

payable semi-annually. Members not having "very important" excuses for missing a monthly meeting were to be fined 25¢, and fined 50¢ for not being present at the semi-annual meeting. An investigating committee was appointed, and the first entertainment committee, consisting of Herbert Schulz, Charles Schindler, and Robert Vogt was appointed.

In 1921, only four meetings were held, the last one being on April 7. Then after 21 months without any meetings being held, Adjutant F. W. Ueckert called for a meeting on January 3, 1923, to collect dues. There were only five members present at this meeting. The meeting time was again changed (01-24-23) to 8:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

At the January 9, 1924, meeting the Adjutant was instructed to write to headquarters requesting that the name of the post be changed to "McBride Post No. 143." This request was approved.

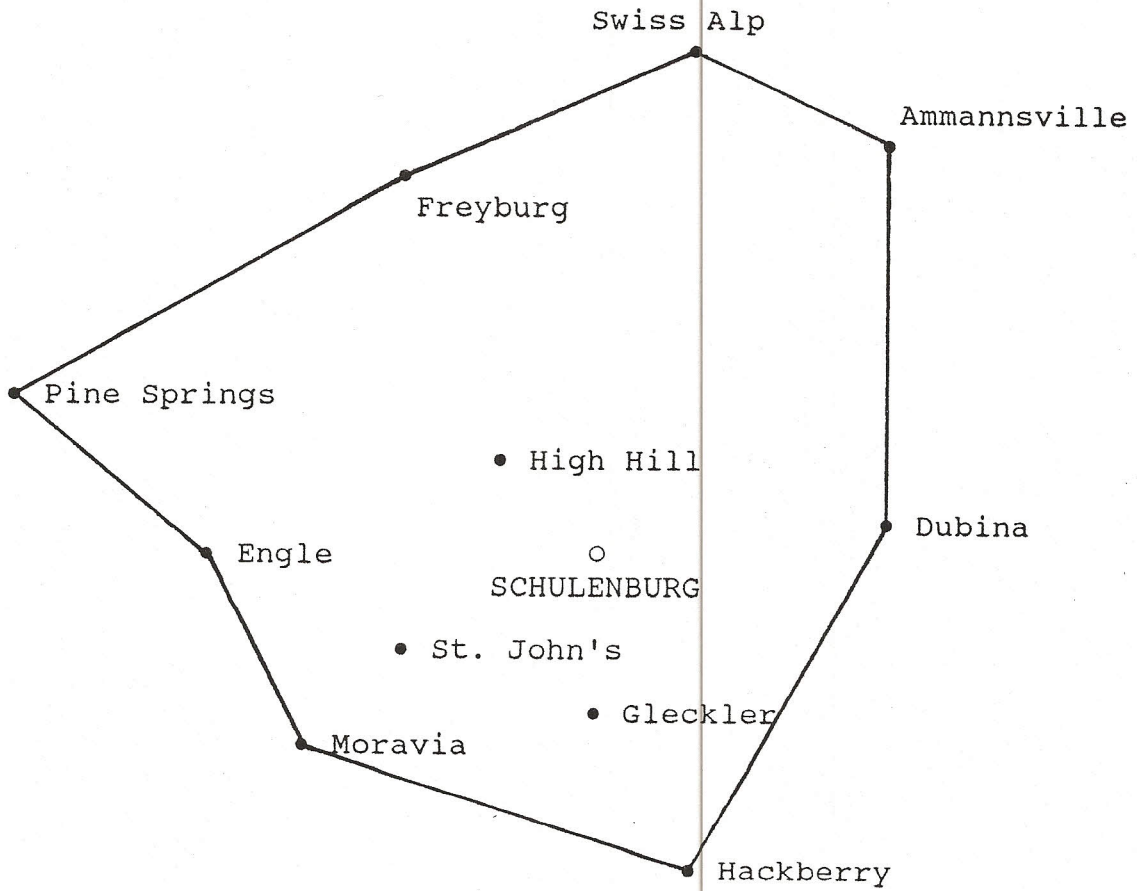
John Walter McBride, for whom McBride Post No. 143 was named, was born on April 15, 1894, near Schulenburg and died on August 9, 1919. He enlisted in Company M, Fayette County Unit in June, 1917. He was with the Texas National Guard, 141st Infantry, which was mustered into federal service on August 5, 1917. He was trained at Camp Bowie, Fort Worth, and entrained in June, 1918, for service with the American Expeditionary Force in France. He went into action at Compiègne and fought in the Battle of St. Mihiel where he was gassed and never fully recovered. He contracted pneumonia and after some time in the hospital, he returned by ship to the United States. He died en route to Texas in Atlanta, Georgia. His body was delivered to Schulenburg where he was buried with full military honors in the city cemetery.

For a time in 1924, 1925, and 1926, not too much interest was shown in the Legion and meetings were not regularly held. In 1927 (06-17-27), delegates were chosen for the first time to attend a state convention. They were E. H. Patton and Walter Schaefer, with R. G. Seeberger and Ray Kusey as alternates. The convention was held in Houston on July 4, 5, and 6, and each delegate was allowed \$5.00 for expenses and railway fare.

In 1930 (05-07-30), it was decided to hold the monthly meetings at the W.O.W. Hall for a rent of \$18.00 per year, payable in advance. And in 1931 (04-29-31), it was agreed to place a flag on each soldier's grave in the Schulenburg trade area (see map next page). On Memorial Day, May 3. This practice has continued every Memorial Day since then.

At the 1919 National Convention in Minneapolis it was approved for an auxiliary to be formed, to be composed of wives, sisters, mothers, and daughters of service veterans. Their first convention was held in Kansas

SCHULENBURG TRADING AREA
(Approximate)



Note -- Not drawn to scale.

city, Missouri, in October 1921, and the name chosen was "American Legion Auxiliary." 131,000 women had already joined and 40 states had organized. There were 335 delegates at this first convention, and Mrs. Lowell Fletcher Hobart was named the first National President. Headquarters was established at Indianapolis. Membership was clarified so that a relative of a Legion member or of someone who served honorably in the armed forces and subsequently would be eligible.

The idea of a local auxiliary again came up in 1931 and a committee was appointed to organize a ladies auxiliary unit of McBride Post. This unit was organized on November 12, 1931, with Mrs. Walter Schaefer elected as secretary. The auxiliary received its charter shortly after the beginning of 1932, this charter having been granted by headquarters on November 24, 1931. Mrs. Ray Kusey was elected as its first President.

It was unanimously voted (07-05-32) to send a girl to represent Schulenburg at the Bathing Beauty Contest to be held in conjunction with the State Convention in Corpus Christi on August 1, 2, and 3. Names were presented at a special meeting on July 12, and Miss Caroline Meyer was chosen from the four contestants by a vote of 21 to 10. The estimated cost was between \$25.00 and \$30.00, and the actual total expenses for Miss Meyer and her chaperon were \$29.68.

A La Grange delegation was present at the February 14, 1933, meeting asking for help from McBride Post at the District Convention to be held in La Grange on May 19, to which the Post responded favorably. Schulenburg hosted a District Convention for the first time on November 25, 1934. This convention showed a profit of approximately \$300.00, of which \$150.00 was presented to the auxiliary.

A discussion was held for the first time in 1934 (09-11-34), in regards to building a Legion Hall, but was tabled. Then at a later meeting (07-15-35) 100% present were in favor of building and discussed the possibility of obtaining a home loan. A committee was appointed to go to Austin to get details. Myke Klein, Chairman of this committee, reported on his trip to Austin, stating that it was impossible to secure federal aid to build a meeting hall.

Mr. Ermis brought up an offer (09-13-35) to allow the Legion to use his hall for their meetings. The members voted a counter-proposal, Mr. Ermis cut his offer in half, but it was still higher than the Legion proposal and was turned down.

A number of different money-making projects were held during the early 1930's, with may dances being sponsored as well as turkey shoots. In 1935, chances were sold on a car to be given away at a dance on November 24; which turned out to be a huge success, with both netting the Post \$820.18. This was a goodly sum of money in those days.

At the meeting on September 3, 1936, it was voted to give a picnic for members and families of the Post and Auxiliary on Sunday, September 13, the Post to furnish the meat and the Auxiliary to furnish the salad and trimmings. The cost of this picnic was \$89.45.

5. INTO REAL ESTATE

It was reported (10-01-36) that Oscar Wolters was willing to sell the city auditorium (Turner Hall). It was suggested that the Dairy Association, Fire Department, and American Legion buy the hall and move it to City Park (Wolters' Park). A committee was appointed to get the details and the committee reported (11-05-36) that each organization's share of buying the Turner Hall would be \$1200.00. A motion carried successfully that H. R. Clark look into the legal aspects, and that if all is in order that the Legion buy a one-third interest in the hall. Should the deal go through, W. A. Farek and Rud. Roeder were elected to be members of the governing board for twelve months.

At the December 3, 1936 meeting, W. A. Farek reported that the Legion had bought a one-third interest in the hall, to be known as the Tri-Association Hall, for \$1200.00. Since the Legion was short in funds, the Auxiliary was asked to be a one-sixth partner of the Legion for \$200.00, to which the Auxiliary agreed. The hall was moved to Wolters' Park during the winter of 1936-1937.

The plot of ground on which the hall is situated in Wolters' Park was leased for an annual fee of \$1.00 from the city of Schulenburg for a term of fifty years beginning November 26, 1936. It was mutually agreed between the city of Schulenburg and the members of the Tri-Association that if the Tri-Association desired to continue the lease after the expirations of fifty years, that the Tri-Association had the right to lease it for another fifty years under the same conditions and payments as specified in the original lease. This contract was signed on November 23, 1936, by R. Nordhausen as Mayor and W. R. Keuper as Secretary for the city of Schulenburg, approved by R. A. and O. H. Wolters, and signed for the Tri-Association by R. Nordhausen, Ray F. Kusey, E. H. Pratka, I. W. Speckels, Martin Krueger, Rud. Roeder, and William A. Farek.

For some reason or other this contract was at first not recorded. In fact, it was not filed for record until January 25, 1983, being recorded in Volume 623, pages 245-248, Deed Records of Fayette County. It describes the lease being for a plot of ground 75 by 125 feet on which the Tri-Association Dance Hall is to be placed within the limits of Wolters' Park, with right to ingress and egress from said plot, and the use of all the grounds needed for any entertainment held by lessee and for parking space for cars.

The "Sons of the American Legion" was approved at the National Convention held in 1932. Interest in it showed in posts throughout the country. It was agreed (01-07-37) to organize a local Sons of the Legion Squadron. At a special meeting called on May 20, 1937, the charter was presented, showing the following charter members:

Grady J. Blaschke
Harry Cernik
Marvin Cernik
I. E. Clark
Wm. A. Farek, Jr.
Alfred E. Flocke
Emil O. Friedrich
Ewald W. Friedrich
Herbert C. Friedrich
Billie Harmon
Bennie Hrcek
LaVerne Huser
Paul B. Huser
Leon R. Kainer
Ferdinand Klesel
Thaddeus X. Kubala
August Mitchon
Benjamin F. Olsovsky
Richard E. Parma
Lloyd T. Prilop
Jimmie Schofield
Clyde E. Schulz
David Marion Stahl
Lloyd Andrew Wessels

They elected their officers and started functioning. Harvey Clark was appointed Advisor, and he was instructed to raffle off a bale of cotton to raise funds, with the Post lending them the money with which to buy it. This organization was active for a number of years, but gradually diminished as its members grew up. Many of them entered the armed services and became Legion members. In 1961, its charter was revoked.

After trying the idea of holding meetings in the Tri-Association Hall, it was found that it did not work out very well because the hall was too large and because of scheduling conflicts due to its popularity. It was decided to hold all future meetings at the W.O.W. Hall on the first Tuesday of each month, the present meeting date.

McBride Post hosted the District Convention for the second time on October 19, 1937. Attorney General Wm. McGrange was the principal speaker and Gus Russek acted as Master of Ceremonies. Barbecue and coffee were served at dinner for 35¢ a plate. Again, the convention was a huge success.

6. A HOME AT LAST...AND ANOTHER WAR

The idea of a Legion building -- a club room this time -- was brought up (03-01-38). A committee was appointed and reported (04-03-38) that it had gone before the City Council to see if it was possible to build it in Wolters' Park. The City agreed that it could be built at any location within the park. The committee recommended that it be built north of the Tri-Association Hall.

The idea of a Legion home went into limbo for a while. It was again brought up (10-09-39) and again a committee was appointed. The committee reported that it had visited several Legion homes in the state and that the one at Karnes City was the one that was similar to what was needed (02-06-40). It would cost approximately \$1500.00 to build. It was voted unanimously to build the Legion Club House at Wolters' Park, with 18 members present. The Auxiliary agreed to put up \$200.00 for the Legion Club House, providing the kitchen would be arranged to their specifications, which was accepted by the Post.

The committee reported at the April 9, 1940, meeting that construction was under way and that between \$1400.00 and \$1500.00 had been spent on material and \$141.68 on labor. The meeting hall was dedicated on August 11. It was located west of the north entrance to the park on Bohlmann Avenue.

Schulenburg once again hosted the District Convention on May 25, 1941, and once again it was a successful undertaking.

The war clouds over Europe were getting darker, and on December 7, 1941, the Japanese staged a surprise naval and air attack on Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States into World War II. The attack was almost a carbon copy of the one put on by the United States at its War Games the previous year. Even though the United States had already started to mobilize through the Selective Service System (draft), they were far from being prepared for a full-scale war. During the four years of World War II 15,200,000 men and women were in the armed services at one time or other.

Two of the first to be inducted into the armed service in early 1941 were Elroy Skalka and Russell Schaefer, with Russell being wounded at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked. Roy Anders of Dubina was in the Bataan Death March. And a total of 89 men from the High Hill community served during the course of the war.

The aircraft warning system was explained (09-02-41) and set up. The following were appointed as chief observers:

- Post 26 -- Fred Ueckert
- Post 98 -- Emil Schulz
- Post 21 -- Julius Koether
- Post 48 -- Robert Stanzel

During the war, the Legion and Auxiliary both did much for the servicemen, sending them cigarettes and other gifts, and volunteering their time and effort for the various home-front projects in progress. The Auxiliary presented Mrs. Paul Machac a service pin for having five sons in the army (09-01-42). A service flag was dedicated with 26 stars representing sons of Legionnaires in the service (09-07-43).

Since the charter of "The American Legion" was amended to admit veterans of all conflicts, veterans of World War II started to join the Post. On January 4, 1944, it was reported that the Post had 131 members, 14 of which were World War II veterans. With this and the future actions, the following are the dates of eligibility as of June 30, 1994:

World War I	-	04-06-17 to 11-11-18
World War II	-	12-07-41 to 12-31-46
Korea	-	06-25-50 to 01-31-55
Vietnam	-	12-22-61 to 05-07-75
Lebanon/Grenada	-	08-24-82 to 07-31-84
Panama	-	12-20-89 to 01-30-90
Persian Gulf	-	08-02-90 to

Good news was given (02-06-45) when it was reported that all indebtedness of the Legion had been paid off.

National Headquarters set the policy that it was up to each individual state whether or not to establish black posts. Also that it was up to each post whether or not to accept blacks. The Texas Department okayed the establishment of black posts if the current post would sponsor it. The sponsoring of a black post was brought up and tabled (04-03-46). It was again brought up (06-27-46) and voted 29-7 not to sponsor a black post. However, this vote was rescinded (12-03-46) and it was voted to sponsor a black post if they could secure at least 15 members who were willing to pay the \$2.75 annual dues. Commander Ed Kyle and Adjutant Fred Strauss were asked to meet with them and explain the details. These officers reported (02-04-47) that Hugh Carroll Post No. 881 had been organized and was waiting for its charter from National Headquarters. There was moderate interest in the Post, but after a while the membership began to decline, with only four members in 1993.

The first V-J Day celebration (the forerunner of the Schulenburg Festival) was held on August 14, 1946, sponsored jointly by the Legion and the V.F.W. It was a huge success, with gross receipts of \$23,017.82 and a net profit of \$15,512.53, of which \$11,030.00 was put into a memorial fund and the rest being divided equally between the Legion and the V.F.W.

In 1940, the bowling alleys were turned over to the Tri-Association, and for many years the Legion sponsored a team. At a joint meeting with the V.F.W. on April 23, 1947, the V.F.W. stated that it would attempt to buy the firemen's share of the Tri-Association. It was also reported that the Dairy and Poultry Association was willing to sell their one-third share for \$6,000.00 provided that the Legion and V.F.W. sponsor Dairy

and Poultry Shows each year in the future. It was proposed that an eight lane bowling alley replace the four lane alley at a total cost, including installation, of about \$21,000.00. It was voted to buy out the Dairy and Poultry Association and to replace the bowling alleys together with the V.F.W. The old bowling alleys were sold to a concern in Austin for \$1,000.00. A State Bowling Tournament was held locally in the fall of 1947. And in 1948 (11-02-48), the remaining debt on the bowling alleys was paid.

The book, "A History of the American Legion," by Richard Seelye Jones, was presented to the Post by Bill Cominge, the speaker at the meeting on November 4, 1947. This book is still in the files of the Post. It was voted to buy two more copies of this book (05-02-50), one to be given to the school library and one to be given to the city library.

In 1947, 1948, and 1949, the Legion sponsored a junior baseball team, and in 1949, this team won the South Texas Championship.

The District Convention, for the fourth time, was held in Schulenburg on April 30 and May 1, 1949, and again was a huge success.

It was brought up (11-02-48) that the dance hall was badly in need of repairs and remodeling. It was discussed with the V.F.W. and it was decided to have the necessary work done. With the cost estimated to be \$16,475.00, a loan of \$5,000.00 was taken out to supplement local funds.