

# 1942

## FORT LEONARD WOOD

### *In the Beginning*

*[The first ten weeks of the 1942 Pulaski County Democrat newspaper did not survive a fire to be microfilmed. We begin with a news item about the fire.]*

December 25, 1941

*Rolla Herald*

### WAYNESVILLE FIRE PERILS BUSINESS AREA

Waynesville, December 21.—

Three business establishments were damaged extensively tonight by fire which threatened the entire business district for a time before assistance arrived from nearby Fort Leonard Wood.

The fire, which broke out in the office of the Pulaski County Democrat at 6:45 p.m., was brought under control about 8:15 p. m. by army fire fighters and local volunteers.

Since the city has no regular water system, lines of hose brought from the fort were laid to Roubidoux Creek several hundred yards from the scene of the fire.

Cause of the fire and the extent of the damage to the newspaper office, the Wide Awake Studio and the Wheeler furniture store were not determined immediately. Indications were the loss would approach \$10,000. *[The Pulaski County Democrat office at that time was located on the south side of the square in the left (east) portion of what is now Hoppers Pub. The lot was 20 feet wide and 148 feet deep. The Democrat office building, therefore, was 20 feet wide and probably no more than 50 feet long. This was at least the second fire experienced by the newspaper. The paper was printed by the Cabool Enterprise until the*

*Democrat's new office building was completed in April of 1942.]*

March 12

*Pulaski County Democrat*

### USO Open House

On Sunday, March 15th, more than 500 U. S. O. Clubs through the United States will hold Open House. The Waynesville U. S. O. club has a full program planned for this day. The Waynesville U. S. O. Council is anxious that as many Waynesville citizens visit the Club as possible to see the facilities provided for the entertainment of the Fort Leonard Wood men.

While a tour of the building is made, a full program for the day is planned in the auditorium. From 2:00 to 2:30 the high school band, under the direction of Miss Fannie Moore will give a concert. From 3:00 to 4:30 the Kansas City Resident theatre will present the play, "The Male Animal." Donuts, cookies and coffee will be served from 4:30 to 6:00 p. m. Moving pictures will be shown from 6:00 to 7:00. From 7:00 to 7:30 the "Ozark Hour," accompanied by Mrs. Mabel Henson on the violin will give a half-hour concert, followed by community singing from 7:30 to 8:00.

During the past week over 4,000 soldiers used the club facilities and the Waynesville club extends a hearty welcome to every Waynesville citizen to participate in this annual Open House and get a better understanding of what the town can offer the soldiers through the U. S. O. Club. *[The new Waynesville USO Club, at the corner of School Street and Highway 17 opened around March 1, during the period of the missing Democrat issues. Thus, we do not have a complete news account of the ceremonies.]*

USO CENTER FOR COLORED SOLDIERS TO OPEN SUNDAY  
The new USO Center for colored soldiers on Route 17 north of the post will be formally dedicated Sunday afternoon, with USO and post officials taking part in the ceremonies.

Following the dedicatory ceremonies, there will be informal dancing and a program of entertainment.

The building, a two-story-and-basement frame structure, was built at a cost of \$90,000. It is the only "Type A" USO Center for colored soldiers in this part of the country. "Type A" buildings are larger than any of the other three types being constructed by the USO, and provide living quarters for directors of the Center. The Fort Wood building has quarters for 12 to 15 persons.

The new Center will have spacious game rooms, a snack bar and offices for directors. C. S. Chavis, executive director, is in charge; Mrs. Sarah Long is assistant director; Miss Lois Redden and Joseph Neal, program directors; Miss Cleo Berry, business secretary; Mrs. Eunice Grundy, snack bar operator; and James Chambers and Howard Duncan, maintenance men. Informal gatherings have been held in the Center for two weeks, though not officially open for general use. *[See USO pictures on the next page. For more on the establishment of local USOs, see 2005 Old Settlers Gazette.]*

### WAYNESVILLE GETS HEALTH CENTER

A \$30,360 contract was awarded to Ward J. Krudwig of Lebanon to be located on the northwest corner of the courtyard square across from the post office.

April 2

Work has started on digging

### *Dear Readers.....*

In this news recap of the beginning years 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 columns report 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 excerpts of her comments, both fact and opinion, alongside the news articles, all of which are from the *Democrat*.

ditches for sewer lines. *[The Public Works Administration granted \$556,392 to Waynesville for water, sewers, schools, and a health center in September of 1941. Work on the disposal plant commenced in December.]*

April 9, 1942

Dear Readers...

For the first time since it was started I looked over the disposal plant being built here Sunday but to attempt to describe it would be impossible but I can say that it is an enormous affair. The main tank is a huge round concrete silo-like struc-



**Above left**—Exterior and interior views of the “mammoth” USO Club that was completed in Waynesville in early 1942. It was located across School Street from the high school, which later became the junior high then middle school. The building was originally budgeted at over \$78,000 but surely ended up costing considerably more. The club was 161x89 feet and contained a large social hall and stage, lounge room with fireplace, club rooms, ladies’ powder room, men’s room, shower and locker rooms, refreshment bar, kitchen, telephone and drinking alcoves, storage and other utilities rooms, and a garage. Until the construction of the club was completed, the USO had temporary quarters in the Odd Fellows Hall on the second floor of the Talbot Building and then in the basement of the Baptist Church. After the war, the building was sold to William Mitchell for his Mitchell Optical Co. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

**Above right**— Dedication of the new USO Club for colored soldiers on Route 17, just outside the Ft. Wood main gate. (l-r) C. Sterling Chavis, director of the club; LTC F. H. L. Ryder, post commander; Sarah Hill Long, associate director of the club; LTC Andy Lystad, special services officer. Courtesy of US Army Engineer History Office, Fort Leonard Wood.



ture with tile filters with two large openings, intake and outlet is my name for them, and another large concrete structure, smaller than the first is being built and another smaller than the second, and several small conical brick and concrete tanks are built at intervals along the sewer pipe, and my idea is that they are for escaping sewer gas (odor).

At a recent meeting of the City Council a zoning ordinance was voted prohibiting the building of any except fireproof buildings around the court house square along main street and extending to the Roubidoux bridge. This ordinance has been needed for some time.

A woman from Sullivan came to see me Tuesday afternoon regarding the renting of a house here, her efforts proving fruitless, and in the conversation she remarked that she had read the remarks about Waynesville in the Sunday papers and as her first stop was at Rolla a lady told her that she would not want to live in Waynesville that it was too tough to which she re-

plied that she had always found a few good people wherever she had been. The evidence of this town’s toughness can be found in the picture of Main street with the liquor signs blazoned to the world. If there was anything good in the report they gave of us I failed to see it. I have been told that there are 24 saloons in the immediate vicinity of Waynesville but I have not been able to count that many but I am sure that one is too many. As a town we will have to be more careful of our reputation and whatever conditions we have here the citizens are to blame for we still have laws and there are things we don’t have to tolerate.

On the other hand I hear good reports on Neosho [*nearby town of the new Camp Crowder*], that no liquor is sold inside the city limits and that which is sold on the outside is supervised. They tell me that the parking laws are enforced in Neosho and that women are safe on the streets at night. We hope that within a few months a different story can be written about our

town and that better pictures can be made.

April 23

Dear Readers...

The rattle and hum of the ditch digger is heard from one end of town to the other and ditches are being dug now and sewer pipes being laid and the effect on our streets is something to see not write about but we are also grateful for all these benefits that all grumbling has been relegated to the attic for the time being.

Following the finishing of the water and sewer systems we are expecting to see 20 blocks of our streets paved, at least that is the plan formulated several months ago.

One of the many things this town needs is to stop building shacks and put up places we can be proud of. There has been more old unsightly buildings built here and in this community since Fort Wood was built than all the years since Waynesville was born, which was many years before the Civil War. It don't take any more to build attractive little cabins or cottages and the effect is more pleasing. Most of the shacks are regular fire traps.

April 30

D. E. Anderson, photographer, has rented room No. 3 in the new

Democrat building here [It was just finished. Today it is the law office of Deborah Hooper and is next to Business Graphics]. The building is known as the Long-Wilson building joining the post office building. The building is expected to be ready for occupancy within three weeks and it is expected that the Democrat office equipment from Crocker can be moved then. A jewelry store will occupy the office on the main floor of the Democrat building. There are 12 offices on the second floor of the building. There are 5 restrooms in the building.

Work on the sewer and disposal plant at Dixon is practically completed.

The lower floor of the Old Bank Building which is occupied by the Social Security has been redecorated with new wallpaper, paint and floor coverings.

May 7

### Work Progressing on School buildings

Construction is progressing rapidly on the three new school buildings here, two grade school buildings, one in East Waynesville and the other in West Waynesville to be of asbestos siding and the Arts and Science building on the high school grounds here is to be of brick and the dimensions are 50 x 60 feet.

The school for Negro children



"Closing out sale entire stock Pulaski Drug Co. Wye Junction intersection highways 17 and 66 - 3 miles east of Waynesville. Highway changes in this vicinity make it necessary to discontinue our business."—July 18, *Pulaski County Democrat*. This native stone building was located where the Kum & Go convenience store is now. It stood into the 1950s. Photo courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.



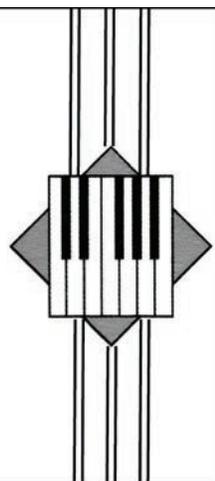
"Wye Park Store 3 miles east of Waynesville Junction of Highways 66 and 17 closing out sale. The new highway is coming right through the middle of our place and we are forced to vacate by July 1<sup>st</sup> - everything must go."—July 18, *Pulaski County Democrat*. The store is the tall building left center. Courtesy of Bob and Geneva Goodrich, George Lane Collection.

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- Blue Star Memorial Site

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will be east of town.

Dear Readers...

For the first time I visited the new

DeWitt hospital Sunday afternoon, located in one of the most scenic spots you could find, overlooking the Big Spring bluff, the hospital is



The DeWitt Hospital, built by Dr. Robert O. DeWitt, D. O., was on Fort Hill above downtown Waynesville. The privately financed hospital was completed in 1942 before the grant and tax supported Waynesville General Hospital was constructed in 1945. The building was recently razed. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

of red brick, beautifully and completely furnished with everything planned for efficiency. The capacity is 12 beds and 6 bassinets and the hospital is full most of the time.

Women, I read the other day where we wear on an average of 12 pairs of hose a year, but we are likely to be cut to an average of 6 pairs (per year). We can make it very well throughout the summer months and it might be a good idea to save the 6 pairs for cold weather. *[The restrictions of wartime rationing were tough.]*

May 21

Dear Readers...

The new office building for the Health Clinic here is rapidly going forward and is of red brick and concrete and the work is at the stage when the finished building

can be visualized.

The town has made application for fire equipment and it is to be hoped we will be granted this request for it is practically a Necessity.

June 25

The City Hall moved into room 204 in the Long-Wilson building Wednesday and all business will be transacted there. Mayor R. A. Bell and City Clerk Chas. M. Dodd will also have an office there.

Dear Readers...

Another thing—our town—Waynesville—since the advent of Ft. Leonard Wood has acquired a “bad reputation” abroad which is not deserved, most of which is due to reporters for metropolitan papers coming in here, staying a few hours, interviewing some of

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the citizens and stressing the weak points and never mentioning the good schools, churches, the mammoth USO Center supervised by competent and responsible men and women.

A prominent St. Louis citizen, who owns two good farms in the Hanna community was in this office recently and we were talking about the situation as it exists here and practically over the entire section and he remarked that Waynesville had been known far and wide as a beautiful little town, the setting being unusually attractive, nestled in the winding valley of the spring-fed Roubidoux, peaceful and clean and now when he enters the town the first thing he sees is the many liquor signs prominently displayed along Main St. especially.

Taking the increase in population here and many other things I am sure that the town will compare favorably with most cities.

On the other hand we are confronted with problems that will have to be solved and I think we are making some progress.

The new grade school building east of town that was being built has been stopped due to the fact that most of the new population do not have children of school age, however, the 15 room grade school building in West Waynesville is going up rapidly. The other building will probably be necessary in a few years but not now.

July 2

#### NO BIDS RECEIVED

#### ON DEVILS ELBOW BRIDGE

According to the State Highway department, no bids have been received on the bridge at Devils Elbow near Hooker across the Big Piney river. The bridge is the connecting link across the river for



**Left**—Barclay's, Inc. was a large frame structure located one-half mile west of the Wye, on the south side of the four-lane where the present radio station and church are located. It was built in 1941 with a restaurant seating 350, whose Special for the week of December 2, 1942, was select T-bone, garden fresh salad, and french fries for \$1.00. The club also provided a 2,000 square foot dance floor in the Pine Room, which was Barclay's Dime-a-Dance club. There were 25 hostesses employed to dance with patrons. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

**Right**— One of the dancers ("Spike" Appelmann), who devised her own hula costume for the Saturday evening dance party, "goes to town" with a jitterbug and soldier at ten cents a dance.—World Wide Photos, November 13, 1941.



the 2.126 miles of pavement from Route 28 east to the Hooker Hill cut. The road is a 22 foot two-lane road and the cut through the hill east of Sunset Rest Camp and service station, owned by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Burgard, is the deepest in the state. The pavement job was bid on by O'Dell and Rinney of Hannibal, Mo at a cost of \$393,930.63.

The bridge will probably be built on a cost-plus basis.

#### BARCLAY'S OFFERS PLEASANT RECREATION, DELICIOUS DINER, AND DANCING NIGHTLY

This popular pleasure center is located just 2 1/2 miles east of Waynesville on Highway 66. Recreation, after a busy day or week, is just as important to most of us as our regular duties and Barclay's can and does provide an evenings entertainment that satisfies the most discriminating. One of these evenings when you are feeling out

of sorts and need amusement, just hop in your car and drive to Barclay's. There you will find tantalizing music that will make you forget your troubles. It is conducted in such a manner that it appeals to the public as well as soldiers—the best of order invariably prevails and all that is good in entertainment is brought out under the management.

Barclay's interior invites you to be gay and cheerful and is attracting large crowds of cultured people, where they dance, eat and have a good time.

Many pass through life and do not seem to realize the importance of thoroughly enjoying life. The management is to be congratulated on the progressive efforts in bringing new attractions to the front, and doing a great work in the amusement of the soldiers and public with the most entertaining recreation to be had—dancing.

Barclay's Special this week select T-bone broiled to order, garden fresh salad, french fries —\$1.00

Dear Readers...

Of all the crowds that have congregated in Waynesville, Tuesday night, June 30th, was said to be the worst. Tuesday was Pay Day at the Fort and service men were in town in droves and the situation was the same Wednesday night.

I was told Wednesday that all "strange" women who arrive in Waynesville are checked, fingerprinted and investigated by Sheriff Everett Pummill and records are kept on file.

July 9

#### THE CCC PASSES OUT

The American public unquestionably favors the abolition of all governmental agencies not essential to the winning of the war. This mighty conflict in which we are

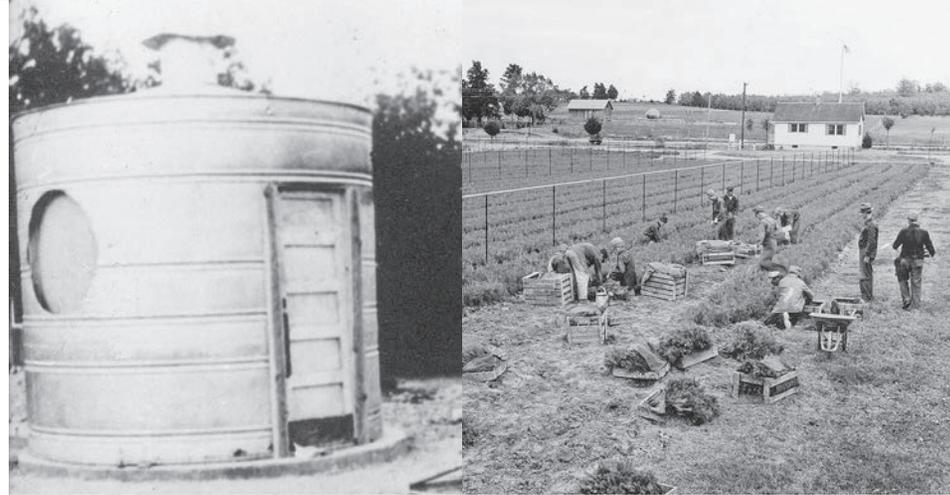
now engaged is costing billions of dollars and the end is not in sight. It, therefore, is imperative that not a single dollar be wasted on any effort which is not a war effort. In our desire to save, however, we should be certain that the governmental activity we would abandon is one that is useless and unnecessary in the present hour of trial.

Take the Civilian Conservation Corps for example. A majority of our Congress evidently believes that it is not essential in the war effort but did you ever stop to think—

That more than 90 per cent of the CCC boys are below draft age; that it doesn't take long for a CCC boy to become a good soldier, for the camp experience, discipline and organizational training he receives prepare him peculiarly for the Army.

That regular hours, proper diet and wholesome work builds the CCC boy into first class physical condition. No CCC boy ever fails to pass the Army physical examination. He is ready to fight when drafted.

That all the efforts of the CCC for months have been devoted to construction work at military reservations and to protecting and developing natural resources. They are building roads and bridges,



**Top** The CCC Camp of the 737th Company at Palace in the southern portion of Fort Leonard Wood.

**Bottom Left** The barber shop at the CCC Camp at Blooming Rose, Company 1732. Camp pictures courtesy of the Missouri State Historical Society.

**Bottom Right** CCC and WPA enrollees harvest pine seedlings at the George O. White State Forest Nursery near Licking. The nursery was started with CCC and WPA labor in 1935. Courtesy of George O. White State Forest Nursery, Missouri Department of Conservation.

constructing target ranges, fashioning bayonet dummies, stringing communication wires—all work which releases soldiers for active duty.

That the 500 CCC companies are on the job to fight forest fires in

all sections of the country; 2,000 enrollees are busy repairing equipment for the Army; 2,600 enrollees are training in cooking and baker's schools and it is from these schools that the Army has obtained 25% of its head cooks; 1,000 enrollees are

studying radio at 26 schools; thousands of others are being skilled in electricity, carpentry, welding—all useful war work.

All of these things cause one to pause before branding the CCC as useless. And there are millions, included among whom are the President and Vice President of the United States, who sincerely believe that it was playing a major role in the war effort—and they regret its passing. *[A typical CCC camp housed 200 boys. Roosevelt's "Tree Army" served the nation and poor families well from 1933-1942.]*

Dear Readers...

All but two property owners surrounding the Public Square here have signed to have the square paved and the estimated cost of the project was \$21,000 according to J. W. Dodds who is interested in the paving. *[The two paving hold-outs—and they held out until forced to pay—were Dorothy Brisch on the north side of the square and Albert Spencer and Lulu McNeese who owned the Tourist Hotel-aka Old Stagecoach Stop.]*

As soon as the water and sewage has been finished, the streets will have to be either paved or graveled and oiled. Our streets are in a bad condition and are hard on tires but we hope that something will soon

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be done about it.

Another story to tell this week regarding the school building east of town—after hauling away material and supplies, work has again started on the building as it was originally planned.

I have mentioned this before and probably will again—what we need in Waynesville, more than anything else, including playgrounds, swimming pools and many other worthy projects is—a City Cemetery—we owe it to the dead and since we will all use it sooner or later—let's get busy and secure the grounds and plan one that will be a credit.—  
RUTH LONG



This was the west side of the square in Waynesville, mentioned often by Ruth Long in her column. This picture must date between May and October of 1942. Playing at the Wayne Theatre is **Tortilla Flat**, starring Spencer Tracy, released in May of that year and the Greyhound Bus Station, not in the picture, began occupation of the Wilson-Long building in October. Except for Dodds General Store, these buildings were constructed in 1941-42. They are, left to right: Talbot Building (containing City Drug Store, built by Dr. C. A. Talbot and finished in September, 1941); Dodds General Store; Wayne Theatre (built by J. T. Goshen, finished April, 1941); post office (with angular front, built by Dr. C. A. Talbot and finished in May, 1941); Wilson-Long Building (built by Roy C. Wilson and V. V. Long, finished June, 1942.) Partly visible on the right of the Wilson-Long building is a frame tailor and cleaning shop. Visible in the next block is the sign of the Baker Hotel. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

July 16

**WILSON BUILDING LEASED TO SOUTHWESTERN GREYHOUND FOR FIVE YEARS**

Presiding Judge Roy C. Wilson of this place has leased the lower floor of his part of the new Long-Wilson building to the Southwestern Greyhound Bus Lines for 5 years and they are to take possession Aug 1st. The building is 21x75 ft. Two more rest rooms are being added and other changes are being made in the building.

The lot owned by Dr. C. A. Talbot, adjoining, 27x75 ft., has also been leased by the company for a parking lot and are now occupied

by the Labor Union office and a tailoring shop.

The Holman Bus Line local service in and out of Waynesville with ticket office at Wiggins Cafe. There are four buses daily with more on weekends.

July 23

**WAYNESVILLE TO GET SUPER HIGHWAY**

The State Highway Commission at Jefferson City gave final approval July 13 approving a former survey for the super-highway thru Waynesville after a full report from

the engineers as the most logical route and the cheapest to construct. Several surveys were made before final approval.

Through town the route goes to the rear of the main business section.

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July 30

### JOHN AND CLIFF DOOLIN INJURED IN ACCIDENT MONDAY AFTERNOON

A very unusual accident occurred here about 6:30 Monday afternoon when two brothers, John and Cliff Doolin, blacksmiths, were injured, Cliff critically, when a run-away car hit them as they were sitting in front of their shop.

Junior Christeson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Christeson, was delivering papers on Fort Hill and had the car parked on the street, when it started rolling down the hill and he managed to jump in the car but was unable to regain control.

The car also crashed into the door of the shop where the brothers were sitting, before being stopped.

They were taken to the DeWitt Hospital here where John was found to be suffering from bruises and a bad cut over the eye but Cliff was found to be seriously injured, suffering a fracture in both bones of the left leg above the ankle and rib fractures on the left side.

He was removed from the hospital to his home in a serious condition.

A few years ago Cliff suffered an amputation of his arm. *[The Doolin's blacksmith shop was located at the foot of South Lynn Street where the city parking lot is now.]*

Dear Readers...

Beginning in early evening and continuing until long after midnight our streets are thronged with humanity en masse, in cars, bus load after bus load, in and out, thronging the sidewalks and places of business, and hundreds at the USO center. Mrs. J. C. Rollins here says the town is too much like a city.

What we need here among many things is a PARKING LOT for the streets are so congested, and have been for months, that it is difficult to find a parking place at all. (The problem will probably be partially solved within a few months (or years.)

August 6

### CONTRACTS LET ON BRIDGE AND PAVING AT HOOKER

The Missouri State Highway Commission received bids July 31st on approximately fourteen miles of highway, including bridges.

Pulaski County projects are as follows:

Route 66—4.699 miles of grade 22 ft. PCC Pavement, and a bridge over Hooker Thread branch northeast of Fort Leonard Wood, through the Hooker Hill Cut. Low bid, \$962,342.31, by O'dell & Rinney Construction Co., Hannibal, Mo; low bid of \$273,147.40 for bridge over Big Piney River, by

Hannibal Contracting Company,  
Hannibal, Mo.

### MANY BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT FT. WOOD

Three hundred buildings of all types are under construction at Ft. Leonard Wood. 100 new men are added to the payroll each week and about 1,000 common laborers are working outside of Ft. Leonard Wood proper from the labor union office here according to officials.

Atty R. A. Bell, C. C. Woody and J. L. Phillips have contracted to clear 2400 acres of timber for an artillery range near what was formerly the site of Bloodland.

### GREYHOUND BUS DEPOT BUSIEST SPOT IN WAYNESVILLE

The Greyhound Bus Depot in Waynesville moved into new quarters in the Wilson-Long building and as usual is the busiest place in town, especially over weekends. The schedule or number is as follows: Greyhound 6 buses east and 6 west every day; M. K. & O., 2 east and 2 west each day. Crown Coach lines in and out every day to Kansas City; M. K. & O., three each day coming in and going out of Des Moines, Iowa.

The Blue Coach lines have 14 scheduled in and out each day. Bill Bailey is the head ticket agent and

is assisted by Dale Estep, Harvey Prater and Paul Arder.

Mr. Godfrey, Auditor for the Greyhound lines is here assisting in the new set-up.

The station is open all hours, day and night.

### JEANETTE MCDONALD WAS AT FORT WOOD TUESDAY EVE

Jeanette McDonald of movie fame made a personal appearance at Fort Leonard Wood last Tuesday evening at 7 P. M.

The recital was given in the field house, which seats 5,000 and the audience overflowed outside.

The request program was tumultuously received.

Several from Waynesville attended.

Dear Readers...

Work on the super-highway U. S. 66 east of town is going forward with a rattle and bang, with powerful machinery nosing out boulders, tree roots, and all sorts of obstructions, homes and business houses along the right-of-way have been moved back to make way for progress and the whole highway perspective has been changed, scores of men are busy from morning to night and things are really humming along.

I wish I could convey to you the

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scenes on our streets over the weekend, seething, surging, milling masses of humanity, the greater number being in army uniform, many being in town to spend the week-end with relatives, including parents, wives and girl friends, many going away in buses to visit relatives over the week-end and at one time 25 bus loads left town one right after the other as quickly as they could load at the bus station. Week-ends after pay days see the largest crowds, but each evening the town is full of soldiers from the fort.

The postmaster here was informed several days ago by the Inspector for this section that there was no reason why Waynesville should not have city mail delivery. The things essential to this service include all-weather roads and walkways, street markers and houses numbered. In time this will be worked out by the postmaster through the postal department. *[If you lived in Waynesville in 1942 and wanted your mail, you had to go to the post office to get it. Although the roads were getting better, there were no walkways outside of the square, nor were the streets marked (1960) and, of course, no house numbers (1963). City home delivery of mail did not begin until 1967.]*

September 3

Dear Readers...

Monday night here was all Frolic and Fun for many of the boys in uniform. I have an infection under my arm and was unable to sleep and was "rewarded" with hearing the noise and commotion. Person working all night told me that the M. P.'s were kept busy trying to control their maudlin spirits. Monday was pay day at Fort Wood, hence the merry-making.

September 10  
**Waynesville Now Has  
Million Dollar Bank**

Saturday at close of business the Waynesville Security Bank showed in its accounting a total of more than a million dollars, thus bringing it into that select circle of "million dollar" banks, and bringing to realization of a long time ambition of veteran banker Sam T. Rollins, president of the institution.

Mr. Rollins, who organized the first bank in Waynesville in 1903 has engaged in that business since then with the exception of three years.

The Waynesville schools opened this week with an unprecedented enrollment of about 1,000 pupils. Nineteen teachers are in charge but next week the number of teachers is expected to be 26.

The new grade school building in West Waynesville known as School No. 1 will be opened to the grades next week with two teachers to the thirteen rooms if possible.

The new Arts and Science building has four commodious rooms with every facility for the classes as also the Music and Science department and has its own water and heating plant.

Twelve buses are in operation, eight from the Housing Project at Fort Leonard Wood.

September 17

Dear Readers...

Dr. B. N. Pippin, St. Louis dentist, here last Wednesday and asked him what he thought of the Old Home Town and he replied that he would hate to tell me—but he amended, saying that everything would look differently after the water and sewers were in and the streets paved.

Night Marshal A. D. (Dotson)

Sutton of this place not only carries a gun and billy club but a camera as well, and which he used to a great advantage. He had so many demands for his likeness and had to pose for so many pictures that he finally, in self-defense, bought a camera and now visitors and sightseers pose for him, in turn. A good idea?

September 24

Dear Readers...(V. V. Long pinch-hitting for Ruth Long)

Citizens generally are clamoring for the water to be turned on and the sewerage system to be accessible. It has been a long drawn out procedure which has been a detriment to the health and growth of our city and community. Big housing projects have been instituted at Rolla and Lebanon instead of this place because they had water and sewerage, and because of the nearness to this place to the Fort and the gas and tire rationing they all want houses and rooms here, we find that we are unable to supply the demand by several hundred houses and rooms while Rolla and Lebanon are very solicitous of renters and roomers.

October 8

Dear Readers....

After having undergone the "boom and rush" of the past two years, I can't help longing for the "Good Old Days" of a few years ago when we played croquet and fished at our own good pleasure.

It looks now like everything is all set for the paving of the street west on the court house square and we are all hoping for the paving of many other streets in the town, many are already being graveled which is giving great relief from the dust and mud.

The greatest need at this time, at this place, is the building of at least five hundred houses to rent to soldiers and civilians engaged at Fort Wood. Tire and gasoline rationing has made it more imperative than ever before. This old publicity stuff of "Fort Leonard Wood near Rolla" has been knocked into a "cocked hat" by tire and gasoline rationing and they all want living quarters at Waynesville near the Fort. It is pitiful the number of people inquiring from house to house each and every day for rooms and houses that cannot be supplied; they say they want to get near the Fort. The Government or private concerns should immediately erect 500 or more houses here to accommodate at least a portion of these people who need to reside near Fort Wood. It



A. Dotson Sutton, Night Marshal, was the sheriff in 1905 when the only legal hanging in Pulaski County occurred on the court-house lawn. Courtesy of Benny Doolin.

would be a great saving of tires and gasoline besides being more convenient to those concerned. V. V. Long.

October 15

#### STREET PAVING TO BEGIN HERE FIRST OF THE WEEK

Work on paving Benton Street on the Square will commence the first of the week and it is likely that the work on the balance of the Square will start soon after.

Funds have been raised by property owners on the west side of the square to pay for the paving, which is to be from curb to curb.

Dear Readers...V. V. Long pinch hitter

I don't like to hear too much griping about this tire and gasoline rationing, the sacrificing that we as private citizens are making are so insignificant compared with what many are making that any complaint whatever is distasteful; be loyal and keep "your mouth shut."

Help is mighty scarce and getting scarcer; the other day I heard a party griping about having to stand in line at the post office for service, when only the day before I was obliged to stand in line at his place of business much longer to get service.

Remember. November 9th is the date for gas ration. You must agree to inspections, speed limit and limit of five tires.

Another thing to prove to you that the "old Home Town" is not what she used to be, the "Missus" was up town last Saturday, and not feeling well, took a cab home, about three blocks, and it cost her twenty-five cents.

We are winning this war. Buy more Defense Stamps and Bonds and keep your mouth shut. V. V. Long. Pinch-hitting for Ruth Long.

October 22

#### \$5,000,000 WORK

#### TO BEGIN SOON AT FORT

Contract for the construction of a Concentration Camp for enemy aliens to be built at Fort Wood has been awarded to the McCarthy Construction Co., which firm recently completed a construction contract at O'Reilly Hospital in Springfield.

The Concentration Camp contract, together with the houses for the civilian personnel, will total better than \$2,000,000, it was learned.

The Concentration Camp contract brings to a total of 5 million dollars the contracts that have been let at the Fort recently and makes a total spent on the Fort alone an estimated \$50,000,000.

Other contracts were awarded to W. W. Johnson, Springfield builder, for three additional barracks and to the Epple Construction Co. for 12 additional ware houses.

The McCarthy Company, building the Concentration Camp, con-

structed the Medical Corp Technician's school at O'Reilly Hospital in Springfield and the Theater of Operations training school there.

The Concentration Camp is to be constructed at the south end of Fort Wood on land now owned by the Government. [See next year's Gazette for an article on the Concentration Camp, viz. Prisoner of War Camp.]

Dear Readers....V. V. Long

The Waynesville post office has climbed to second-class because of the building of Fort Leonard Wood nearby, and the same thing is true about the other business concerns being greatly increased here. The one thing that each and every one of us should do is to put forth every effort to give better service than ever before. It is too bad that all the business men of this town do not find time to get together and discuss means and way to enlarge the housing condition of Waynesville, the limited amount of houses is all that keeps our town from increas-

ing in population by the thousands. A little effort of united forces would bring the building of hundreds of houses in our town and thereby increase the population by thousands and the business by many dollars, & the building of sidewalks and numbering of houses would make it possible for us to have city delivery affording us much improved mail service. The Post Office Department is ready and anxious to give this service when the city will meet the requirement. It does not require the building of sidewalks over the entire city at once and numbering the houses; a portion of the City could be brought to meet the requirements now and the remainder at a later date. Won't someone wake up and get this service for Waynesville?

I happen to be in a position to know that there are individuals in this town and community making more money than ever before in their lives and that they are not investing one cent in Defense Bonds or Stamps. They are "Slackers" and sooner or later they are going to be caught up, and caught short. A lot of American citizens need to be reminded, and I think will be shortly, that this war is not one of sacrifice on the part of a majority while the minority make and hoard a fortune. Ask yourself this question, "If each and every citizen of this country was doing no more than I am doing to win, would we win or lose?" And if we should lose, stop and think for awhile what it would mean to you, your family and the country.

#### WATER AND SEWER CONNECTION

Anyone wishing to connect with the city water and sewage systems please contact either Roy C. Wil-



At the beginning of 1942, there were 205 mess halls. Each seated from 170 to 250 men. One cook was needed for each fifty men, plus KP help. There was also a dining room orderly and one mess sergeant in charge. Courtesy of Missouri University Science and Technology Archives, Mann Collection.

son, newly appointed City Manager, or Frank McKenzie, Supt of the city Water and Sewer Department. Also if no meter barrel has been placed on your property see us at once or the expense of adding one later will amount to around \$45 and will have to be paid by the property owner if no notice has been given. They are now being placed by the contractor at government expense. The offices of the Mayor and other City Officials are located in the Wilson-Long building over the Greyhound bus depot.

The new Long-Wilson building now houses the *Democrat* office and the Greyhound bus Depot.

October 29

NEW HEALTH CENTER TO OPEN AROUND NOVEMBER 1

The new \$30,000 Health center built on the Court lawn adjoining the other health building and the court house will receive final inspection next week and will be ready to occupy around November 1st. The large brick structure which consists of two stories containing 19 rooms, two lobbies, four rest rooms and a large auditorium was built by Ward Krudwig, Lebanon contractor.

The building when completed will be turned over to the Mo. State Health Dept. and will house the present set-up of the health office operation.

Dear Readers...

Waynesville is now a city of buses constantly disgorging humanity of all kinds and colors, good bad and indifferent, with emphasis on uniforms in the evenings.

It's a city of disrupted streets with water mains being laid in all sections of town, with red warning

lanterns at night locating danger zones.

Boys and girls riding bicycles up & down streets in congested traffic unmindful of the threat to life & limb. Parents take notice!

Youth and romance walk hand in hand along the quiet streets or along the Roubidoux bridge where the youth of all generations have walked, war or no war, listening to the rush and the murmur of Roubidoux water. RUTH LONG.

November 5

WAAC BARRACKS BEING BUILT AT FORT WOOD

An extensive construction program, including barracks and a beauty shop for a detachment of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, is under way at Fort Leonard Wood as the post nears its second birthday.

Barracks for a company of WAAC and a large number of unmarried civilians, band shells, vehicle sheds, mess halls, orderly rooms, officers

quarters, recreation buildings, and a combination barrack-mess hall have been erected since July 1, when the tempo of construction was increased.

Work begun more than a year ago on an island separated two-lane paved highway from the post to highway 66, five miles away, has been virtually completed, and the total number of miles of paved or blacktop roads on the reservation now exceeds 100.

Quarters designed by the Corps of Engineers specifically for the telephone operators of this post have been occupied, and a larger post office is practically finished.

No date has been set for the coming of the WAACs, but their quarters will be ready December 10, according to Capt. Max B. Adams, area engineer. The beauty parlor will be part of an L-shaped structure, which will serve also as WAAC officers' quarters, recreation hall and storeroom. At present three barracks are being construct-

ed for the female soldiers.

November 12

Dear Readers...

E. R. Cline, Sec. & Treas. of the Construction and General Laborers' Local No. 620 here told me Tuesday morning that the Union had purchased \$600 worth of war bonds and plan to add to it from month to month. He also told me that 14 new ward buildings for the Station Hospital at Fort Wood are being constructed.

Barracks for the women's army auxiliary corps will be ready at Ft. Wood about Dec. 10th. This is the much publicized WAAC's and I will wait awhile until I know more about it before I express myself regarding a women's army. If I were younger, with no family ties, etc., I might join up, but right now my idea of a women's army doesn't amount to much, in fact appears to be silly, and I am considered a good shot in spite of the fact that when I was a younger I couldn't be hired to touch a gun, much less shoot one. However, in case of necessity, it might be well for all women to learn how to shoot, taking care they do not shoot themselves trying.

All of you want to know how we are doing here in town. Well, we are not snowed under yet but we're mired under "knee-deep in mud." One half of the pavement on the west side of the Square is finished but the weather prevented any work on Tuesday. The streets are in about the worst shape they have been and it will probably be some time before they are improved for it takes time.

It would be nice if the property owners would blacktop all the rest and while it would involve the outlay of some money, yet it would be cheaper than paving and would



The Waynesville Public Health Center, built with Public Works Administration grants at a reported budgeted cost of \$30,000, opened in November, 1942. The building stood on the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn where the gazebo is currently located. The center was 67x110 feet, two-stories with a basement. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

eliminate that awful dust. It would add to property values and also make a more attractive place to live.

Army tanks are about the only vehicles that could navigate our streets right now. Cars are not being used here right now only when absolutely necessary so you may say we are going in for gas rationing in a big way and not from purely patriotic reasons either.

November 19

Dear Readers...

Well, we are proud of our new pavement here on the west side of the square—and we hope the property owners will finish the entire North and East, for highway 66 takes up the South side.

The new Public Health Center is a beautiful one of red brick and concrete and we would like for many more such buildings to go up here.

The appalling thing is that our city is composed to great extent of unsightly shack and flimsy cabins hurriedly put up during the 'boom' era, but that is now past and we need more than anything else at this time, to have some ordinances pertaining to building restrictions to keep out that kind of building—to build beautiful homes and apartments, landscaped, and to make everything so attractive that people will want to build homes here and, last but not least, to keep everything so law-abiding that women & children may feel free to go wherever necessary about town, at any hour day or night.

Right now a group of citizens is making plans to purchase a Dewitt engine and truck with hose, and along with it a firehouse and jail together to help lower the cost.

Some are in favor of a 50-cell jail

and others say 100 will be needed for the officers to cooperate with the officers of Fort Wood, which is not very flattering to the youth at the post. There is nothing like looking forward.

Wednesday night of last week 10,000 soldiers were granted furloughs, and you should have seen them here just for awhile, just to see them parading about, buses were crowded past their capacity, in fact were bursting, and taxis inadequate to supply the demand.

There are more leaky water pipes in Waynesville, both inside and out, since citizens began to hook on to the city water system. In spots the water mains have leaked like small rivulets. These, however, are minor annoyances and we are more concerned with our streets which certainly need at least to be graded and graveled, but best of all, if they

only could be blacktopped.

We are glad to see the day approaching when the smelly septic tanks will be no more.

I enjoyed a trip to Fort Leonard Wood Sunday afternoon, the first in several months, being deprived of the pleasure because of endless work.

Many new buildings and barracks are going up rapidly, one section that some say is for war prisoners and others a concentration camp for enemy aliens—whichever it is it will be well guarded.

The grounds are taking on a permanent look, and the space between the two-lane highway to the fort from highway 66 is being planted with two rows of pine trees and these are big enough to make a showing and since they are ever-green will look beautiful the year around.

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Monday	Closed
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Wednesday	10:00-5:00
Thursday	10:00-7:00
Friday	10:00-7:00
Saturday	10:00-2:00
Sunday	Closed

I noted the traffic had lessened greatly since I was there last, and you are also required to drive slowly through the fort, and for the first time we were required to have a pass which we received at the main gate.

The WPA Camp south of town located on what is known as the Ives Christeson (colored) place now owned by Andrew Christeson, has been moved to Camp No. 2 at Fort Leonard Wood. They built the two-lane from U. S. 66 to the fort. The place was a regular town with many facilities.

Again, let me urge drastic building restrictions in this town for a more beautiful city.

THERE IS A FIGHT TO BE FOUGHT AND A WAR TO BE WON. RUTH LONG.

November 26

TO ALL GIRLS WITH BOY FRIENDS IN THE SERVICE  
The Brush-off that We Boys Get

It usually takes ten months for a sailor, soldier or marine to get a complete brush-off from his girl friend back home.

During the first two or three months the letters are long & tender. All the way from 'Dearest' to 'Forever Yours.' The next two or three months they start shrinking to four pages. She starts off telling you how busy she has been. If you were a sharp character you'd wonder who was keeping her so busy. You figure her job is keeping her busy, not someone else with a job.

Little by little in the fifth or sixth months you notice that the perfumed missives close with an abrupt "Love" and she still calls you dearest, so your romantic nostrils fail to smell a rat—or a wolf.

In the seventh month you go

home on a furlough and come back to camp thinking everything is the same as it was. But it really isn't.

The furlough was a ticket to heaven but forgot it was a round trip ticket.

The letters crawl in one a week in the eighth or ninth month and you know you're just "Dear Friend" and before the signature of a hastily written one-page note is the significant wording, "Sincerely Yours."

And then about the end of ten months you get a square white envelope, it's her engagement announcement. She has penned a few lines of personal things to cush-

ion the shock. She's so happy and knows you'll understand.

You don't say anything when you get that card. You just take her picture off the shelf over your bunk and sling it into the G. I. can at the end of the Barracks.

"They're like street cars, chum," says the veteran in the next bunk.

"Yeah, sure," you say absently, and you lie down across your bunk and wonder when you're going to get a crack at the Nazis and Japs, who are the real reason you've lost your sweetheart.

You can prevent this by buying

Defense Bonds and Stamps, and help bring us boys back to our folks and sweethearts, and to live in a free country and be happy.

Keep us rolling and we'll win for the good old U.S.A.

"Sincerely yours,"

U. S. Naval Air Station, VP-204  
Norfolk, Virginia.

ED. NOTE: Willis is the son of Mr. and Mr. J. E. Kelley, Route 2, Waynesville. He was born and reared here.

December 17

Dear Readers...

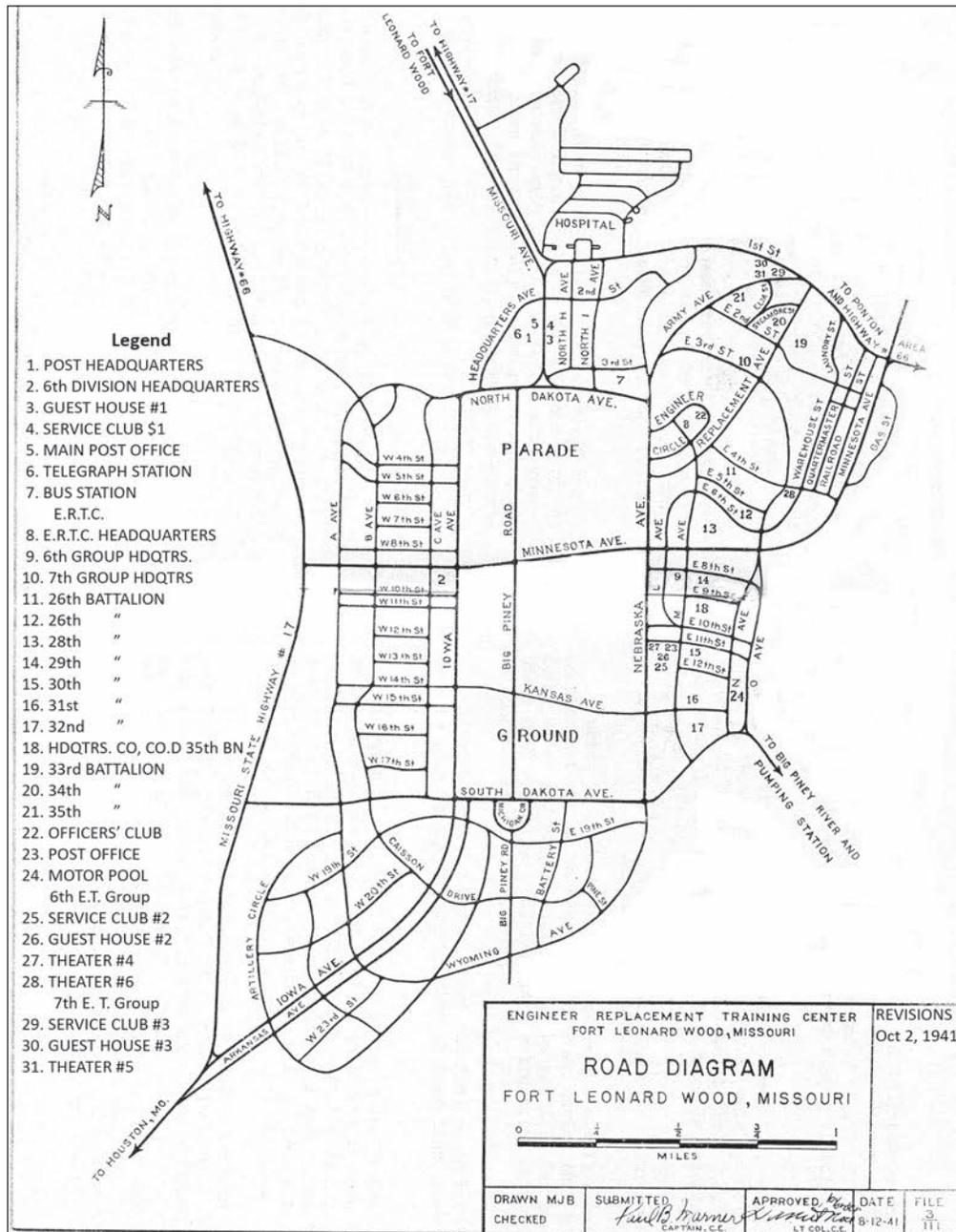
Well, many of us are connected with the City water mains (sounds big, don't it?) and the water is so hard that after a bath you feel that you have had a coating of wax or glue applied—soap only curdles. When the water begins to taste as water should a mammoth dose of purifier is applied and the result is nauseating, however, we can stand that better than a case of typhoid or any kindred disease.

Executives of bus lines operating here say that if the traffic gets any heavier they can't handle it.

Work ceased some months ago on the two-lane highway east of town to connect with the Wye. It seems that the road machinery was greatly needed elsewhere for war work and so that leaves us as we were—with US 66 still with two lanes of highway we have had the past few years. Highways can wait but the war effort must go on, for we MUST WIN THIS WAR!

The highway will be finished at a later time, however, and we can wait.

The first of the week a young soldier found a place to live in a novel way—he first inquired at the post office concerning any vacant rooms with negative shakes of the



head for an answer—he then asked if any were changing their address to which the answer was yes—He then took up his post of watchful waiting and was finally rewarded when a woman came in having her address changed—he rushed to her side with the necessary questions and followed her out. We hope he found a room. Patience such as this should be rewarded.

December 24

Dear Readers...

This is the first anniversary (21st of December) following the disastrous fire that destroyed building and equipment of the Democrat office and the following six months were veritable nightmares regarding the publishing of this paper. We will never be able to express our thanks and appreciation to Joe Hanebrink editor and publisher of the *Cabool Enterprise*, who took us in and not only shared his equipment and office help but himself as well.

The nice new pavement I was telling you about a few weeks ago here on the west side of the square is now a dirty mass of mud, gravel, washed along by the debris carrying rains from the streets where no pavement exists. It needs to be washed clean with a heavy suction hose.

It does not seem possible that construction started on Ft. Wood near here two years ago (Dec. 3, 1940) although the surveying and preliminary work began in November

of that year. Many changes have been made including many new buildings and now a Missouri nursery has a contract to landscape the grounds.

It has been suggested to me and very timely too, that the town buy a large rubber hose for use in case of fires. It should be seen to at once for the situation is very acute as materials cannot be secured for

new buildings. This should be done while we are waiting for a new fire engine and fire fighting equipment.

December 31

TELEPHONE PROPERTIES SOLD

The sale of the telephone exchanges at Crocker, Dixon and Iberia have been approved by the State Public Service Commission and W. A. Murphy of Dixon is the

new owner. Former owners were Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Cross now of Sullivan, Ill.

Dixon is one of the few towns in the state owning a common battery system enabling the caller to signal the operator without turning a crank.

Bill Parrish of Crocker is a former owner of the three-town exchange.



This picture is from a series by World Wide Photos titled "Soldiers—All Dressed Up and No Place to Go!" The caption reads, "To beer or not to beer that is the question' debated by these soldiers gathered at the entrance to the U.S.O. Club room situated next door to a beer parlor. Waynesville has two one-room U.S.O. Clubs where the boys may read or play games. Contracts for a large U.S.O. building have been let as the present rooms can accommodate fewer than fifty soldiers at a time." Ruth Long's comments about throngs of soldiers on payday under the tacky awnings of the business district are evident in this image. The much needed and large USO building at the corner of School Street and Highway 17 was completed in early 1942. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

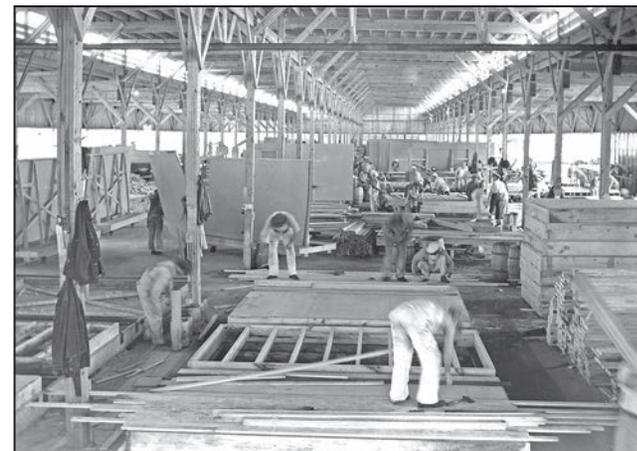
## CIVILIAN HOUSING AT FORT WOOD



1



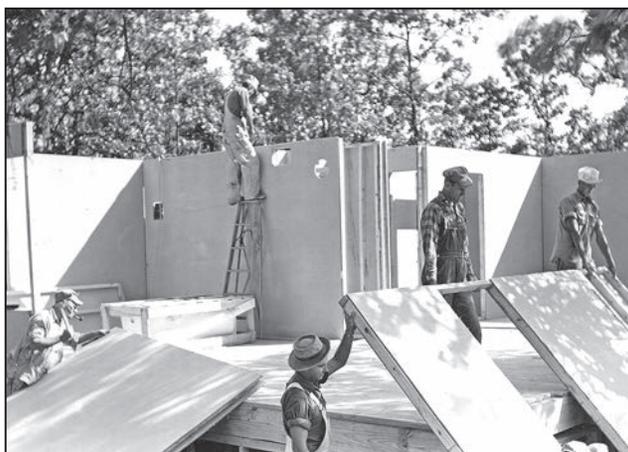
2



3



4



5



6



↑7 ↓8



Construction of the majority of Fort Leonard Wood's buildings was completed by the end of May, 1941. Of the 1600 buildings, 600 were barracks that housed 63 men each. Additional housing was required for civilian workers. The contract for this project was awarded in July of 1941 to a San Francisco company specializing in prefabricated structures. Barrett & Hilp established a fabrication factory in the nearby railroad town of Newburg. Building materials were delivered by rail. The contract called for the completion of eight houses a day and a total of 500 units.

The photo array shows the factory and some of the steps in the mass production of the houses.

1- The large factory building of Barrett & Hilp in Newburg. A railroad spur entered the factory yard on the other side of the building.

2 - One of several power saws which cut lumber to required lengths as it came from the railroad siding to the plant.

3 - Wall, floor, and roof panels, along with gable ends, were constructed on the factory floor.

4 - Wall and floor panels were loaded by a crane

onto a truck for transport to the fort site about 20 miles away.

5 - Exterior and interior walls were raised together after the floor panels were installed on pre-cast concrete foundation piers. Homasote wallboard was the interior material. The walls were held by nails until bolted together by a special crew.

6- Ceiling and then roof panels were lowered in place. Opposite roof sections were propped against each other at the peak which eliminated trusses.

7 - This is a section of the housing area and looking at the finished front of several units.

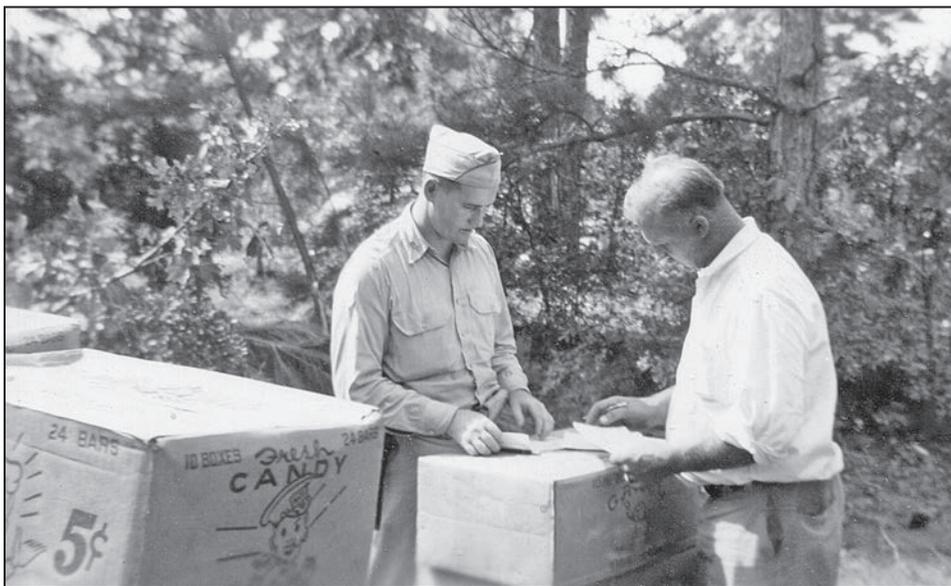
8 - The unidentified management and office staff of the Newburg factory posed for a group picture.

Work was completed by the end of February, 1942. Barrett and Hilp also constructed 5000 houses for war workers at Norfolk, Virginia, begun in June of that year.

Photographs courtesy of Missouri University of Science and Technology Archives, Clair V. Mann Collection.



Stocking the Mobile PX with the “choicest of the brewer’s art”—Falstaff...



...and nickel candy bars.

## A Soldier's Candid Photos at Fort Leonard Wood 1942

These photographs were taken by a soldier training at Fort Leonard Wood in the spring of 1942. Although his photos have reached us 75 years later, his identity remains unknown. They give us a peek at part of the daily routine.

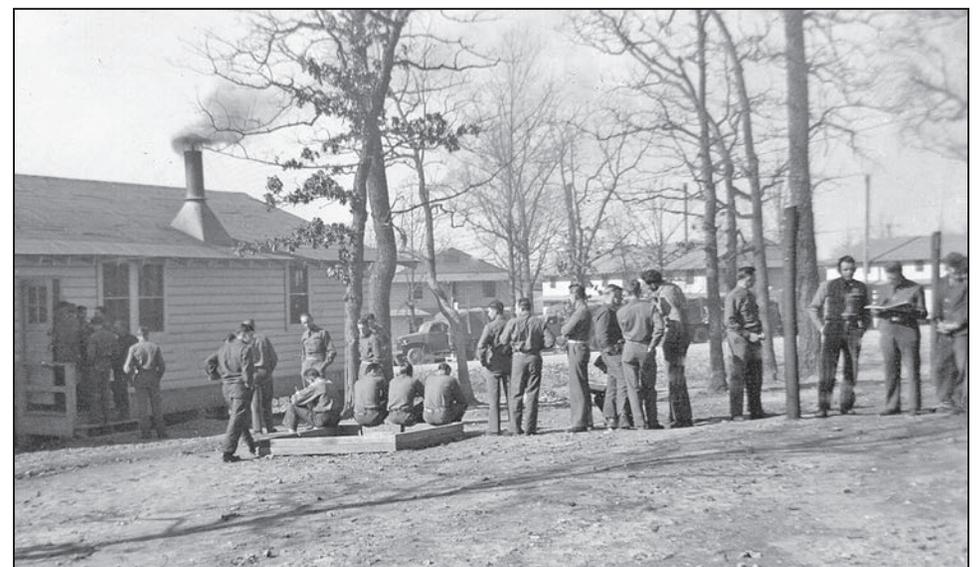
Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



The Mobile Post Exchange is now open for business.



A ten minute break during a march.



The usual waiting in line.