

Honoring & Remembering:

Corporal Dean Ticknor

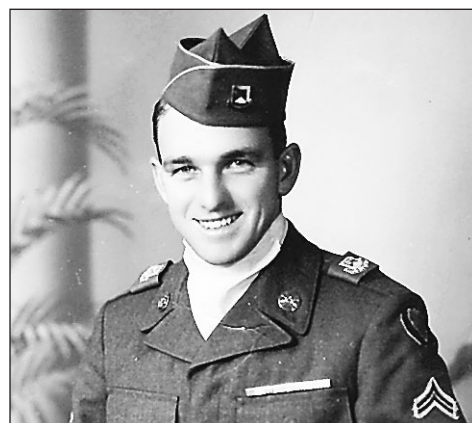
By Donna Schafer
VFW Auxiliary President
Clay County Post 3061

Corporal Dean Ticknor was born May 5, 1930 in Mrs. Stoupe's house in Burke to Elmer and Tillie Ticknor.

Dean was drafted into the Army Jan. 28, 1952. This was just less than two years after they married and his wife, Berniece was expecting their first child in August. When his son was born he received the news by letter from his wife before the telegram which had been sent by an officer reached him.

He left Burke and headed for Sioux Falls. The next jaunt was to Chicago where he was outfitted. Fort Knox, KY was where he spent the next 16 weeks in Boot Camp and Tank Training. Dean belonged to the Tank Division 3rd Armored, 4th Platoon. He was trained as a gunner which shot 76 millimeter guns on the tank. He would look through a telescope, aim, and fire. The shot could go over 2,000 feet. Occasionally, the commander would let you know when there was a target you couldn't or didn't see.

After he left Fort Knox, KY, he was flown to San Francisco, CA to board the U.S.S. General W.A. Mann to go to Japan. The trip took about 12 days. They arrived in Yokohama to get ready for Mt. Fuji which was a training area. Their sleeping quarters were tents, covered by a very large canopy, probably for protection from the weather



DEAN TICKNOR

because it was very cold in the winter and extremely hot in the summer. They usually received two hot meals a day. Breakfast usually consisted of fruit juice, cereal, and sometimes powdered eggs. Dinner was the worst; Spam and fruit were served regularly. Most of the men hated Spam. "I cannot eat it up to this day. It was fried, made with soup, or served with rice. Many times the sergeants took an extra food so the soldiers did not have as much food as they wanted. The sergeants would say they didn't send as much food this week and we figured out that the sergeants were selling food to townspeople for extra money," Dean said.

Dean was a gunner on a tank or a talk commander which he didn't do a lot.

However, he guarded prisoners most of the time. Since everything needed to be ironed, Dean would iron the men's clothes for 50 cents. This would get him about \$100 a month. He would keep 30 dollars and send the rest home to his wife. Berniece's allotment after the baby arrived was \$179 a month.

My greatest fear was being captured by North Korea. Prisoners of war died in large number; either from lack of food, shelter, or medicine. Sometimes they were even marched to death; if the prisoner could not keep pace with their fellow prisoners they were left to die or executed by their captors," Dean said. "Overall, 130 of 700 prisoners of war died. The United Nation prisoners were moved to compounds and were taken care of. They had a sufficient amount of food and clothing. At one point in time there were over 80,000 prisoners. The International Red Cross kept a close look to make sure the prisoners were treated okay.

"In 1953 I was sent to Pusan, Korea to go to the front line. When we arrived the peace treaty was being signed and the war ended," he said. "So, my journey home started by going back to Japan, taking a ship to California. It was 12 long days, one which included Christmas, so we had Christmas dinner on the ship.

"Once we were docked, I flew to Colorado. I was discharged Dec. 31, 1953 at Camp Carson in Colorado Springs," Dean said.

Community blood drive set

Community blood Bank will hold a community blood drive at the Vermillion Hy-Vee on Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All blood types are in need.

"In the past week blood usage has increased by 19 percent mostly due to surgeries, and traumas," states Ken Versteeg, executive director, Community Blood Bank. "When you donate blood on May 21 at the Vermillion Hy-Vee you are helping local patients in their time of need. Your donations will make blood readily available 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

A person must be at least 16

years old (16 years old is require a signed parent consent form found at www.cbbllifeblood.org) weigh 110 pounds or more and be in good general health. It is recommended that a person eat and drink plenty of fluids prior to donating blood. All who donate will receive \$2 Beef Bucks compliments of the South Dakota Beef Council.

Community Blood Bank is the sole provider of blood (platelets, plasma and red blood cells) to 29 local hospitals including Sanford Vermillion. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 624-8287. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Historic Preservation Commission to meet

The annual spring gathering of the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission will occur Saturday, May 21, in downtown Vermillion at 15 Court St. (former location of Heart & Soul Fitness).

Scheduled events include:
• 9:30 a.m. Will Schweinle: Restoring and working with woodworking planes. A demonstration of the restoration process, and a chance to test-drive some of Will's hot rods.

• 10:30 a.m. Steve Howe, Jim Wilson, and John Erikson: Inspecting historic houses. A

discussion of tactics, techniques, problems, and possibilities.

• Noon. Lunch. Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? Also: John Grayson will be restoring a vintage light fixture before our very eyes.

• 1 p.m. Tom Thaden: A walking tour of the USD campus. You think you know those buildings?

• 2 p.m. Jim Wilson: Downtown masonry tour. Architecture is all around us, but better appreciated with some expert insight.

Free and open to the public.

12 young writers earn top honors

Twelve winners – including students in McCook Lake and Vermillion – have been named in South Dakota's PBS Kids Go! Writers Contest. The contest, for young writers and illustrators, was open to kids in kindergarten through third grade. This year, 382 children from across South Dakota entered the contest.

"We had so many good entries this year that it was tough for the judges to select the winners," said Wess Pravecek, SDPB Ready To Learn coordinator.

Each student wrote an original story and drew pictures to illustrate it. Each received a certificate honoring their effort.

The stories from the top 12 students – first, second and third in each grade level – will become part of SDPB Television's award-winning Dakota KidStories series. The half-hour program will air on Friday, July 8, at 2 p.m., and on Monday, July 11, at 2 p.m.

The top 12 read their stories for the television program and were honored at an awards ceremony at SDPB Television's Martin Busch Studio.

In addition, the winning stories are archived at SDPB.org/youngwriters.

Kindergarten: First place to Morgan Buenzow

of Mitchell for "Morgan's Flower Garden"; second place to Gabi Boyle of McCook Lake for "Ashley the Soccer Ball"; and third place to Allie Weber of Sioux Falls for "The Butterfly Who Found Her Colors."

First Grade: First place to Tristina Ting of Brookings for "A Butterfly Named Laura"; second place to Billie Jo Kilness of Howes for "Tippy and the Mouse"; and third place to Tayson Jones of Howes for "Squirrels Get a New Home."

Second Grade: First place to Alissa Wieman of Box Elder for "The Magic Lunchbox"; second place to Kolten Eszlinger of Baltic for "Missing Lures"; and third place to Emma Dahlhoff of Vermillion for "The Butterfly Hunt."

Third Grade: First place to Tom Ropp of Brookings for "Peacos Find Us First"; second place to Kate Ropp of Brookings for "Zenny Escapes"; and third place to Madeline Loewe of Lennox for "The Mystery of the Caring Caper."

Judges for the contest included Jane Healy, Electronic Resources Coordinator, South Dakota State Library, Pierre; Dr. Sherrie Bosse, Education Assistant Professor and Academic Advisor at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion; South Dakota's First Lady Linda Daugaard of Pierre; and Jennifer Abels, SALSA Coordinator, Sioux Falls.

President declares major disaster for S.D.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster aid has been made available to South Dakota to supplement the state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding beginning on March 11, and continuing.

Federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit

organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the flooding in the counties of Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Buffalo, Clark, Codington, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Jackson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Marshall, Miner, Moody, Perkins, Potter, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, and Sully. Federal funding is also available

on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for all counties within the state.

Mark A. Neveau has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Neveau said that additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Jones named to sales tax committee

State Rep. Tom Jones of Viborg has been named to the legislature's new committee on sales tax exemptions. He is one of 15 lawmakers who were named to the committee by the legislature's Executive Board.

Their assignment is to study a list of goods and services that are now exempted from the state sales tax. Many of the exemptions are in the health care and agriculture sector. If all the items were made taxable, the state would reap nearly \$500 million more every year in sales taxes. However, legislative leaders have cautioned that most of the goods and services have been exempted for valid reasons, so net revenue gains may not be easy to accomplish.

Some of the exemptions have

been examined in the legislature's taxation committees over the past several years, and efforts to repeal them have generally been unsuccessful.

Jones, whose seven family-owned grocery stores extended from Vermillion to Viborg, says he

is interested in serving on the summer study because of his experience with sales taxes as a businessman. He said he wants any changes in the system to be fair to taxpayers as well as the business and farm sectors.

First Dakota awards \$1,000 scholarship to Ellen Brown

First Dakota National Bank announced their FirstChoice Scholarship winners for 2011. Ellen Brown has been awarded \$1,000 in scholarship funds to be used for the 2011-2012 school year.

All FirstChoice Student Checking participants who are seniors in high school or college students attending a post-secondary accredited American college, vocational technical school or university are invited annually to apply for this excellent scholarship opportunity offered by First Dakota. Applicants are judged on leadership, financial

responsibility, school and civic involvement, and satisfactory scholastic progress.

Winners from other First Dakota locations include Kylie Gross, Yankton; Natalie Kathol, Yankton; Emily Anderson, Yankton; Riley Paulsen, Yankton; Shelby Schrank, Salem; Kayla Fanning, Parkston; Jessica Koupal, Wagner; Alexa Olson, Mitchell; Nathan Zens, Mt



BROWN

Vernon; Wylie Reimer, Chamberlain; Jonathan Miller, Kimball; Grace Chang, Sioux Falls; Brooke Madson, Sioux Falls.

First Dakota was founded in 1872 and holds the first bank charter issued in all of Dakota Territory. It has 13 full-service banking locations in ten South Dakota cities. It also has six loan production offices throughout South Dakota and Nebraska.

OBITUARIES

Augusta Merry

Augusta Pauline Merry, 93, of Yankton, formerly of Vermillion, passed away on Friday, May 13, 2011 at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 10 a.m. at St. Agnes Catholic Church in

Vermillion with Fr. John Fischer officiating. Burial will be in Rosehill Cemetery at 2 p.m. in Pender, NE. Visitation will be held on Friday, May 20, 2011 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion, with a wake service to begin at 7 p.m.

Augusta was born on Sept. 13, 1917 in Barney, ND to John and Mary (Jarmer) Fink. She married George Merry on June 3, 1940 in Morton, ND. They lived in Vermillion for most of their lives. Both were very active in the Vermillion Eagles Club – often traveling across the country. Augusta was inducted in the Eagles Hall of Fame for all of her

service and her dedication. Augusta and George were inseparable until George passed away in 2001.

Augusta is survived by her daughters, Beverly (Bob) Jacobson, Delores (Doug) Hrubby, and Carla (Mike) Feller; son, Ronald (Jackie) Merry; 14 grandchildren; and sister, Elsie

Griffith.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary Fink; husband, George Merry; son, Gordon Merry; grandsons, Robert and Shawn; and seven brothers and sisters.

Condolences may be posted online at www.koberfuneralhome.com.



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