

## HONORING &amp; REMEMBERING

## Clay County Veterans' Stories:

## 2nd Class Boatswain Mate Marvin Hanson

BY DONNA SCHAFER

VFW Auxiliary President  
Clay County Post 3061

Second Class Boatswain Mate Marvin Hanson was born to Irving and Rosie Hanson at Meckling.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1942. His first train ride took him to Des Moines, IA where he was sworn into the Navy on Oct. 7, 1942. Training camp took place in Great Lakes Training Center in North Chicago, IL. After his 30-day stint there, Melvin was sent home on a 10 day leave. His next destination was aboard a Merchant Marine ship, in California, headed for Noumea, New Caledonia.

On New Year's Eve of 1942 he was assigned to the USS President Jackson as a seaman.

Like many of the ships at that time, his was a con-

verted luxury liner. In 1941, it became an attack transport ship for the US Navy. It was part of the Pacific Fleet.

"There were hundreds of feet of steel cable, booms and winches to hoist boats in and out of the water; trucks, guns and supplies were transferred in and out of the holds where they were stored and had to be put in boats and taken to beaches," said Marvin.

The first battle he was in was Feb. 17, 1943. It was a torpedo attack.

"There was a tanker ship with us. If it had been hit there would have been a huge explosion. I was very scared."

It was a daily struggle to control the islands.

"November 1, 1943, they landed third Division Marines on Bougainville," he said. "When the wave hit the beach, the ship had

to get under way to repel enemy aircraft. On Nov. 8, we went back to reinforce the Marines. Again and again we went back out to sea to repel bombers. There were about 100 planes out there and 45 dive bombers got through our fighter planes. Five bombs fell around us.

"A 500 pound bomb hit the king post (a pipe about three feet across and 40 foot high that holds the booms used to unload the ship and is the crow's nest as well) and bent the firing pin so it didn't explode. It hit the hole where there was 40 barrels of aviation gas was stored, so I guess someone was watching over us."

The USS President Jackson also made several trips to Australia and New Zealand to transport troops for R&R. "It also took on wounded and rigged up jig-

ging that allowed us to bring three stretchers off a landing craft at one time," he said. "An operating table was set up in the mess hall and we transported wounded to a hospital ship. This took place during the battle for Iwo Jima."

The USS President Jackson earned eight battle stars in the South Pacific.

One of the hardest parts of being in the Navy was not getting mail on a regular basis. Sometime it was four months before any mail would arrive.

Marvin was transferred from the ship in May, 1945. He was sent to Norfolk, VA for harbor tug duty, moving and decommissioning ships for seven months.

He was discharged on Dec. 28, 1945.



Monica Iverson and Jim Waters, along with family and friends, have been working tirelessly in recent weeks as they prepare to open their new business, Café Brulé. What they didn't expect was the outpouring of support they would receive from downtown business people when some heavy equipment arrived last Wednesday morning. Soon, a large volunteer crew was doing the "heavy lifting" to unload the equipment, using everything from their backs to more powerful equipment to place some items on the roof of a portion of the restaurant's building. "This is just super," Iverson said. She and Waters hope to open their new Main Street restaurant in March. (Photo by David Lias)

## Orchestra concert by regional string students

The annual USD Spring Orchestra Festival will conclude with a free concert on Friday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Knutson Theatre in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts.

Each year the University of South Dakota Department of Music invites high school string students from around the region to come for a full day of music – rehearsals, museum tours, and other presentations, culminating in a concert given by all the students.

This year orchestras from

Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, and private students from the region will assemble and begin rehearsals at 9:30 a.m. under the baton of Rick Rognstad of the USD Music Faculty.

The program celebrates music by women composers and includes soloists Dr. Eunho Kim, violin, and Dr. Marie-Elaine Gagnon, of the USD Music faculty and Rawlins Piano Trio. For additional information contact Rick Rognstad, 677-5722.

## CHECK IT OUT

## At the Vermillion Public Library

BY ANNE MARSHALL

## Activities at the Library

It is that time of year again! Volunteers trained to use material provided by the IRS will provide tax preparation services at the library. Scheduled hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, March 19 and 26, and April 9. Pick up a list of free tax services at the circulation desk.

'DearReader', the online book club, has added a Teen tab to its library tabs for Facebook. This tab displays the daily book club excerpt right on Facebook. Teens can sign up for the Teen Book Club without leaving Facebook. This also opens the door for teens to post comments about the current books and make their friends aware of new books.

'DearReader' has also added the feature, Book-Tweets that automatically sends out a tweet letting people know what books their library is featuring each week on the Online Book Club. This feature is available to the book club members. A link in the tweet takes readers to a page showing each of the clubs, the book jackets, titles, and authors. Patrons can then click to read the excerpt in their browser, on their mobile device, or click to subscribe to the daily emails. For more information email the site at Info@DearReader.com.

Check out the VPL's TumbleBookLibrary and TumbleReadables collection on the library's home page. Click on the children's department link. Readers can look at a new read-along graphic novel demo by clicking on this site, [http://tumblebooks.com/swap/RampRats\\_GraphicNovelDemo.swf](http://tumblebooks.com/swap/RampRats_GraphicNovelDemo.swf).

The library's home page has also added a link the WebMD. The homepage address is <http://vpl.sdln.net>.

## Weekly Online Book Club

The DearReader.com Book Club offers many selections to Internet patrons. Each book runs for five days, Monday through Friday. Some genres offer selections every other week. Check out this service by registering at the library's Web site, <http://vpl.sdln.net> and clicking on the book club icon. The Online Book Club is asking it's readers to write and tell what they enjoy about this special lib, 2011 are:

AUDIO BOOK: No selection for this week.

BUSINESS: Outstanding, by John G. Miller.

FICTION: The Rhetoric of Death, by Judith Rock.

GOOD NEWS: The Anonymous Bride, by Vickie

McDonough.

MYSTERY: Cat Sitter Among the Pigeons, by Blaize Clement.

NON-FICTION: The Unforgiving Minute, by Craig M. Mullaney.

PRE-PUB: No selection for this week.

ROMANCE: Chasing Perfect, by Susan Mallery.

SCIENCE FICTION: No selection for this week.

TEEN: The Mermaid's Mirror, by L. K. Madigan.

THRILLER: No selection for this week.

## New Adult Historical Fiction

The Gold Rush has taken hold of the Wild West. Pioneers from around the country congregate in makeshift settlements like Motherlode in hopes of striking it rich. It's here that Alex, disguised as a boy and on the run from her troubled past, is able to blend in among the rough and tumble prospectors living on little more than adrenaline and moonshine. Pick up author Mary Volmer's first novel, Crown of Dust.

Exiled in Paris, tiny, one-hundred-year-old Mathilde

Kschessinska sits down to write her memoirs before all that she believes to be true is forgotten. A lifetime ago, she was the vain, ambitious, impossibly charming prima ballerina assoluta of the tsar's Russian Imperial Ballet in St. Petersburg. Now, as she looks back on her tumultuous life, she can still recall every slight she ever suffered, every conquest she ever made. The True Memoirs of Little K, by Adrienne Sharp is a riveting story that thrusts readers into a world lost to time. Sharp is also the author of novels White Swan, Black Swan and The Sleeping Beauty.

In the harsh wilderness of colonial Massachusetts, Martha Allen is forced to take work as a servant in her cousin's home. Unwed and, at 19, considered by most a spinster, Martha locks wills with everyone around her, including Thomas Carrier, a resolutely silent worker with a mysterious past, whose stubborn independence matches her own. The Wolves of Andover, by Kathleen Kent, is a story

of love and intrigue from the early days of America's history. Kent is the national bestselling author of The Heretic's Daughter.

In 1861, as the United States teeters on the brink of civil war, Colonel Charles P. Rook organizes security in the nation's capital and monitors the death threats pouring into the White House. He surrounds Abraham Lincoln with bodyguards, covers rooftops with sharpshooters, and investigates conspiracy fomented by secessionists. Yet amid the chaos and confusion, a mysterious killer hired by a wealthy Southern planter, slips into the teeming city to eliminate President Lincoln. The First Assassin, by John J. Miller is a riveting thriller for fans of historical fiction.

The University of South Dakota College of Fine Arts Department of Music  
**Presents**  
**The USD Symphony Orchestra**  
*César Franck D Minor Symphony*  
Free Admission  
**7:30 P.M.**  
**Thursday,**  
**March 3, 2011**  
Knutson Theatre  
The Warren M. Lee Center  
for the Fine Arts

*This event is partially sponsored by a generous donation from the First Bank and Trust*

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