

1944

FORT LEONARD WOOD

*In the Beginning
and the
Transformation of Waynesville*

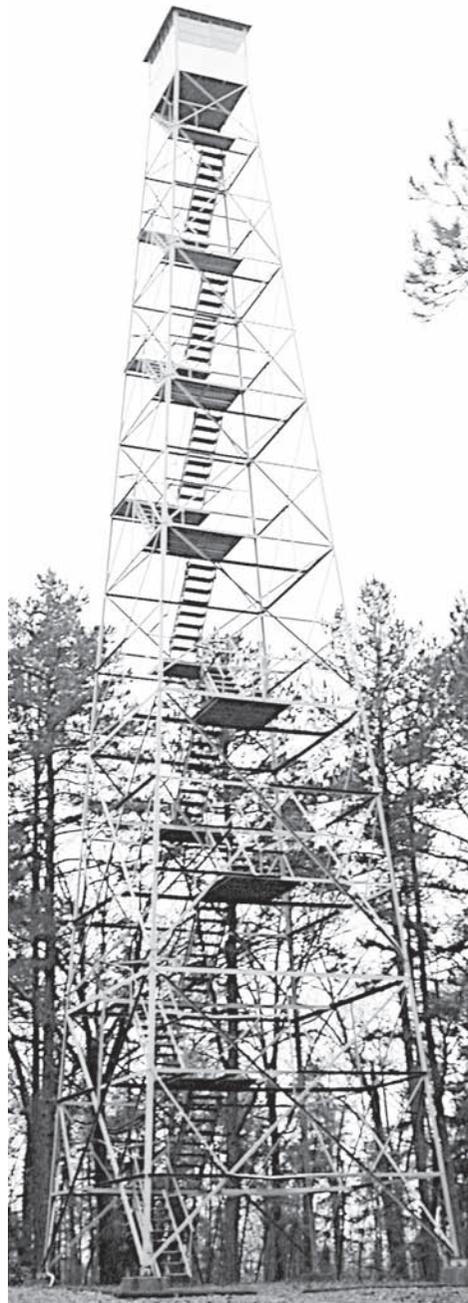
January 6

NEW LOOKOUT TOWER EAST
OF WAYNESVILLE ALMOST
COMPLETED

The new fire lookout tower east of Waynesville is nearing completion. The tower is made of steel and 75 feet from ground to top of cab on which a lookout will be established day and night through the fire season according to Miles F. Watson, Forest Supervisor for the district who lives at Devils Elbow.

Watson's territory consists of 43,000 acres. The tower is one mile east of the Wye. *[Since no steel for a standard tower was available, a water tower formerly located on the lands of William Lemp of the Lemp Brewing Company, St. Louis, Missouri, was acquired.]*

Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Fancher of Crocker *[formerly of Hooker, see below]* are moving to Fort Leonard Wood this week where he is employed.



Ivy and Assinith Fancher relocated from the oil fields of Kansas in the mid-1930s to Hooker on the original Route 66 in Pulaski County. Ivy secured the Hooker postmastership in December of 1937. Ivy relinquished the postmastership in November of 1942 as work started on new four-lane and Hooker Cut which would by-pass Fancher's store and the other businesses on the old road. Elmer and then Bertie Barton at the Valley View store, a short distance west, became postmasters until 1955. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

Dear Readers...

...From what I have been told Bloodland is used as a target range with the homes standing minus windows and doors, and only ghosts of former citizens walking the streets.

January 13

Hospital for Waynesville

Waynesville, Pulaski County, once a mere inland village, has grown so rapidly and to such a surprising extent since the building of Fort Leonard Wood that the government has granted the little county seat \$123,276 for the purpose of building a city hospital. Public health has presented a serious problem in that locality since the very inception of the camp boom.

February 3

Fort Leonard Wood Briefs

Traffic during the year 1943, as indicated by 27 automobile recorders, was 46% less than the year 1941 and 29% less than the year 1942. Traffic for the year 1942 was 25% less than that of the year 1941.

February 10

**Hospital for Waynesville
Now a Reality**

Plans that have been held in abeyance for several months relative to using what was built to house a grade school in East Waynesville are now shaping up to be made over into a hospital with over 80 beds.

The contract for the water and sewer to the hospital site will be let at Rolla Feb. 18th...

Complete and final plans on the hospital are being completed ready for contract.

The project has been approved and the money allotted. It will probably be two or three months before the hospital will be open for business.

February 24

**Housing Units
at Fort Leonard Wood**

...Word is that 180 family dwelling units for white workers and 80

dormitory accommodations for single negro workers have been approved for Fort Leonard Wood.

These units will be for duration housing only and were programmed to meet an emergency.

The housing will be located on the Post and occupancy will be reserved for essential civilian employees who must be brought into the locality from beyond reasonable commuting distance and for presently employed workers who are inadequately housed.

March 2

New Dairy

F. A. Jones and Sons, owners and operators of the Pulaski County Dairy have recently installed a new pasteurizing and bottling plant in connection with their dairy at Gascozark. They will supply Grade A milk through the grocers in Waynesville.

Dear Readers...

Waynesville at last is to have a wide-awake industry—The Pulaski County Dairy—brought about through the continuous efforts of F. A. Jones and son of Beautiful Gascozark.

The idea, small at first grew to mountainous proportions as Mr. Jones continued to work on the problems involved, until it became a reality.

He knew that if he could get a priority on the necessary machinery that he could produce the Grade A milk, advertised in the *Democrat* columns this week, that the whole country would benefit. As Mr. Jones remarked to me Monday in this office "my first desire was to produce milk of such fine quality that my two grandchildren could drink it safely, then it would be safe for any child, anywhere, as well as the boys in the service at Ft. Wood" where he continues to deliver his Grade A product.

If you could see beautiful Gascozark as I have seen it, and the finest dairy barn in this section of

the State then you would know that cleanliness is first consideration.

He and his son plan to enlarge gradually so that they will be able eventually to manufacture cheese here in Waynesville and other milk products. This is strictly a Pulaski County industry.



Above Frank A. Jones and wife Ila (ca.1939) outside their large log home, dubbed "The Mansion," at the 765 acre Gascozark Hereford Ranch. Frank combined Gasconade and Ozark to coin the word "Gascozark" as part of the name for his farm near Hazelgreen. He developed a prize-winning Hereford herd, dairy, and Gascozark Hills Resort. For an aerial photo of the farm, see the 2018 Gazette, page 21. For a more detailed account of Jones's entrepreneurial efforts, see "Frank A. Jones and Gascozark" in the 2007 Old Settlers Gazette. Photo courtesy of Jason Jones.

Frank McKenzie, City Engineer, informed me recently that the water here has always tested 100%. 240 homes here are connected with the city water system and pay expenses with money in the bank which is much better than was expected.

March 23

Newsbits from Fort Leonard Wood

...Frank Sinatra may make 'em swoon in New York and Hollywood, but not at Fort Leonard Wood; Dinah Shore comes first here. That's the conclusion reached by Arthur Anderson, who operates juke-boxes in post service clubs and post exchanges, and he should know. Anderson finds that hillbilly records meet with little favor here, too, so he doesn't use many of them. Glenn Miller and Harry James are

the best Charlienickel-grabbers as far as soldiers are concerned these days, and "Shoo Shoo Baby" is their favorite selection. [*"Shoo Shoo Baby" was a hit song by Glenn Miller and a bigger hit by the Andrews Sisters. It also became the name of a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber.*]

Dear Readers...

Did you know that G. M. Reed, father of Guy Reed here and Roy W. Reed of Crocker, founded the Democrat 62 years ago? Mr. Reed, who later became an attorney, was a school teacher at the time. He was assisted by Hugh Murphy, an attorney, of Crocker. [*George Reed wrote a serialized history of the first 25 years of the Pulaski County Democrat published over several issues of the Democrat in 1907. We*



Charley Ray is mentioned visiting the Democrat office. Charley had a souvenir shop and camp on the original unpaved Route 66 through Hooker. Charley also offered Cities Service petroleum products, several cabins for rent, and space for travel trailers. He dammed up a small spring for travelers to put cold water in their coolers and radiators. In 18 months the new four-lane through Hooker Cut would be completed and bypass his place. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

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*.

republished that history, "A Brief Sketch of the Career of the Pulaski County Democrat," in the 2007 Old Settlers Gazette.]

Our streets are nothing but chug holes and something needs to be done about it.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ray of Hooker called at office. [*See left.*]

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March 30

Highway News

Construction work for improvement of Route 66 in Pulaski County east of Waynesville has been practically closed down until suitable weather permits full scale operations; however, some little construction progress has been going on with respect to incidental and appurtenance work which can be satisfactorily performed at this time.

April 6

Waynesville Passes Water Inspection

Water Commissioner Roy C. Wilson here received word recently from the Federal Works Agency at St. Paul, Minn., regarding the recently inspected water and sewer systems for the city of Waynesville, March 17th which said in part, "This system is operating efficiently and is being taken care of. New service connections are being made, thereby increasing the efficiency of the plant. This project is providing a very useful and beneficial service and is greatly appreciated by the citizens." They made no recommendations for repairs.

The Missouri State Board of Health has approved the water supply and the proper signs will soon be placed along the highways to that effect.

Frank McKenzie is the City Engineer.

[Waynesville, with much help from the government, finally installed public water and sewer lines in 1944.]

From the old Pulaski County Tribune received by the Democrat and dated Sept 16, 1881:

J. H. Ross of Big Piney [son-in-law of W. W. McDonald] was on the County Executive Committee. Judge V. B. Hill [brother-in-law of W. W. McDonald], Judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit, was the only Circuit Judge to be elected from Pulaski County up to and including present time and built and lived in the home in Waynesville where Mr. and Mrs. Claude Rigsby lived. [This home was most recently Nona's.] Judge Hill was courthouse a charter member of the Waynesville Baptist Church and it is said that he built the first church building.

The Waynesville House (hotel) [aka Old Stagecoach Stop] was advertised "with the table always ready supplied with the best the market affords," with A. Bryan, Proprietor. (Mr. Bryan was the father of the late Mrs. Jim Armstrong of Richland, who passed away several months ago.)

The Crocker House (hotel) with Mrs. E. M. Bostick, Proprietress, advertised a good stable in connection for the accommodation of parties with teams. (Mrs. Bostick later became the wife of Ed Williams, who for 40 years, was Clerk of the County Court of Pulaski County. She was the grandmother of Walter Burchard here, J. T. and A. W. Burchard and Mrs. Jon Rollins of Springfield and Mrs. G. E. Morgan of Milwaukee.)

T. A. Storie advertised his Blacksmith Shop in which he begged leave to inform the citizens of Waynesville and vicinity that "I have opened up a Wood and Iron Shop, also do carpenter work of all kinds and I acknowledge no superior as a workman in iron. I also make a specialty of horseshoeing."

B. N. Ballard's crop of corn will be larger this year than last...(The B. N. Ballard referred to was the father of Mrs. Luna Wheeler here, Mrs. Ed Kerr of Versailles, Neal Ballard of Rolla, Sam Ballard of St. Louis, and Mrs. Lee Hobbs near Waynesville. The farms referred to are on the Roubidoux and one is now owned by Clair Ballard, a grandson. Another farm is now a part of Fort Leonard Wood and was owned by Roy Laughlin.)

The Democrat commenced publication the next year, 1882, and has continued without missing a single issue since that time in spite of at least two fires, one in Oct. 1910 and the other December 31st, 1941. The Democrat will enter its 63rd year June 8, 1944. [Alas, the Pulaski County Democrat is no more. See sidebar.]

April 13

WAYNESVILLE TO GET CITY JAIL, FIREHOUSE AND CITY OFFICES

Presiding Judge Roy C. Wilson and Mayor R. A. Bell each received notice Thursday of last week from Senators Harry S. Truman and Bennett Champ-Clark that the Federal Works Agency had allocated

Almost Paperless

Print newspapers have all but disappeared in Pulaski County. The *Pulaski County Democrat* has expired. The *Democrat*, after 127 years of publication, was merged with the *Richland Mirror* on February 5, 2009. The *Mirror* began at least as far back as 1906. The merged newspaper was called the *Pulaski County Mirror*. It ceased publication in the spring of 2017. The *Crocker News* was in business from 1897 until 1974. The only daily newspaper in Pulaski County, the *Daily Guide*, ran its presses for the last time on September 7, 2018. The *Dixon Pilot* began in 1914 (if not before) and is the only one of the early 20th century papers churning out weekly newsprint, as well as an electronic edition.

Most of what we know of issues, events, and progress (or lack thereof) in Pulaski County over the last 115 years or so were captured in the pages of those newspapers and preserved on microfilm by The State Historical Society of Missouri. Without those newspapers as a research source, we would be hardpressed to produce the *Old Settlers Gazette*.

As for the near disappearance of the printed photographic image (postcards, news photos, etc.), we will save that discussion for another time.

**Daniel Whittle**

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serve you as
Assessor
of
Pulaski County*

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\$13,000 to Waynesville jail and fire protection facilities.

The building will cost \$20,000, to be of yellow tile, one story, built in L shape.

There will be three office rooms for the City Officials, fire truck room, a City Jail containing two cells and fully equipped kitchen for the use of the jail inmates, toilets, furnace room.

Two German war prisoners who escaped from Fort Leonard Wood March 29th while working on an airport, were captured Tuesday, April 4th near Falcon in Laclede County. Their names are Ernst Schmitz, 22, and Guenther Holz.

Report of Present Condition of the City of Waynesville, MO.

In order to bring you to the present condition of the City it is necessary to go back for a period of approximately three and one-half

years for a beginning. Within this period of time, Waynesville had been subject to many very abrupt changes, probably as much so, as any place within the borders of the vast area of the United States. These changed conditions have been brought about by reason of the location of Fort Leonard Wood in Pulaski County, of which Waynesville is the County Seat and being the nearest place to the Fort, it is therefore most affected.

The less than 500 peaceful, home loving citizens of Waynesville were awakened overnight, in the latter part of 1940 by the arrival of advance men, followed within a few hours with large quantities of machinery, equipment and materials of various kinds. A call was given



Mayor Robert A. Bell

for laborers with a response from every part of the country, far and near, until a peak load of 34,000 men were employed in constructing this Fort which is one among the largest in the United States. This brought about the necessity and demand on all nearby towns for the care of these men while working, and Waynesville being so closely located was again most affected. In addition, many families with their trailers by hundreds, followed those who worked, including many whose only desire was to make money and in many cases were not too particular as to how they made it. We were unprepared for such demands as were made upon us, but we opened the doors of our homes and extended all our other facilities

to those who were working for the Government in the interest of winning the war.

When the Fort was completed to state of occupancy about the latter part of May 1941 many workers left but immediately some 30,000 soldiers were unloaded and following them, came their wives and other women in great numbers. Some of these were desirable and some were undesirable and Waynesville again was most affected.

When this came, we had no approved water system or sewage disposal plant and was much in need of many other facilities and we at once contacted proper Government Agencies who readily recognized our needs for the protection of the health and lives of our citizens. In recognition of this the Missouri State Health Department sponsored and obtained the construction of the fine Public Health building located on the Public Square, with



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the aid and assistance of our local people, which now serves the entire country adjacent to it. New school buildings have been constructed to care for the large increased school population and added much to our already large school system, which makes it now one among the best and most efficient in this section of the State.

A most magnificent USO building has been located here that serves the soldier as "a home away from home." This is great contribution to the service men and to the citizens of Waynesville and to the citizens of all other out-lying towns as well.

A fire truck has been obtained for our city that proper protection to both life and property might be had. This was brought about after having lost human lives as a result of overcrowded housing conditions and the lack of fire fighting facilities

for protection. A fire department has been organized with a fire chief in charge and a new building is now ready for construction costing \$20,000, the money being now available, this building for the housing and protection of the fire equipment and for a city jail, and with a few other requirements met, which are now in process, the rate for insurance will be materially reduced, with a big saving to property owners.

A 54 bed Federal Hospital has been approved for our city and the sum of \$123,000 allotted for construction and equipment. In addition, allotments have been obtained for the construction of water and sewer facilities to supply this Hospital, the contract already having been let and construction work ready to begin. Let me here not forget to give much needed

and deserving credit to both of our distinguished United States Senators from Missouri and to our Congressman from this District who have intelligently recognized our needs as presented to them and have given us their valuable aid and assistance in relieving our distressed condition.

The Public and State Highways near Fort Wood have been much improved and U. S. Highway 66 near Waynesville which is soon to receive material improvement and which was formerly set to miss us entirely, as a result of the efforts of the City Officials, has had reconsideration by the State Highway Department and is now planned to go through our city.

Due to construction work and contracts with the Government over which we have had no control, our streets have much of the time

been in an implorable condition, but we have done what we could in following up the contractors and repairing them, as best we could. They are now much improved and will, I am sure, receive additional attention by the City Council as materials and equipment can be obtained. During the past two years the property owners have paved one side of the Public Square and all preparations have been made and plans are ready for the contract to be let for the paving of the remaining portion which will be another much needed and material improvement. All of the above mentioned improvements, with many others not here mentioned, have had the full support and approval of the Waynesville City Council and the Mayors of your city with much of their personal services contributed in bringing about these results.



Pulaski County Sewer District #1
531 Old Route 66, Suite A
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Much criticism has been made against the Police Department, some of which might be justified, as might likewise be the case against any other Department of this or any other administration, but in defense of the law enforcement officers of this city, I call your attention to the record, that crime generally has been materially reduced the past two years and that drunkenness and prostitution in our city has been reduced to a minimum.

We have passed a number of ordinances dealing with things for the betterment of our city. Some of these have been at the suggestion and request of Col. A. R. Duvall, Commanding Officer of Fort Leonard Wood and to him we acknowledge our indebtedness. Also the Provost Marshall at the Fort has made other suggestions for our direction and guidance. By reason of such suggestions some of our places of business by our action, have been permitted to remain in business although we have received much criticism for our action by such operators but if the soldiers are to continue coming to Waynesville, it is my opinion that these regulative ordinances must be rigidly enforced in order that a clean and healthy condition be maintained.

During the past two years the City Council has been much interested in lower electrical rates and better service and we are expecting REA [Rural Electrification Administration] to acquire the system now serving us at an early date. To this transfer we have given our full support, which will materially reduce our rates and improve our service.

The water and sewer systems above referred to are among the best, and have most efficiently operated by our City Engineer, J. Frank Mackenzie, who came highly recommended to us by the



PATTERSON MAKES INSPECTION TOUR

FORT LEONARD WOOD, MO. — Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson examines weapons while on an inspection tour at Fort Leonard Wood. The Secretary dons helmet and goggles to fire a tank-killing bazooka from a foxhole. April 16, 1944. Signal Corps photo from Acme. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

Missouri State Board of Health and by the City he was serving when we employed him, and he has proven himself to be all that was recommended. Under his efficient supervision and management with the aid and assistance of Roy C. Wilson, the City Water Commissioner, the water rates have been materially reduced from the price set by the Government and with all bills paid a substantial amount of money now remains in the water fund. All other funds are in the same condition, with all bills paid and with no increase in tax rate during the past two years.

It is impossible to list at this time all the other improvements we have made or sponsored, but any casual observer can readily see that we have a much cleaner and more desirable city than existed two years ago. Therefore we have not labored in vain. It has been a pleasure for me to have worked with the City

ability, courage and respect, we should have the greatest showing of improvement within a short time ever in the history of our city.

Thanks to each of you and to all the other officers of the administration now closing for your association and co-operation.

R. A. BELL, Retiring Mayor
[Robert Bell built the Bell Hotel on what became Route 66 in 1925 and operated it until 1937. He dedicated four subdivisions in the City of Waynesville and during World War II built a subdivision of new brick homes near the hotel to help with the housing shortage. During his tenure as mayor during the Fort Leonard Wood construction boom, he dealt with the municipal problems of adequate water supply, sanitation, and citizen safety. Bell was Prosecuting Attorney, Probate Judge, and at the time of his death in 1967, he was in his sixteenth year as Magistrate Judge of Pulaski County.]

April 20

FOR SALE—At cost, our remaining stock of general merchandise, fixtures, including cash register, store building and 16 room hotel. S. B. Sneed, Big Piney, Mo.

[S. B. "Ben" Sneed and wife Dora



The Big Piney Hotel (left) was one of a handful of buildings that survived the tornado that hit the village on Thanksgiving Day, 1926. There was a series of owners after Phoebe Mattison until the current owner, James Pearce, bought the old hotel in 1991. He has rehabilitated the 113-year-old structure (right). Photos courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

bought the Big Piney Hotel in 1918 for \$2500. Dora's father, Bill Scales, built and opened the hotel in 1906. It does not seem likely that the occupancy rate of the sixteen room hotel was normally very high and what was probably its best period during Fort Leonard Wood's early construction days of 1941 was over. Traffic through the fort on old Route 17 (earlier called the Houston Road) was curtailed. Ben was 64 years old and in poor health. The Sneeds sold the hotel to Phoebe J. Mattison, "a single woman," for a consideration of \$1500. The Sneeds moved to a farm near Lebanon, Mo. The history of the hotel and origin of the village of Big Piney is told in some detail in the 2010 Old Settlers Gazette in an article titled "The Early Days of Big Piney," which is available online as noted at the top right of this page.]

I AM TOO OLD TO CONTINUE the lodge business. The following is for sale: 67 steel cots with bedding, complete, \$6.00, 10 wood cots with bedding, complete, \$4.00, 2 long tables, each \$4.00, 3 small kitchen tables, each \$1.00, 12 chairs, cane bottom, \$1.00 each, 1 cook stove, \$10.00, 3 safes, \$5.00 each, 2 room house to rent by week only, \$2.00, Set block and tackle for inch rope, \$5.00, 4 long augers, each 30c, 3 rain barrels, each 90c, 1 riding attachment for 19 or larger plow, \$7.00, 1 pair scales, 200 pound capacity, \$2.00, 1 drill press, \$6.00, 1 drawing knife, adjustable handle, \$1.75, 5 adjustable carpenter planes, \$6.00, Steel Foot Adze with handle, \$1.50, 1 Ratchet Brace, no better, \$3.00.

Charles Schlicht, Crocker, Mo.



The business that Charles Schlicht was "too old to continue" was operating the lodge at the Schlicht Springs resort on the Gasconade. Schlicht was 74 years old. He died in 1945. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



Charles Schlicht seemed to like to pose for post-cards, although his face was always in the shade. At left he is with a guest from Rochester, NY, and the dam dog. At right he poses with a St. Louis lady and her boys while a dog holds the mail. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

May 4 USO CLUB NOTES

Statistical figures for the month of April signify great activity at the Waynesville USO Club. During the month 43,340 persons passed through the entrance to enjoy relaxation and entertainment. Figures indicated the dances to be a popular activity since there was an attendance of 5,240 persons. This is not surprising because the members of the Girls' Service Organization act as hostesses and these girls are both pretty and witty.

From the number of letters mailed at the USO Club the folks back home are profiting from the writing tables and stationery furnished by the Club. The service men took advantage of their leisure time to dash off 7,300 letters using 9,500 envelopes and post cards.

If good food is an indication of hospitality, the Waynesville Club excels in this respect for during the month, the following were served: 2,825 buffet lunches, 3,888 cookies, 3,980 cups of coffee and 82 dozen doughnuts.

Paeans of praise should be sung to the volunteers who contribute many hours of service. During the month the senior hosts and hostesses served 7,722 hours and the junior hostesses 2,601 hours. This means that for that many hours service men were able to mingle with home folks. The aim of the USO Club is to provide a homelike atmosphere and wholesome recreation for these

men away from home and this can be most effectively achieved by having homey people with whom they can unite in fellowship and entertainment.

The USO Club also supplies spiritual inspiration and guidance. 2,544 persons attended religious services. The Sunday Vesper Service at the Club is intended for all creeds and religions. This service provides an island of meditation and worship in the sea of activity in which we are all embroiled in war time.

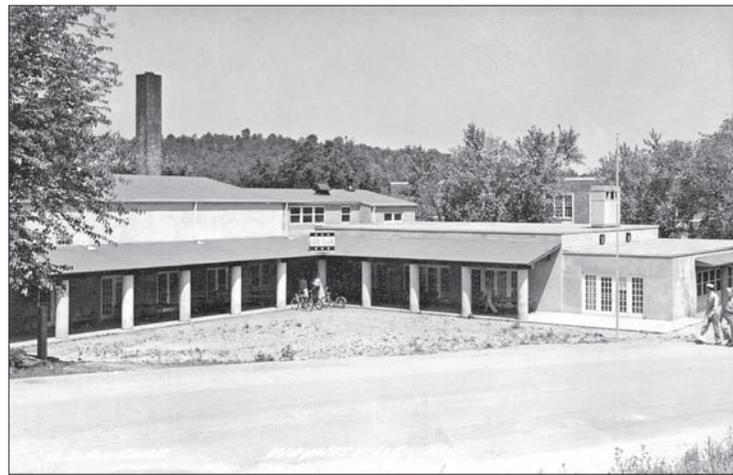
Other figures still further indicate the extent of participation at the club. Movies were shown to 6,035 persons, 1,054 persons enjoyed lively matches at the ping pong tables, 1,232 joined in group singing and 6,162 received relaxation in other social activities.

In addition to providing activity for leisure hours the USO endeavors to render service in assisting persons in their adjustment to a new community. 557 persons were given information regarding housing conditions, and 168 others were given information as to community resources. Referrals by community persons and agencies to the USO Travelers Aid Service made it possible to assist thirty-three persons with serious and complicated problems. This is an agency of the USO to assist persons, regardless of race, color, age or creed who are in difficulty away from home. Regardless of whom you are, if you encounter a newcomer to



our community who is in distress, direct them to the USO Travelers Aid Service and every effort will be made to assist in their dilemma.

The Waynesville Greyhound station handles on the average 7,000 to 8,000 passengers a month, open 24 hours, six agents, seven schedules daily to St. Louis and large number of buses to Ft. Wood on Friday and Saturday afternoons.



The exterior and interior of the USO Club in Waynesville. The USO used the basement of the Baptist Church for a time until the new building was constructed. It opened in March of 1942. The large L-shaped club was built at the corner of School Street and Highway 17, which was across the street from the town school at that time. The cost was over \$78,000. The left wing of the building survives today, repurposed as apartments. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas

Stephens College of Columbia, which sends several busloads of girls to Fort Leonard Wood each week for a service club dance, has asked the post to send 200 men to the college's senior prom, Saturday. And the Stephens girls must like 'em tall, for they requested that each of the 200 soldiers be at least five feet, eight inches tall.

May 18

Newsbit from Fort Leonard Wood

Something new in the way of recreation for summer Sunday afternoons has been devised by two sergeants here, who are conducting a weekly tour to one of the 500 or 600 caves within a 25-mile radius of the post. The sergeants began their cave explorations last summer by poking around in a cavern east of the post, where they found scores of arrowheads, bone needles and fishhooks, and a few human bones and teeth. When they began their regular tours a month ago, 12

soldier explorers went along; now the usual attendance is well over 60. The sergeants say the owners of the caves welcome the touring soldiers, and one old couple went so far as to offer their cave for sale.

May 25

ROAD WORK NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

...Sealed proposals for constructing (or improving) Route 66, Project SN-A-FA 176-I(1) Pulaski County.

The proposed work includes: Grading, constructing culverts, a bridge, and two Portland cement concrete pavements, each 22 feet wide, together with any incidental work, on the above state road from Hooker Hill cut to Phelps County line, the total length of the improvement being 1.735 miles.

ROAD WORK NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals...Route 66, Project SN-FA 176-H(2) Pulaski County.

The proposed work includes: Constructing two Portland cement concrete pavements, each 22 feet wide, together with any incidental work on the above state road from Big Piney River east through Hooker Hill cut, the total length of the improvement being 1.038 miles.

The minimum wage to be paid all labor employed on this contract shall be as follows: Skilled Labor--90c per hour; Intermediate Grade Labor--50c per hour; Unskilled Labor--40c per hour.

[Although some persist in dating Hooker Cut as 1942, that was the year when the initial contract for rock removal and grading was let.

The paving through the cut did not commence until 1944, due to shortages of engineers, laborers, and concrete. Shortages also held up the completion of the bridge over the Big Piney River.]

FOR RENT—Three cottages adjoining three lakes and river. Good swimming. Best spring water in County. Mail sent and received daily. Three miles closer to Fort Leonard Wood than Crocker or Swedeborg. Good roads. Fine hunting and fishing. On Waynesville-Crocker Forest Lodge Road.

Chas. Schlicht, R. 1, Crocker, Mo.

[After selling off some furniture items and tools and announcing being too old for the lodge business, Schlicht was still in the rental business.]

**Sue
RAPONE
Treasurer**

*Thank you
for allowing me to
serve as your treasurer*

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Old Settlers Day**



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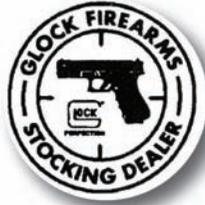
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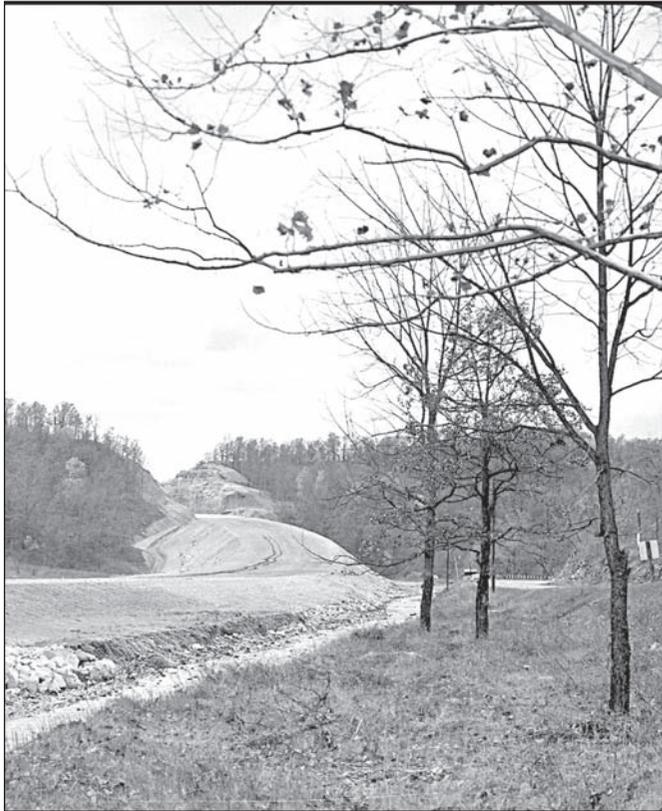
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This is a long view of the graded and rockbed roadbed approaching and through Hooker Cut in 1944, waiting for the concrete pavement. The original Route 66 is visible on the right. Courtesy of the MoDot Collection, Missouri State Archives.

**June 1
NEARLY 7 MILES OF
PAVEMENT FINISHED
EAST OF TOWN**

Nearly 7 miles of 22 foot paving has been completed, completing the double highway along U. S. 66 east of town, beginning at Morgan Heights [present Highway 28] and extending to the top of the East Hill here at Waynesville.

This highway has been under construction over two years and L. V. Hites of Kansas City was the contractor.

This stretch of highway is one of the most scenic spots in Pulaski County.

**Devils Elbow Bridge
Almost Completed**

The Devils Elbow Bridge across the Big Piney about a half mile below the present structure is nearing completion according to latest reports.

This bridge has been under construction over two years but work has been held up on account of the difficulty of getting materials, also labor.

This bridge connects the new 2-lane highway survey at Sunset Rest while the old merges with the new section at the Hooker school at the present.

This makes a 4-lane highway. The Maxwell Construction Co. is the Contractor.

of the Square is already paved and Highway 66 forms the South side. [The west side of the square was paved first because the businesses on that side paid for half the pavement, i.e. the concrete lane in front of their stores. The city paid for the other half or lane. The business owners on the north and east sides of the square did not think they should have to pay for the paving—that the city should pay for all of it.]

By the way, what has become of the planned cemetery for Waynesville? One was secured through the efforts of the local Lions Club and much work was done but when the Hospital site was approved, the site for a cemetery had to be changed. Let's get busy!

June 8

Work commenced Wednesday on the new tile [block] City Jail and Firehouse in the Shockley addition on the lot recently purchased from Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Brisch.

Dear Readers...

I have been reliably informed that the North and East sides of the square are to be paved, the work to commence soon. The West side

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Fort Leonard Wood's soldier-cavemen, the two sergeants who conduct an excursion each Sunday to one of Pulaski County's 500 caves, have been invited to form a local chapter of the National Speleological (cave exploring) Society. The National Society feels that the soldiers may unearth items of considerable scientific value in their explorations.

June 15

**PVT. RONALD WENGER
A HEAVY SLEEPER**

Pvt. Ronald Wenger of Camp Phillips, Kans., is building quite a reputation for himself when it comes to sleeping.

After spending several days furlough in the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Wenger at Licking, and on his return to Camp left Rolla for Springfield and when he awoke he was 37 miles beyond Springfield. Returning there he went back to Rolla and woke up in St. Louis. He managed to awake at proper intervals after leaving St. Louis for Kansas City and arrived at Camp Phillips before the deadline.

Ronald formerly lived with his parents at Bloodland before his induction.

**LACLEDE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE BUYS CITIZENS
ELECTRIC COMPANY**

The transfer of ownership of the

Below George Morris's first ad for the Victory Cafe, April 20, 1944, *Pulaski County Democrat*.

Enjoy Quiet and Relaxation while you eat at the beautiful new



VICTORY CAFE

In Waynesville
YOUR FAVORITE BEVERAGE
GEORGE MORRIS, Manager



Above Greek immigrant George (Maurelis) Morris established his businesses in the new Witt Building. After the war, The Victory Cafe became the Waynesville Cafe, then Mary's Coffee Shop, operated by Mary Stanford, George's daughter. Still later the coffee shop and tavern became the Victory Pub. The building was razed in 2012. A new building now occupies the lot, housing the Pulaski County Licensing Office and Lost in the Woods Antiques & Collectibles. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

electric properties of the Citizen's Electric Company in Waynesville and Iberia to the Laclede Electric Cooperative was completed June 6 after over two years of delays.

At the Public Service Commission hearings on the Citizen's Electric Company's application to transfer its properties to the Laclede Electric Cooperative twelve power companies operating in various parts of the state, strenuously objected to the transfer and delayed the completion as long as possible...

Mr. William Parrish will remain as local superintendent of the system and Mrs. Tyler will continue in the local office at Waynesville, handling collections, service calls, etc. Mr. Long will continue to work with Mr. Parrish in the operation of the system. The Cooperative is pleased that these people will continue under the Cooperative ownership.

GEORGE MORRIS BUYS WITT BUILDING HERE ON 66

George Morris, local business man here, bought the Witt building here last week from Harry Witt, who recently finished it. The dimensions are 63 x 146 feet of yellow brick in which the Victory Cafe is located.

The property also consists of a 4 room residence to the rear of the business, modern with two baths.

The main building is complete with furnace and cooling system and basement.

Dear Readers...

Emil Wenger of Licking entered their subscription for two years, Monday. They lived at Bloodland 9 years, until the advent of Ft.

Wood forced them to seek another location. Recently Mrs. Wenger chanced to pick up a *Democrat*, read it—then informed her husband that they would have to have this paper and at the first opportunity (today) he came into this office to subscribe. Their son Ronald is now stationed at Camp Phillips, Kansas. Emil has been helping Robert Keaton in the trucking business over two years.

June 29

McCarthy Bros. of St. Louis were awarded the contract for the construction of a 46 bed hospital here on Fort Hill, June 23, by the Federal Works Agency and the sum was \$126,365.

...Plans for the City Jail, firehouse

Pulaski Fine Arts Association
Theatre on the Square
Waynesville, MO

2020 Season

- *The Diary of Anne Frank*
March 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21
- *Always a Bridesmaid*
May 29, 30 June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13
- *Something Wicked This Way Comes*
August 28, 29 September 4, 5, 6, 11, 12
- *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*
December 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19



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KEVIN HILLMAN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
PULASKI COUNTY, MISSOURI

Enjoy Old Settlers Day
and
Thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of Pulaski County as Prosecuting Attorney.

and City Hall have been changed slightly, the exterior to be of red brick instead of the tile as formerly planned according to the Contractors, Plez E. Lewis & Son. The work is progressing nicely, the footings already poured. The building is located on the lot in the Shockley Addition where the home of Dep. Sheriff and Mrs. Carl M. Brisch formerly stood.

July 27

Dear Readers....

My longtime friend, Mrs. Phoebe Shockley, here made a pleasant call at the office one morning last week and when I remarked upon the beautiful lines of a handmade basket of split hickory she was carrying, she told of several interesting episodes in her long and useful life.

I can remember seeing Mrs. Shockley, over 30 years ago, riding into town from their farm near town, carrying baskets of eggs, butter and chicken—she always had something—for they raised practically everything on their fertile farm. Mr. Shockley was considered the wealthiest man in the County, being several years deceased. Speaking of Mr. Shockley, she said, “he was a good provider.”

She lived with her parents at Spring Creek, being one of a large family, she being the only one living, and at the age of 7 was sent to Rolla to attend school there, then later, the late John Pillman, whose farm

joined theirs, hired a teacher and the children went for miles around, the classes being held in a room in the Pillman home where Mrs. Pillman still lives.

During her early girlhood they raised the sheep, carded, spun and wove all the clothing they wore and a traveling cobbler arrived about once a year to make shoes for the family (and other families). Mrs. Shockley’s mother, the well known Mrs. Eliza Black of Waynesville passed away in 1930. *[Phoebe was the oldest of nine children born (1859) to Lewis and Eliza Black. Phoebe married Oliver W. Schockley in 1893, the year before her parents bought the Waynesville House, renamed it the Black Hotel, and moved from Arlington to Waynesville. Today, the Black Hotel is known as the Old Stagecoach Stop. Phoebe, although the oldest child, outlived her parents and all of her siblings. She died in 1954 at almost 95 years of age.]*

WANTED--Basket timber, white oak, generally north hill-side, 6 to 12 inches through. 36 to 84 inches long. Clear of knots. Will buy by load or entire tract. C. T. Wells Basket Shop, Hooker, Mo. *[By this time, Clarence Wells was the premier basket maker in Pulaski County. He and his wife made their baskets in the side yard of their native stone house in Hooker on original Route 66. The new four-lane took most of their*

back yard. The Wells’s native stone house still stands on the old road across from the Hooker Cemetery. An excellent article written by two Wells family descendants, “Route 66, The Wells Family and Baskets,” appeared in the 2005 Old Settlers Gazette.]

HIGHWAY WORK PROGRESSING NEAR HOOKER

Work on the two-lane highway, a part of U. S. 66 system, is progressing rapidly near Hooker and the Pulaski-Phelps County line according to latest reports. Grading is being carried on and clearing the right-of-ways.

Cardinals play exhibition game before 10,000 soldiers, won 10-1; Jim Bottomley of Bourbon there.

September 28

Paving Half of Street on North Side of Square Commencing the first of the week one half of the street on the north side of the courthouse is being paved.

The other half will probably be paved later.

October 19

PAVING FINISHED ON EAST SIDE OF COURT SQUARE

Paving has been finished on the East side of Court Square in Waynesville and everything is in readiness to pave the North Side.

This only includes one-half of the street. The property owners are not paving at this time.

Sgt. George Lane, Jr. has undergone his fifth operation at Miami, Florida and is doing as well as can be expected. George served over two years overseas—in the North African Invasion, Sicily, and in Italy, after which he was sent home for medical treatments and has not responded as was hoped by his many friends in Pulaski County. He is in the Air Force.

November 2

The telephone exchange at Fort Leonard Wood handles an average of 30,000 calls daily, with each operator completing 325 calls each hour. In addition to the thousands of local calls, a long distance exchange situated in a service club handles 400 long distance calls for soldiers each day, and 2,000 more such calls are handled at the main exchange. And 1,500 calls each day are for “information.”

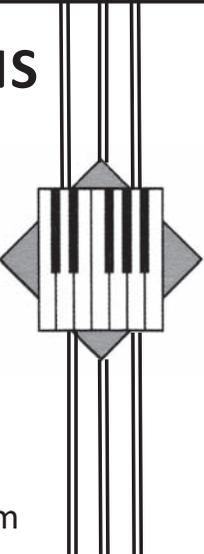
Dear Readers...

V. V. and I drove along U. S. 66 east to the Phelps County line Sunday afternoon, enjoying every foot of the way and noted that much work has been done and is continuing along the new U S. 66 survey—and such curves and turns and for at least a quarter of a mile near Hooker the highway traverses the Hooker creek noted for its propensity for quickly submerging the lowlands on occasions—and pushing debris of every kind into the Big Piney without warning. Great culverts

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- 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 Historic
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 Waynesville!
 Enjoy Old Settlers Day.



Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

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have been built and the creek bed changed to divert the water along the proper channels. The deepest cut in Missouri along any highway is to be found beginning at Sunset Rest and ending near the Hooker school house.

The late George M. Reed, father of Guy M. Reed here was County Highway Engineer when the survey was made along which the present U. S. 66 meanders with the bridge across the Big Piney at Devils Elbow, west of which is the famous stone wall [below], overlooking some of the most beautiful spots to be found anywhere and at that time was known as Highway No. 14. Mr. Reed managed the finances so that this township had more road for the money than any other section.

The new bridge, practically completed, is several hundred yards below the [1923] Devils Elbow bridge across the Big Piney and is only a short distance west of the deep cut on U. S. 66.

Red clad nimrods will take to the wooded hills of twenty Ozark counties Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4 for the first open season on deer in Missouri in seven years.

Since the Conservation Commission suspended all deer hunting

after the 1937 open season, the state's deer herds have increased from about 2,500 animals to more than 15,000, according to Commission estimates. The last open season was held Oct. 28, 29, and 30, in 1937. That year hunters reported a total kill of 108 legal bucks. A deer tag is \$3.15. However, Pulaski is not one of the twenty counties to have a season.

December 7

Only Mile Left to Finish on 66 From Route 28 to Hooker Hill Cut

Only a fraction over a mile of U. S. 66 is left to complete of the improvement which serves Fort Leonard Wood East of Waynesville.

This project consists of two 22 foot portland cement concrete pavements of 1.088 miles.

This improvement begins from Route 28 and extends to the Hooker Hill cut, the deepest cut along a Missouri highway.

FORT LEONARD WOOD FOUR
YEARS OLD DECEMBER 3
**From Virgin Forest to Bustling
Military Community**
SEVEN MILES SOUTHEAST
OF WAYNESVILLE

Four years ago today, on Dec. 3, 1940, a small group of construction



The "famous stone wall" is 398 feet, six inches long at the top of the hill southwest of Devils Elbow on the original Route 66. The wall was built in 1923 when the road was Highway 14 and a dirt road. The wall is two feet high on the road side and, at one point, the rock and mortar wall extends 18 feet downward to fill a gully. The roadbed was paved in 1930.

workers and army officials shivered in the first wind-whipped snow of a blustery Ozark winter as they broke ground for an army post destined to become one of the nation's greatest; a military training ground that now has turned out almost a quarter of a million first class fighting men and is still going strong.

The four-year-old Fort Leonard Wood, 86,000-acre training center for 10 branches of the Army Ground Forces and Army Service Forces, is situated 140 miles southwest of St. Louis in the rolling Pulaski County foothills. Five years ago the area, in the heart of the Mark Twain National Forest, was a paradise for summer vacationists; today it's a bustling, modern city, intent on the deadly-serious business of winning the war—as quickly as possible.

Six months after the first shovelful of frost-bitten earth was turned, the big fort was completely built and the first soldiers had embarked on their training program. The construction army which at one time had numbered 35,000 workers had moved on to new fields.

But not before they had turned Central Missouri into a replica of the Wild West during the most frenzied days. Boom towns sprang up overnight; trailer camps blossomed wherever the construction men decided to pull off the road and set up housekeeping, and the dozing, pleasant little towns of Rolla, Lebanon and Waynesville were rudely jarred out of their tranquility and transformed into thriving transportation hubs.

As construction began in earnest, the fort area became a sea of mud. Trucks bogged down and had to be pulled out by bulldozer—and occasionally even the 'dozers had difficulty. Streets couldn't be crossed by anyone who wasn't wearing long boots, so wooden catwalks built on the drawbridge principle were installed at intersections for the benefit of pedestrian workmen. When someone wanted to cross the street he lowered the bridge and

hurried over, immediately pulling the bridge back into the air before a passing truck could smash it into the mire.

On January 8, 1941, the post was officially named Fort Leonard Wood, in honor of Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, Spanish-American war hero and one-time governor general of the Philippines. But that didn't make living conditions any more enjoyable for the workers. The comforts of hot water, electric lights and sewage disposal were still missing, and the construction army journeyed en masse to one of the nearby towns whenever it felt the need of a bath. U. S. Highway 66 became as crowded with traffic as a superhighway leading into a big city on a warm, pre-war Sunday afternoon.

While work on the fort itself was in progress, other crews were engaged in building a 22 mile spur track from the nearest rail line, at Newburg. This super-project was completed only a short time after the post was pronounced ready to receive its first military tenants. [See the 2018 Old Settlers Gazette for "Building the Fort Wood Branch of the Frisco."]

First military unit to set up shop was the Engineer Replacement Training Center, under the command of Brig. Gen. U. S. Grant 3rd. Activated in March, the ERTC

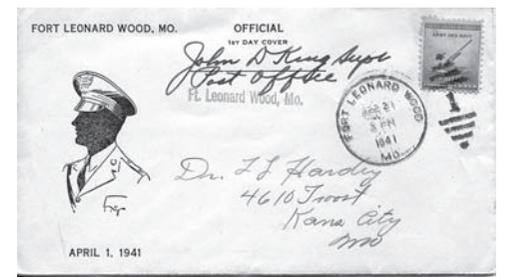


A bulldozer mired in the mud is being extricated by another dozer. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas

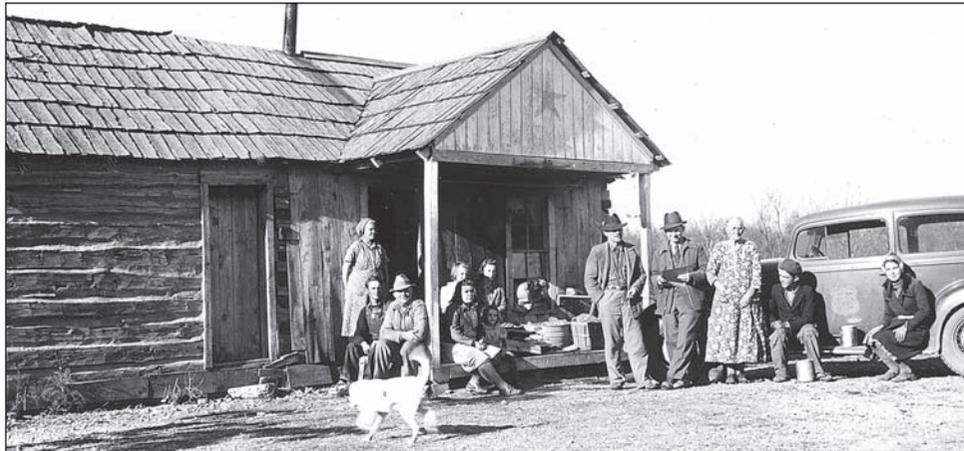
began training its first engineer soldiers a month later. The area was found to be ideal for engineer training, since it abounds in rivers, gullies and other obstacles which it is the engineer's job to overcome

in combat. Big Piney River, which flows along the south and east sides of the fort, ceased to be a paradise for Ozark 'float' fishermen and became a maze of pontoon bridge training sites. Assault

boats flashed across the river and established bridgeheads on the opposite shore, bulldozers plowed new roads through the forest, and blue-denim clad troops wound their way through upland thickets, occasionally stumbling onto weather-worn earthworks which had been thrown up in this area by Union forces during a sidlight battle of the Civil War.



Above The first day cover (envelope) commemorating the newly built fort and post office. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



This family of ten (and three generations) lived in this log house. The men in suits and hats are foresters taking an option on (i.e. appropriating) the family's farm. This was one of 304 families displaced by the building of Fort Leonard Wood. For a more thorough look at the process, see "Displaced Persons of Fort Leonard Wood," in the 2010 Old Settlers Gazette. Photo courtesy of The State Historical Society of Missouri.



The drawbridge is raised, ready to be lowered when an officer wished to cross the ankle-deep mud on the road. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

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In June, 1941, the 6th Infantry Division moved from Fort Snelling, Minn., to take up residence at the Missouri fort. One of the few regular army divisions that formed the nucleus of the nation's 1941 defense bulwark, the 6th quickly entered upon training tests and maneuvers designed to fit it for any duty it might be called on to perform. Remember—at this time Pearl Harbor was still six months in the future. Today the 6th is in the Southwest Pacific theater, where it acquitted itself nobly in the New Guinea campaign. It is now under General MacArthur's command for the drive on Japan.

The 72nd Field Artillery Brigade (Michigan National Guard) also was one of the early tenants, and



Above left Accommodations during construction were hard to find. If a worker had a car and trailer, he might park in a roadside field. Courtesy of The Historical Society of Missouri.

Above Fort Leonard Wood also brought nightmarish traffic congestion, particularly at the Wye, where Route 66 traffic veers south to Fort Wood. Courtesy of the MoDot Collection, Missouri State Archives.

Below Learning to build pontoon bridges across streams was a big part of the engineer training. This snapshot on the Big Piney River was taken by a soldier at "Pontoon School." Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

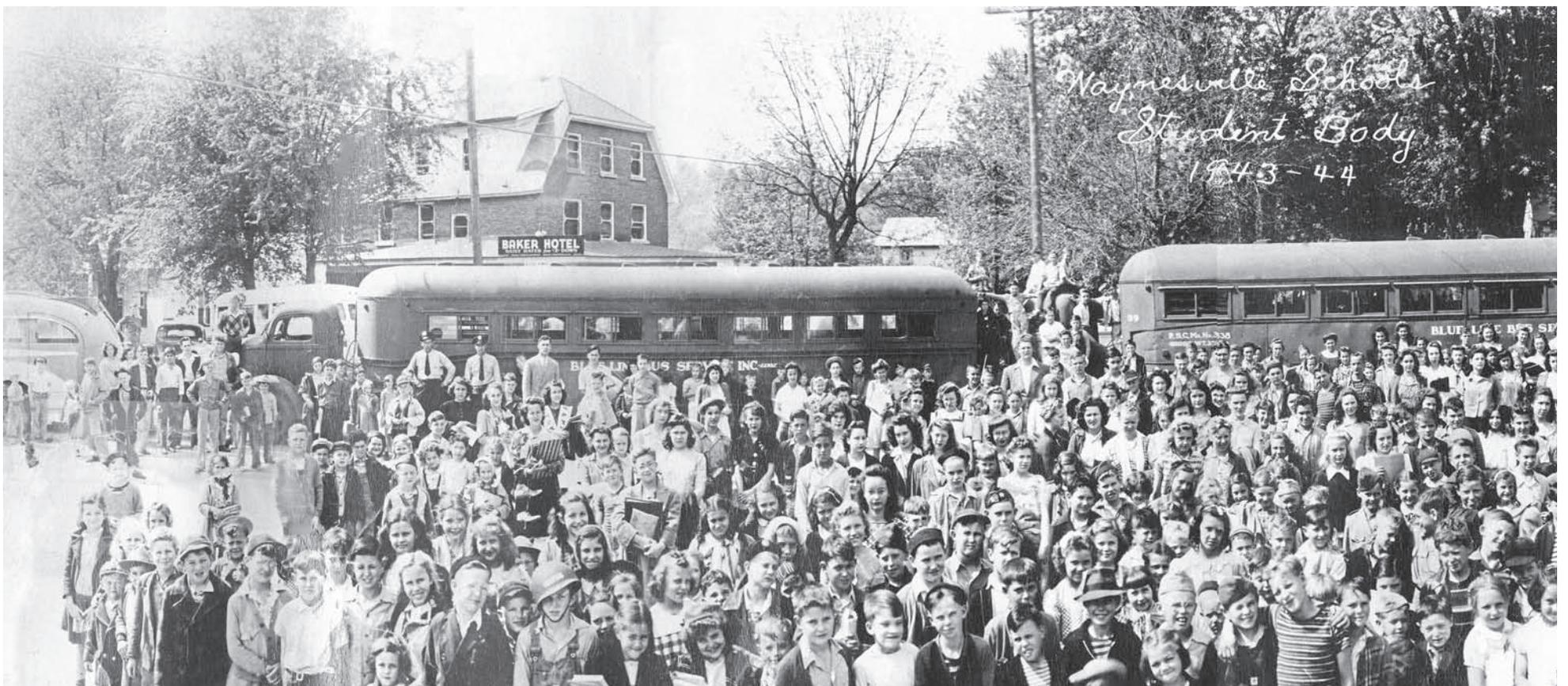


thousands of service troops moved in to take up "housekeeping" duties connected with operation of the huge fort.

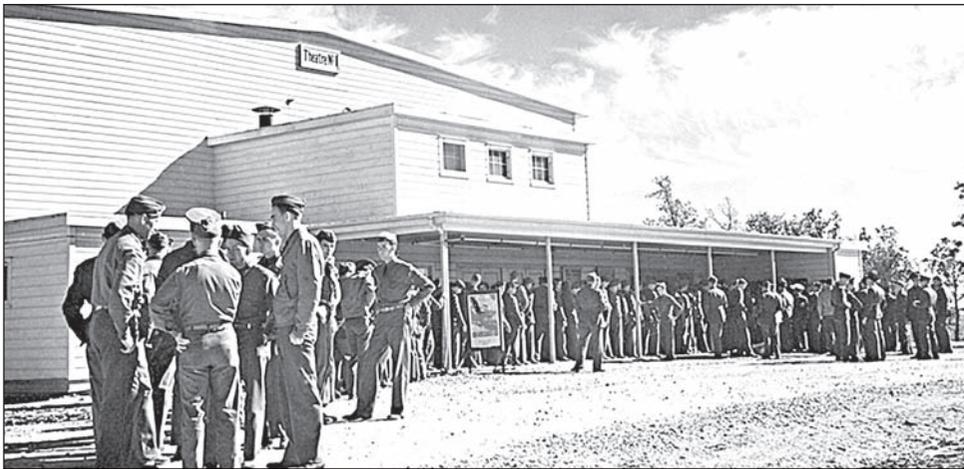
The training tempo increased rapidly when the nation was plunged into war, and the post's history since Dec. 7, 1941, is largely a closed book for reasons of military security. However, it's safe to say that at least one other division which trained here is seeing action. That is the 8th Infantry Division, which followed the 6th to Fort Leonard Wood in late 1942 and is now fighting on the Western Front as a unit of the six Allied armies ripping through the West-wall.

And Fort Leonard Wood is the birthplace of the only army division ever activated in Missouri—the 75th. On April 15, 1943, military and civilian dignitaries from all over the nation assembled here to take part in activation ceremonies for the new unit, composed chiefly of 18 and 19-year-old men. Lieut. Gen. Ben Lear, now commanding general of the Army Ground Forces, and Gov. Forrest C. Donnell made the principal addresses at the impressive ceremony on the breeze-swept

Waynesville Schools's Student Body, 1943-44. Photographed on the north side of the square. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



Below Soldiers stand in line at Theater #1 to see a movie. This theater was one of six located on the post. The theaters also hosted traveling shows provided by the USO. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



parade ground, as "Missouri's own" division took its place in the nation's military family.

After four years of never ending expansion and improvement, Fort Leonard Wood ranks today as one of Missouri's largest, most modern "cities." Traffic flows over 435 miles of paved and asphalt roads, 500,000 feet of electric power line is in service, and a modern filtration system supplies the fort with 4 1/2 million gallons of pure water daily. If statistics interest you, here are a few more: The post has 457,000 feet of water mains and 423,000 feet of

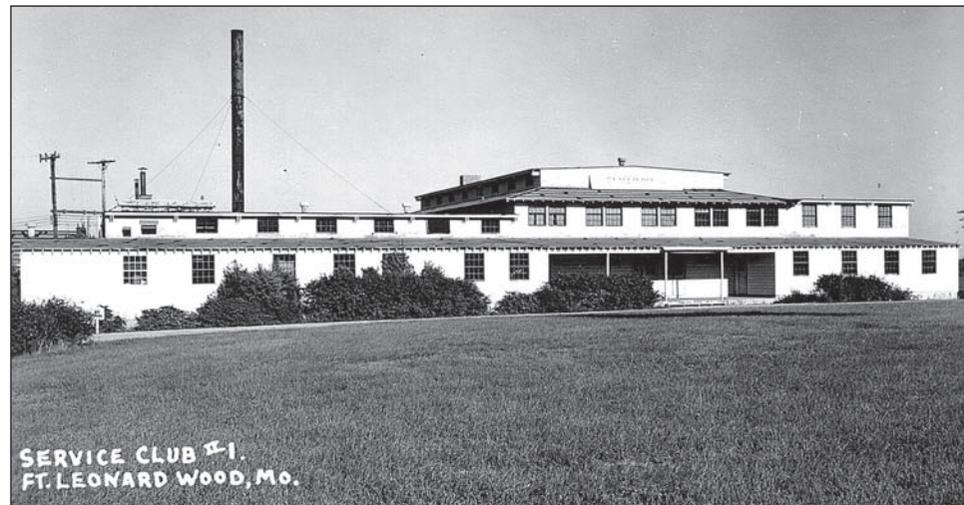
sewer mains, and burns 125,000 tons of coal each year.

Since the business of soldiering isn't all work and no play, Fort Leonard Wood has entertainment and recreation facilities that would be hard to beat anywhere, in or out of the army. Six large theaters show first-run films even before they appear in metropolitan areas, and every month a traveling stage show is sent to three of the theaters by the USO. A mammoth field house, large enough to accommodate three basketball

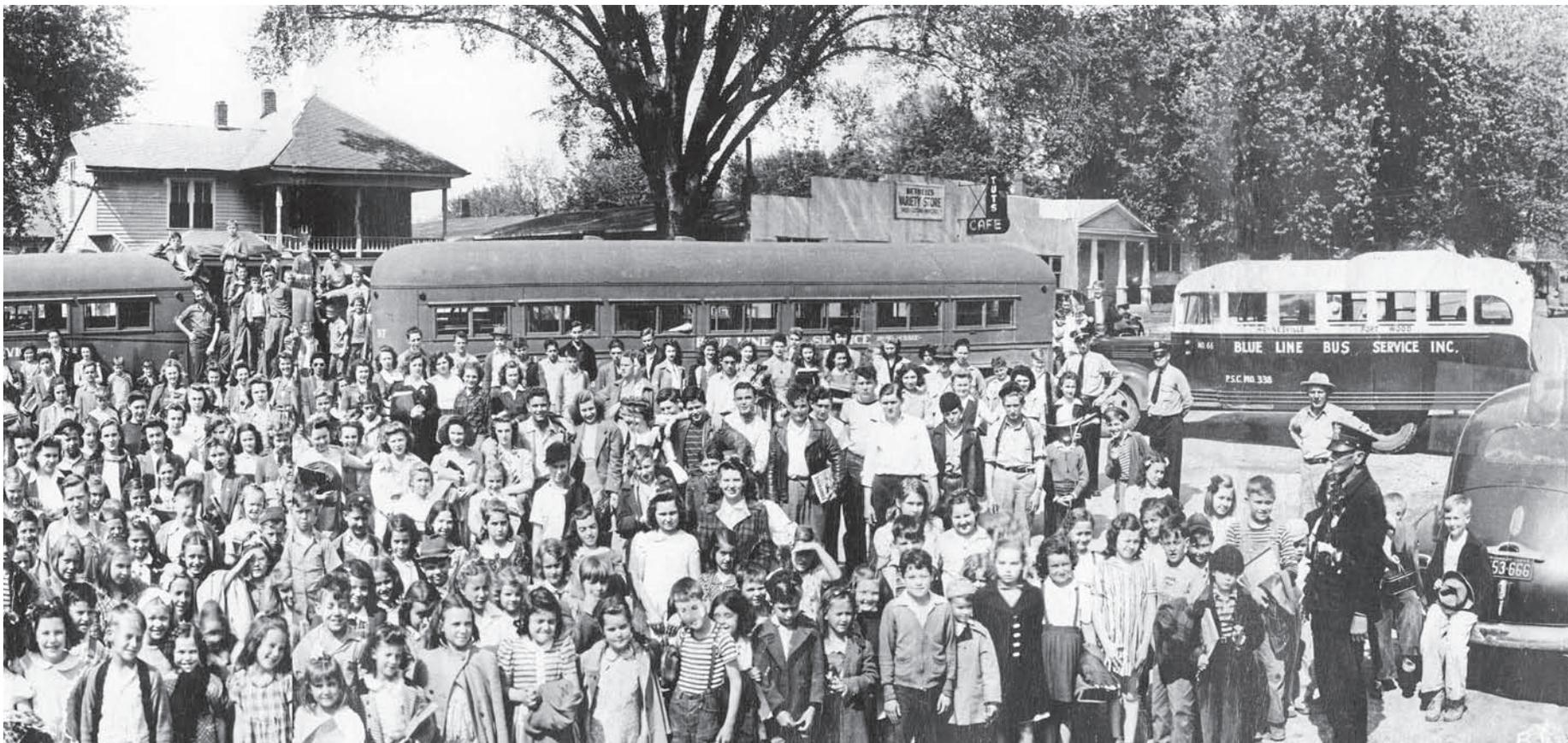
games at one time, is a G. I. version of Madison Square Garden. One night the arena will be the scene of a boxing match, the next night a basketball tournament may be in progress, and the following night a stage revue featuring big-name



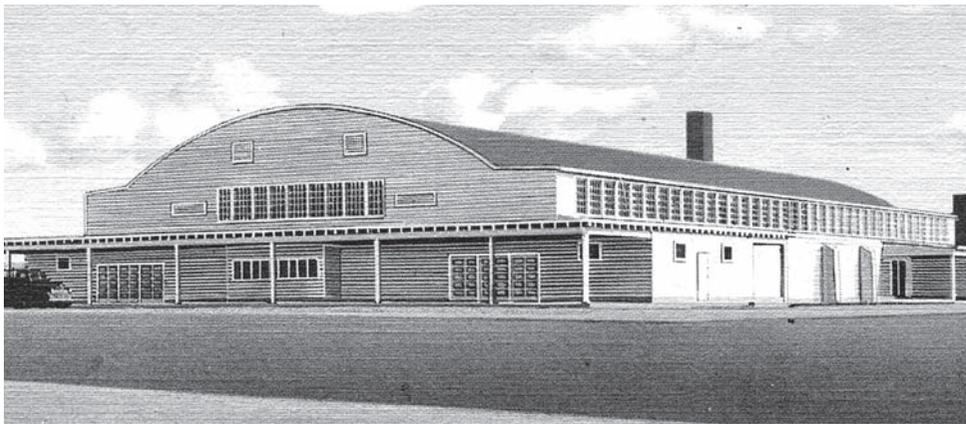
The laundry had more than an acre of floor space under one roof. It required 400 workers to launder bed linens, towels, and uniforms for 25,000 soldiers. In addition to civilian employees, POWs were detailed to work in the laundry. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



Service Club #1 was one of four service clubs spotted around the post. The large clubs had cafeterias, libraries, and other opportunities for leisure time activities. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



For the panorama effect, fold and create the right edge of the picture on page 26 and match to left edge of image on page 27.



The “mammoth” field house was built in 1942. It is still in use providing recreational opportunities. It was named Nutter Field House in 1954 in honor of Daniel Nutter, a 24-year-old infantry officer killed in France in 1944. It is the largest venue in the area and is occasionally used for area-wide public meetings. Its audio-visual system was enhanced in 2015 for such use. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

entertainers from St. Louis will hold the spotlight. Vladimir Golschmann and his St. Louis Symphony Orchestra are veteran guest stars at the field house; they attracted an audience of 3700 music-lovers in 1943, and this week they’ll be back for another concert. At regular intervals, too, the field house is transformed into a ballroom capable of accommodating 1000 dancing couples, and on one occasion it became a conference hall for 275 high-ranking officers of the Army Service Forces from all over the nation. Another time, the arena was the “big top” for a touring two ring circus.

Four service clubs, each with library, cafeteria, writing desks and game rooms, are spotted about the post, further supplying G. I. Joe’s recreational needs. Religious services are held in 14 chapels.

The fort is especially proud today of its 1737-bed hospital, boasting the latest equipment and drugs known to medical science and staffed by some of the top-notch doctors the army has drawn from civilian life. Two dental clinics, likewise the equal of any in or out of the army, pull 70,000 teeth and fill 228,000 others each year.

The post has its own airport, fire department, post offices, telegraph



The 90 single-story buildings that comprised the hospital were located on the northern edge of the post. Of these, 48 were wards. Each building was steam-heated from one large heating plant; the steam pipes extended from building to building within the covered walks that connected all the buildings in the area (almost 2½ miles of walkways). Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



Typical interior of one of the 48 wards. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



Young women are learning the job of vending vitamins for victory in the Army’s first established training school for hospital dietitians in May of 1944. Here, First Lt. Mary A. Stretal (center), chief dietitian at the hospital, discusses patient menus with apprentice dietitians who will be commissioned Second Lieutenants upon completion of their training. World Wide Photo courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



One of the five fire stations manned by a force of 60 men. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



Corporal Rosella Malone, Dana, Ind., mail clerk at Fort Wood, demonstrates the latest in cold weather ideas for WACs. The crocheted, beribboned bootees she is holding keep the cold metal of “dog tags” from chilling the WAC, and at the same time prevent tags from jingling against each other. Acme Newspictures, Inc., courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

office, telephone exchange, bowling alleys, bus line, laundry, dry-cleaning plant, ration board—and beauty shop. The latter item is a concession to the eternal feminine, as represented by WACs and nurses.

A camp within a camp, situated at the south end of the cantonment area, houses German prisoners of war who work on various non-military projects about the fort.

Today no one can say what the

next four years will hold for Fort Leonard Wood. But one thing there can be no doubt—during its brief life the big, bustling encampment has had a man sized share in the job of preparing American fighting men for the task ahead of them. It's been a job well done, and it will continue to be done well until the last Nazi and Jap has seen the error of his ways. Missouri can be proud of her war-born child.

December 21

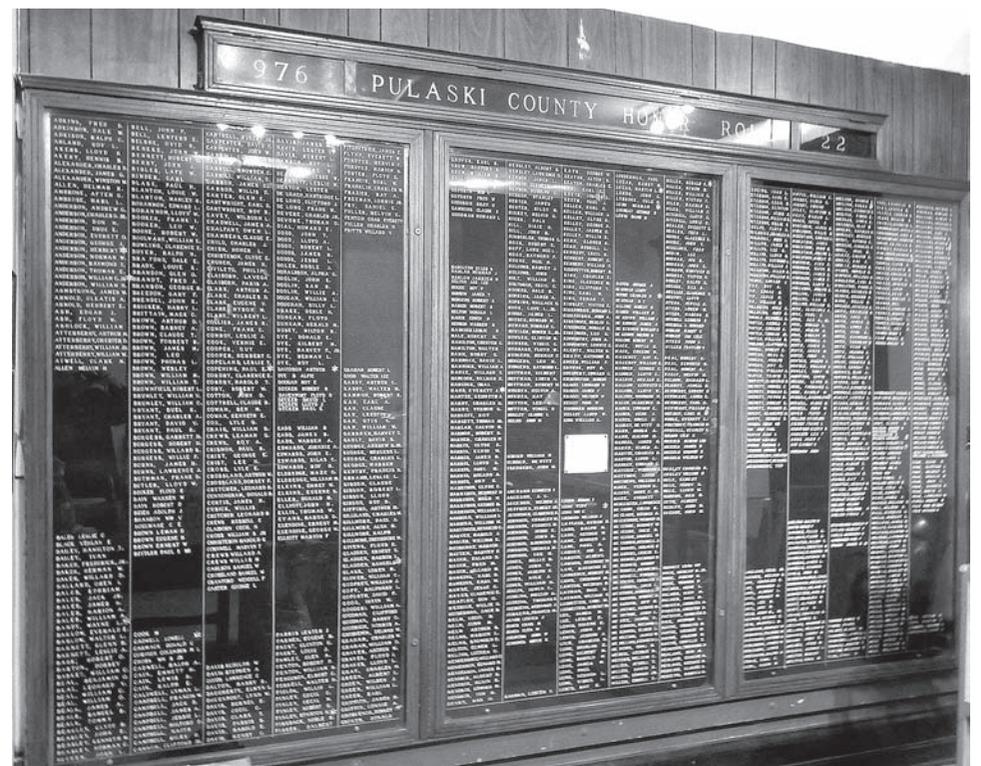
The Pulaski County Court has installed a roster of all the young men of Pulaski County in the service of their country in the corridor of the Court House in Waynesville [above right]. There are over 900 names on the list.

Dear Readers...

The grim business of war was felt in reality here in Waynesville Monday, big guns roaring away, they shook the earth so that the impact was felt strongly here in Waynesville. The heaviest that I have noted since the advent of Ft. Wood.

CHIEF OF POLICE DOTSON SUTTON COMPLIMENTED ON HIS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HIS RESEMBLANCE TO GENERAL MARK CLARK

Chief of Police Dotson Sutton here is very proud of his record as a law enforcement officer in the City of Waynesville and proudly points to the fact that civilian drunkenness has been cut to a minimum.



R. I. James of Laquey tells this story regarding Chief Sutton—
 ”About a week ago I chanced to be on a bus enroute to my home near Laquey when a disabled, discharged veteran and I were engaged in a lengthy conversation and looking out the window. While stopped in Waynesville at the Bus Terminal he called my attention to an officer on the street—Chief of Police Sutton. Said the soldier, “That man looks exactly like General Mark Clark—walks like him and carries a pearl-handled gun as he does.”

Naturally, Chief Sutton [right] is very proud of the fact that this young man thought he resembled General Clark.



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