Wood Army Training Center.

The War Department has asked Congress to appropriate an additional \$12,713,727 for the Training Center, making \$27,729,277, the original cost being estimated at \$15,015,550, all of which gives you some idea of the immense project.

March 20

Dear Readers...

Driving about Sunday afternoon, my boss and I found that Fort Wood



Traffic to the camp construction site was most acute at the "Wye," which was the junction of Route 66 and State Highway 17, which today is Missouri Avenue that enters the fort. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

had grown almost beyond imagination with hundreds of new barracks, roads, streets and numerous other buildings and as familiar as we are with the locality, were lost most of the time and that along No. 17. The huge reservoir, painted a deep orange, towered over the entire camp.

All spic and span and looking as though ready to go at a moment's notice were hundreds of army trucks parked near the highway and hillsides of sand and gravel are ready for use on the hundreds of foundations for barracks yet to be built.

On U. S. 66 and No. 17 old papers were being blown about and unsightly heaps of tin cans and yes, whiskey bottles—also used furniture by the side of the road that looked as though most of it had been badly used!

Posters on every available post and tree advertised "temptations" 1941 style as though the women now have anything on mother Eve. The same old sordid show!!

Two carnivals, that get you both coming and going, (that is if you can be got) one east of town about a mile and a half and the other in West Waynesville, complete with fat ladies, fortune tellers, etc.—then, there are the clubs—so-called housed in tents—very exclusive—so

I'm told!

So far as the night clubbers are concerned, a lot of you will know more about that than I do, for after a day at the office my evenings and nights are spent at home.

The workers here are, generally speaking, the very best.

The president of the local bank, Sam T. Rollins informed me that last Saturday they handled \$70,000 in company checks and Monday \$99,000 making a total for the two days of \$169,000, the peak of the deposit being Monday with \$104,000, the highest for any previous day being \$80,000.

Monday, they handled a total of 3,400 checks which amounted to \$525,000 at the close of business. A force of six employees handles the bank's business.

March 27

BOOM EXPECTED TO LAST A MONTH OR MORE

The congestion in Waynesville and surrounding towns caused by the Army Camp boom continues into the third month without any trace of a let-up. Heavy traffic through town causes motorists to proceed at snail's pace and pedestrians find it most

March 20

Traffic In Fort Leonard Wood Vicinity Shows Marked Increase

The Missouri State Highway Department traffic count in the Fort Leonard Wood area shows a marked increase in traffic flow on all roads within a radius of 50 miles of the camp, C. W. Brown chief engineer, revealed today.

A comparison of the traffic before and during construction of the cantonment for the more important roads for a 24-hour average day follows:

	1939	1941
Rt 66 just west of Rolla	1810	8300
Rt 66 at Newburg Spur	1670	6863
Rt 66 just west of Route 28	1680	9705
Rt 66 just east of Route 17	1745	11129
Rt 66 just west of Rt 17	1833	11148
Rt 66 just west of Waynesville	1470	5914
Rt 66 just east of Rt 133	1230	3870
Rt 63 just north of Rolla	495	1070
Rt 28 just north of Rt 66	131	1648
Rt 17 just south of Rt 133	313	2386
Rt 17 just south of Rt 66	119	16375
Rt 17 just south of Bloodland	99	1750

During the period these counts were made, from February 12 to 15, approximately 14,000 men were being employed in construction. Since then it has been reported that this number has been increased until now there are approximately 30,000 men now employed. Since the amount of traffic will fluctuate directly with the number of men employed, it is reasonable to assume that traffic in this area has reached a new all-time peak and that Route 66 in this area has now reached and passed the volume of its traffic capacity.

difficult to cross the highway (66) during the evening hours.

No hint of a let-up is expected for at least another month, and some observers feel that it will only be a slight respite then. They anticipate a transformation from the trailer stage into a more permanent and steady growth of the various locales around the Fort.

Employment at the camp may be slightly lower now than at the peak some few weeks past but it is estimated that there are now some 30,000 on the payroll.

Dear Readers...

Last Thursday afternoon, MY BOSS [refers to V. V. Long, Ruth Long's husband] and I motored to Hooker on some business and it took us from 3

o'clock to 3:30 to motor to the Wye, a distance of 3 miles, the traffic being TERRIFIC. As we motored along I was THRILLED AT THE SPECTACLE of men at work on the army training camp itself and the Frisco spur (railroad) being built from Newburg to the Camp. The bridge across the Big Piney at the Joe Ross place (above the U. S. 66 bridge) [referring to the railroad bridge] has been finished except the laying of the rails. Good roads wind in and out the valley, great tractors, large trucks, men working and trestles have been set over which the road bed will be laid in the L. C. Rigsby field. At the service station operated by Mr. and Mrs. Squire Wells at Hooker they informed us that one railroad station will be built on her home place, the Krafczik place on which her brother Sam lives, that is on what is commonly known as the "Dutch Flats." Rails had been laid on the road bed to this place last Thursday but I don't know how far they will be today (Wednesday).

At Ft. Leonard Wood work is progressing to a point where it is expected to be completed and ready for Uncle Sam's boys by May 20th and 10,000 of them are expected there by April 10th.

A large number of youths from the CCC Camp at Duke will probably be used to clear timber under the direction of the forest service, supervised by army officials.

At the fort the streets are named

for states, one way, and numbered the other.

A post office is expected to be established at the Fort April 1st according to Mr. King, who will be Superintendent in charge there and who visited this post office Monday in company with others from St. Louis. The mail will be worked out of St. Louis. [See photo on page 29.]

We thought the PEAK OF EMPLOYMENT had been reached at least three weeks ago but crowds continue to grow in Waynesville and at the post office. Monday was a BIG DAY (but not the biggest) with 197 money orders written, stamp sales \$105 and 114 registered letters dispatched.

Plans are being made for Waynesville's EXPANSION and is of VITAL IMPORTANCE for every citizen to go to the polls April 22 and make

it UNANIMOUS without a single DISSENTING vote! [Vote was for the \$23,000 waterworks bonds.]

April 3

Dear Readers...

Well, Fort Leonard Wood made history LAST WEEK with the BIGGEST payroll last Saturday in the history of the nation amounting to \$1,380,000. The Saturday previous being \$1,250,000.

From now on the payroll is supposed to TAPER OFF.

Tavern Township has an increase of about 1,000 population, which is a conservative estimate.

About 50 car loads of commodities are unloaded each week on the Frisco at Crocker for Ft. Leonard Wood which is the nearest shipping point to the Fort.

It is REMARKABLE that with all

this traffic congestion that there has not been a MAJOR ACCIDENT, in fact not an accident of any sort that I know of here in Waynesville and in town where you cross 66 it's a major problem on HOW TO GET ACROSS.

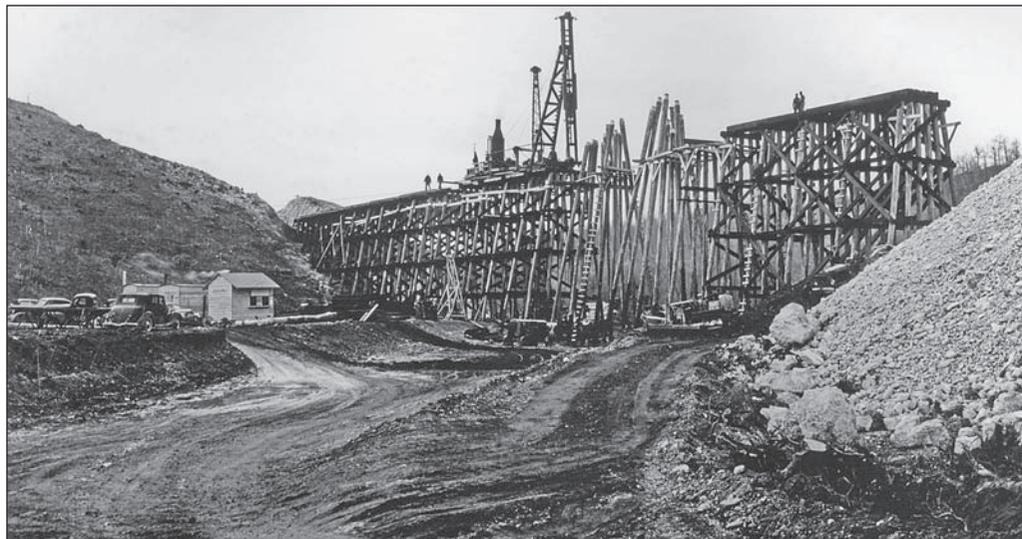
No major crimes have come to my knowledge and it seems that sheriff Everett Pummill with his deputies C. M. Brisch and Dick Gray and Pros. Atty. Edward Cusick have the situation well in hand and are working night and day with the State Highway Patrol to keep down lawlessness, and City Marshal J. H. Hensley keeps "drunks" ON THE MOVE, and OUT OF TOWN, for if they are seen on the streets "swerving about" they are IMMEDIATELY taken into custody.

Men are being laid off at the Fort, tapering off gradually, but in watching the traffic I can't realize it.

The large water tower at the Fort, which is painted a bright and dazzling orange holds 500,000 gallons of water.

Two large theaters and several smaller ones are being built on the military reservation, all of frame construction.

Our officers are to be commended for the work they have done. They informed me that they have put several gambling "joints" out of commission and the past few days confiscated 8 slot machines and both carnivals were convicted of gambling.



Bunkhouse Bridge wooden railroad trestle under construction. It is 351 feet long and 50 feet high. This impressive structure is still standing and spans Temporal Road southeast of Devil's Elbow. Fort Leonard Wood Museum.

PIANO LESSONS

LISA SCHWANDT
Piano Instructor
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The City of Waynesville

Welcomes you to Old Settlers Day
Enjoy Historic Waynesville

- Trail of Tears Encampment listed on the National Historic Trail
- Civil War Fort
- The Old Stagecoach Stop
- Pulaski County Museum
- Route 66 Scenic Byway
- Roubidoux Spring and Trophy Trout Area
- "W. H. Croaker," the Waynesville Hill frog
- Blue Star Memorial Site

And More

Welcome to
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Celebrating our heritage!

State Representative STEVE LYNCH

Serving YOU at your Missouri State Capitol!



Wherever there is a boom town, vice is sure to be around, too. This carnival on the west end of Waynesville and another one on the east end proved to be fronts for gambling. Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

April 10

Wayne Theatre Formal Opening

Formal opening of the Wayne Theatre will be held Sunday, April 13th. Located on the west side of the square, the Wayne has already become the dominating attraction in Waynesville. During the last week, a gay system of neon lighting decorations has been added to the front. At night, the side of the square is a blaze of beauty.

Continuous showings will be the rule on Saturdays and Sundays, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Admission prices on those days will be 10c for children all day, with adults at 20c until six o'clock p.m. and 30c for the evening shows. *[Waynesville's first theater was in the middle of the block on the west side of the square. It closed in 1949 and became the Western Auto store in 1953 which burned and the space is now Roubidoux Plaza. Waynesville's second movie house, the Fort Wood Theatre, opened on April 17, 1941. It was on the banks of the Roubidoux where Waynesville Gun and Pawn is located.]*

DR. C. A. TALBOT BUILDING BUSINESS HOUSE HERE

Dr. C. A. Talbot of this place commenced another modern new business building on the west side of

the square last week with the George Sigars Construction Co. of Waco doing the work.

The basement is now being excavated, to be under the entire building 30x90 feet, the walls to be of brick and tile with ornamental glass front in black and white.

The building, which will be two stories, with office rooms above, will be adjacent to the J. E. Dodds Gen. Mdse. store, Mr. Dodds also having the rear of his building elevated for a larger stock. An enclosed stairway will lead to the Mason hall. *[The Talbot Building is still standing as Seda's Gift Shoppe. These last two items are just a couple of the many new businesses and buildings established during the boom. The transformation of the town will be covered in a future issue.]*

April 17

WPA PLANS EARLY START ON ACCESS ROAD

Jefferson City, Mo., April 17.—WPA workmen soon will be paving the way for Uncle Sam's fast-mechanizing army into and out of the new military post under construction near Waynesville as one of the country's largest soldier training centers—if not the largest.

Construction of a dual-slab ac-



The completed 500,000 gallon water tower. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

cess road from Highway 66 to Fort Leonard Wood is scheduled to begin about April 21st as a WPA national defense project, Colonel B. M. Casteel, state administrator, said today. This will be a re-location of Highway No. 17, now a graveled road, shortening and straightening it for a distance of four miles. *[This is Missouri Avenue.]*

The WPA already is pushing to completion a work camp, just outside the reservation, for 250 men who will be employed on the project.

Working on the camp are about 100 men, most of whom served the government before as soldiers in World War No. 1. Their number will be augmented, Colonel Casteel said, as accommodations at the camp are increased.

The access road will be a four-mile super highway—two 24-foot concrete slabs separated by a parkway. The work will be done in two sections of two miles each, the first starting at the north line of the reservation.

Plans are to have the first section completed by July 1st. A 48-hour week instead of the WPA's usual 30-hour week will be possible because

the Secretary of War has certified the project as important to national defense, Casteel said.

The second section will be started as soon as the state highway department, sponsor of the job, provides the right of way.

April 24

Dear Readers...

The first train load of soldiers for Fort Wood went over the Frisco spur Saturday, April 19th as per schedule but on account of washouts were unable to complete the journey by rail. *[Big flood on all rivers]* Repairs have been made and work trains run Monday and Tuesday with one local train... *[The completion of the 19.84 mile railroad spur from Newburg to the fort in four months was quite an accomplishment in itself. For more of the story, see the 1992 Old Settlers Gazette article "Building the Railroad to Fort Leonard Wood" online at www.oldstagecoachstop.org.]*

WAYNESVILLE WATERWORKS BONDS CARRY 144 TO 3 VOTES

Waynesville voters decided Tuesday by a count of 144 to 3 to issue bonds in the amount of \$23,000 for

the construction of a waterworks system for the city. The system to be built by WPA already has presidential approval and should be underway in the very near future.

The projected system will cost about \$46,000 and the city has voted bonds now for \$2500 more than their share of the expected cost.

May 8

ARMY CAMP TO BE "FINISHED" MAY 15th

The Fort Leonard Wood army camp will be officially designated May 15th as complete according to the constructing quartermaster. This means completion about ten days ahead of schedule.

Workmen engaged in the building of the camp, however, are somewhat dubious about the completion and state that it will be some time before the camp is actually finished.

May 22

Dear Readers...

You, of course, are interested in the happenings about here and particularly Fort Leonard Wood.

Hundreds of workers have finished their tasks and have gone to their respective homes but hundreds still remain and to see our streets in the evening you would wonder, if you had not been here all the time, if the boom was not still on, never-the-less there is quite a difference.

We still have a traffic problem here but have been fortunate that there have been no major accidents of any kind along U. S. 66 through Waynesville. Most of the credit for this is due to the vigilance of the State Highway Patrol.

Men in training at the fort have been few so far, from what I could see, about 500 I should say, but this week will tell a different story for

they are beginning to pass through here in ever-increasing numbers in motor transports and some on motorcycles and estimates are that there will be 10 or 15 thousand men here this week.

According to an eyewitness two train loads of troops arrived over the Frisco spur from Newburg to the fort last Monday. They are arriving from many states, including Minnesota, Texas, No. Dakota, Iowa, Arkansas, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma.

1440 buildings are ready for the new arrivals and 70 buildings are still to be built but the main building phase has passed but new buildings will probably be built as the need arises.

Officers are trying to find homes here and in the surrounding towns. They change so often that I can't possibly keep up with their names and I'm going to have to take time

off some of these days to try to distinguish one officer from another. The way things are now a colonel or a major looks like any private to me. I know that an officer is older than the private.

While many new buildings are in the process of construction here, many property owners are waiting to build new homes and business houses because of the unsettled condition of the survey for U. S. 66 as in one survey in West Waynesville the highway will take the row of business houses and a few homes south of present U. S. 66 leaving only 15 feet of the normal lots.

It is rumored that a town for colored people will be built near Fort Wood as there will be several thousand colored troops stationed there.

June 5

25,000 Soldiers Now at Fort Wood

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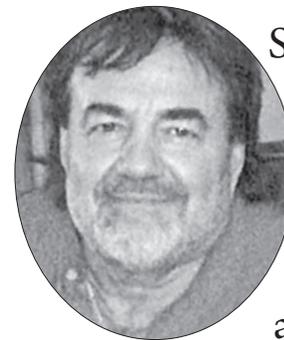
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Your vote and support is greatly appreciated.

According to latest reported figures there are now stationed at Fort Leonard Wood about 25,000 soldiers. These consist of several branches of service, Engineers, Artillery, Signal Corps, Quartermaster, etc.

There will be about 44,000 when the camp reaches full strength.

Workers Needed at Ft. Leonard Wood

Harry E. Clark, manager of the Waynesville office of the Missouri State Employment Service, has furnished the following bulletin which should be of interest to Pulaski County citizens.

The United States Civil Service commission has an urgent need for men and women who are qualified as laundry workers to fill 400 vacancies in the Post Laundry at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

All persons who have had three months experience as laundry operative, that is, washing, extracting, ironing, etc., or six months experience as a laundry assistant, that is, marker, sorter, checker, etc., in a modernly equipped steam laundry, and who are in good health and

between 18 and 50 years of age, are urged to go at once or write to the Local Civil Service Secretary at the nearest first-or second-class post office for application blanks and further information.

All other persons who reside near Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and who would like to work in the Post Laundry, but who lack only the required experience, are urged to arrange for a personal interview with Major Tharalson, the Civilian Personnel officer, with a view to receiving a temporary appointment in the Post Laundry in order to be trained for the position of laundry operative or assistant.

Those persons who are selected for training will have an opportunity to file an application for permanent employment when their training period is completed. Since the salary for those positions range from \$840 to \$1200 a year, this is a golden opportunity for untrained persons to secure permanent employment with the Government.

Dear Readers...

Well, the Army has practically "taken over" Ft. Wood as about 18,000 soldiers have moved in

and most of the construction has stopped with only a few working now as compared to over 5,000 workers last week.

Reports have it that \$15,000,000 more was spent on Ft. Wood than any other fort in the United States. One reason is that it is ideally located for both summer and winter maneuvering, also the plentiful water supply and the wooded, hilly land suitable for all sorts of training.

Chapels are yet to be built, also steel buildings housing munitions. About 75 men are wanted as common laborers to work on the cleaning up of the grounds. They will be paid at the rate of 55c per hour. About 2600 men arrived at Ft. Wood the first of the week from Ft. Knox, Ky., being transferred here earlier because of the water shortage there.

July 31

Dear Readers...

[V. V. Long wrote this column as Ruth was sick. He wrote a column in the paper "As The Editor Sees It" until 1933. At this point, the Longs have owned the paper for 27 years.]

There have been by far more changes in Waynesville and Pulas-

ki County during the past seven months than had been during the past twenty-seven years. Pulaski County and more especially Waynesville the County Seat is very different and will never be the same again. Waynesville's population has jumped from five hundred to an estimated population of two thousand and five hundred, and Federal statisticians estimate that within the next few years the population will soar to fifteen thousand.

Every day I hear some of the "Old Timers" say they wish it was back like it used to be. You remember when our merchants sat out in front of their stores and played checkers or were seen playing marbles and pitching horseshoes during business hours. Every man, woman and child was called by their first name, or "nick-name" by their neighbors and friends when they walked down the streets.

I remember when a mere boy, my father who was in the grocery and butcher business here would leave all four quarters of a beef hanging out in front of the store all night in the fall and winter months to cool off and set that he might be able to



Fort Wood boasted one of the largest, if not the largest, laundry under one roof west of the Mississippi. The building had more than an acre of floor space and 338,000 board feet of lumber used in its construction. That it would take 400 workers to launder bed linens, towels, uniforms, etc. for 25,000 soldiers is no surprise. It was only recently (2016) that the large laundry building was razed. Courtesy of the Mann Collection, Missouri University of Science and Technology Archive.

cut it the next day. Those days have gone forever.

The gates of doom have always stood open to receive the souls of men and women from Waynesville but never so wide as now, with the liquor stores, beer parlors and other amusement centers outnumbering the churches of our town and community more than three to one.

October 16

Dear Readers...

Among the many things built at Fort Leonard Wood near Waynesville, so I am informed, are 1,000 buildings, which includes barracks, mess halls, supply depots, hospital, laundry, garages, repair shops, theaters, repair shops, recreation halls, and 12 chapels are being built now each to cost \$19,000 including an electric organ and to seat 260 men for the Catholic, protestant and Jewish faiths who have their own chaplains. Religious services have been held in recreation halls and some in the open air, the weather permitting.

Fort Leonard Wood is today a \$40,000,000 city, spread over 86,000 acres with 33,000 soldiers in the process of training. Three types of training are conducted, Infantry, Engineer and Artillery.

In charge of the fort is Col. R. L. Cochran, three times governor of Nebraska and first world war officer.

Major General Clarence S. Ridley is in charge of the Infantry.

December 11

JAPAN STRIKES PHILIPPINES WAR IS ON

Striking without warning Sunday [December 7] the Japanese Empire opened war in the Pacific with an attack on Hawaii and the Philippines, bombing our naval and air bases.

Today the tide is turning, however with word from our forces that the "situation is well in hand."

We are in the war and it will not soon be over. Every individual will have a part to play in winning. With Japan's stab at our back she unified

our nation as one man, and as it could not have been otherwise.

NBC reported this morning that Germany has declared a state of war to exist between the United States and Germany. Italy, as usual, followed suit. The "axis" nations are desperate. They will stop at nothing. There is but one way to fight the rattlesnakes and that we will do.

Dear Readers...

At Fort Leonard Wood the housing project on the military reservation is nearing completion, beautifully situated on a slope, that some



The hospital area was built on the northern boundary of the fort. It contained 90 single-story buildings. Of these, 48 were wards with a combined capacity of 1460 beds. Two major and two minor operating rooms, along with a 15 unit dental clinic were in the complex. There were quarters to house 48 permanent doctors and 192 nurses. Approximately 600 enlisted medics were slated for duty. The buildings were connected by covered walks with a combined length of 2 1/2 miles. All the buildings were steam-heated from one huge heating plant. Courtesy of the Mann Collection, Missouri University of Science and Technology Archive.

would call a hill and ditches are being dug by a ditch digger for the sewer system.

The USO recreation center for negro soldiers is progressing nicely and a deep well is being drilled. The center is located on No. 17 near the military reservation. The building will be of concrete blocks.

Crowds here were the largest Saturday that have been known and said to have been the most orderly, which we are glad to report.

December 18

Work on Disposal Plant and Reservoir

Work has begun on the disposal plant for the city sewer system and also on the reservoir for the water system. The disposal plant is located on the L. M. Bailey property north of town and the water reservoir on the hill in Sell's Addition to Waynesville. The water and sewer lines are not yet under way. [Waynesville will have water and sewer systems for the first time.]

Dear Readers...

Warnings have been issued from Fort Leonard Wood near here that all persons without written permissions are to avoid the area west of the reservation near State Highway No. 17 from 7:30 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. Dec. 15th through Dec. 20th as there will be constant firing of artillery and small arms from the 6th division range.



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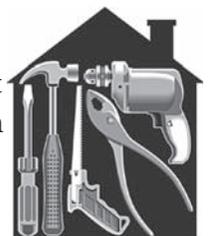
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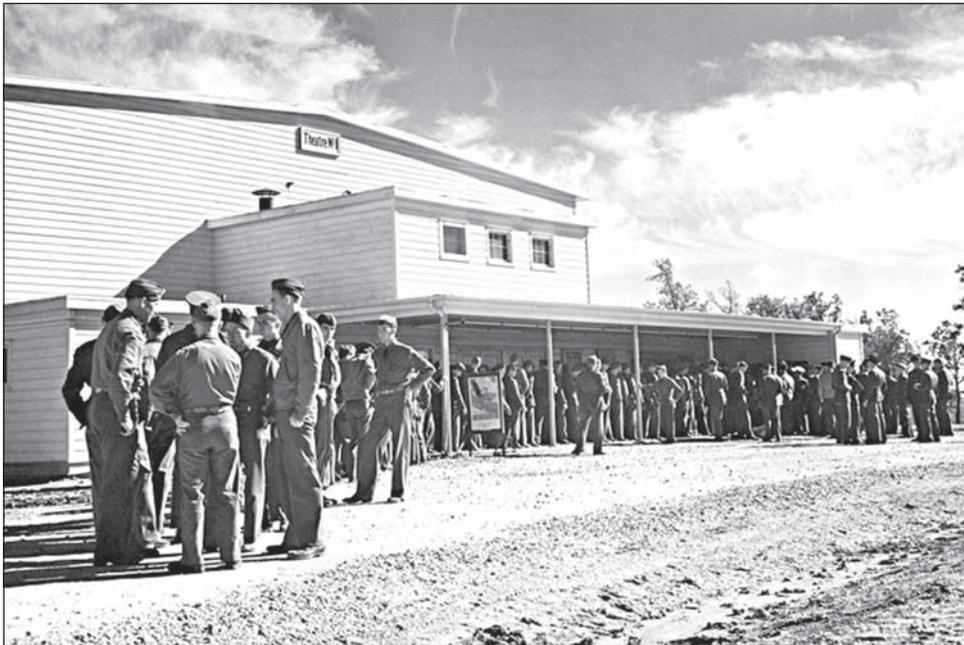




Interior of one of the 205 mess halls. The fort's mess halls held from 110 to 250 men each, with one cook for each fifty men. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



Five fire stations protected the camp. Eight new fire engines were in service. Placed among the buildings were 381 fire plugs. The stations were manned by 60 men, mostly civilians. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



Theater No. 1 of the five movie theaters constructed on the post. Each theater seated 1038 persons. Two of the theaters were equipped with a stage and dressing rooms. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



The dedication of the first chapel was October 2, 1941. Eleven others were scheduled for construction. Each chapel was to cost \$13,000, which included an organ for \$1,200. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



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The new post office and first day cover (inset). Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

Construction Facts as of April 20, 1941

(first four months)

Buildings(permanent).....	1537
Buildings(temporary).....	250
Lumber.....	73,000,000 board feet
Concrete.....	50,000 cubic yards
Roads & streets.....	56 miles
Excavation.....	3,000,000 cubic yards
Railroad (including side tracks).....	27miles
Cost of railroad.....	\$3,000,000
Excavation for railroad.....	1,500,000 cubic yards
Water lines.....	60 miles
Sewer lines.....	52 miles
Electric transmission lines.....	34 miles
Peak personnel.....	32,857
Highest number of employees hired in single day.....	1,300
Payroll peak/largest single payroll in United States (March 22).....	\$1,342,418.79

FORT LEONARD WOOD

By Rose Helm

We loved all around our little home.
 Over the hills we would roam.
 But when Uncle Sam sent word to say
 Come on now and help the U. S. A.
 And all that works there with money will flood,
 For here we shall build
 Fort Leonard Wood.

But we had to give our home to the boys,
 Who is the world's pride and joy.
 And every mother's son that goes there to stay
 And train for our U. S. A.
 I hope they like the Ozarks fine,
 Because it's always been a home of mine.
 Best of luck to them we are glad to see
 Them come here to train for you and me.
 As friends told friends goody,
 Some was glad some could cry.
 But for me I would stay if I could,
 But I can't for here is
 Fort Leonard Wood.

But twenty one miles isn't so far.
 But we can't go back where they are.
 The trees and all that we adore,
 And places we love so much to explore.
 But don't think I wouldn't go if I could
 But I can't for there is
 Fort Leonard Wood.

I love the soldier boys who go there to train,
 Although I don't know them,
 Not even their name.
 But for our U. S. A. they will do some good.
 I'm glad I gave my home for
 Fort Leonard Wood.

Pulaski County Democrat, December 18, 1941

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