



The Carnegie Courier

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The Mitchell Area Historical
& Genealogical Societies

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Letters Home from Davison County's Soldiers in World War II

In this issue of the Carnegie Courier we see World War II through the experiences of men and women from Davison County who served in World War II and wrote home to relatives and friends. The Daily Republic had a "Soldiers Letter-Writing Contest" and awarded a \$25 U.S. War Bond for the best letter submitted each week. Although the letters were censored, they provide first-hand vivid and detailed reports by their writers.

MAHS has, thanks to Lyle Swenson's almost daily research in MAHS' old copies of The Daily Republic, a voluminous collection of these letters. We can print only a small number of them in this newsletter. However, all are filed and indexed in a binder at the Carnegie Resource Center where they can be easily read. If only part of a very long letter is printed in this Carnegie Courier, an asterisk appears at the end of the letter.

To refresh your memory, for the record, the United States declared war against Japan, Germany, and Italy (the Axis powers) on December 8, 1941, after the air attack on Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian island of Oahu on December 7, 1941. Germany surrendered unconditionally on May 8, 1945, and Japan on August 15, 1945. The formal surrender of Japan was held on September 2, 1945, aboard the battleship U.S.S. Missouri. The U.S.S. South Dakota Memorial is located at the corner of 12th Street and Kiwanis Avenue in Sioux Falls. The silver service of the first U.S.S. South Dakota is owned by the State of South Dakota and can be viewed at the Heritage Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre.

5-16-1984 DR

Mitchellites Share Home Town Paper In South Pacific



—U. S. Marine Corps Photo

Shown above reading their home town paper, THE DAILY REPUBLIC, are two Mitchell marines, both veterans of Bougainville, who met recently at a South Pacific base. On the left is Cpl. Wayne C. Kiner, 20-year-old son of Joseph F. Kiner of Mitchell, and on the right is Pfc. John P. Maier, 25-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Maier and husband of Mrs. Ruth A. Maier of Mitchell. For three years, the two Leathernecks worked together at the Recreation center. Cpl. Kiner, a radio operator, attended Mitchell Senior high school and Pfc. Maier, a machine gunner, attended Notre Dame Academy.

To the reader: To conserve space and ink, throughout this newsletter these abbreviations are used:

CRC—Carnegie Resource Center

MAGS—Mitchell Area Genealogical Society

MAHS—Mitchell Area Historical Society

SDSHS - South Dakota State Historical Society

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Saw Buddy's Head Shot Off, Nazis Tossed Into Sea, But Calls It War

If people could only realize the great amount of good they are doing when they donate blood to blood banks, for use in saving lives of wounded men in the armed forces, they would do so more often. T-4 Ralph Feinstein, son of Mr. and Mrs. Saul Feinstein of Mitchell believes.

Wounded in action off the coast of France on D-day plus 9, Technician Feinstein received two pints of blood plasma and six pints of whole blood to replace that which he had lost, and later in England at the 83rd general hospital, he had additional transfusions.

"It is really a life saver," said the Mitchell youth, "and donating blood is certainly a small thing for the people to do over here. You just can't describe the effects—it's just like pouring life right back into your body to receive that blood after losing a large amount." Technician Feinstein said he was sure they could use twice as much blood as they get.

The Mitchell youth was on a Liberty ship that was trying to unload supplies on a heavily fortified beachhead which was the only one to be bypassed until the last stages of the invasion. They had attempted to make a landing since D-day.

The boat was hit by 81 mm. shells, and it was at that time that Technician Feinstein was wounded.

"I consider myself lucky though," he said, "for the man next to me had his head shot off. His head struck my shoulder, and his body rolled the other way." The soldier standing on the other side of Feinstein sustained only a slight scratch.

A LCI boat picked up Americans wounded from the shore and water and among those picked up, Technician Feinstein said, were two German wounded. "One of these men," said Feinstein, "was able to talk broken English, and although he was badly wounded, he was rejoicing over the numbers of Americans killed and wounded. One of our men asked him to repeat what he had said, and he did. That was the last of him. He and his companion were both rolled overboard. Cruel? Yes, but that is war."

Technician Feinstein suffered a severely mangled right arm, which severed muscles and nerves and gutted arteries. On the hospital boat to which he was removed, he was placed on the operating table at 11 p.m. and just as the surgeon began the operation, the Jerries started bombing the area, and the lights on the boat went out. It was necessary to complete the operation by flashlight. Because he had lost so much blood, no anesthetic could be administered.

The hospital boat was attacked by German E boats, and three boats in the area were sunk, but after two days and two nights the hospital boat was able to get back to an English port under its own steam.

At the hospital in England where he was taken, three surgeons held consultation regarding Technician Feinstein's arm. "Two of them," he said, "thought it wiser to amputate since there was so much work to be done, but a Major Lipscomb, neurosurgeon, held out for surgery. Treatments in England for three months following surgery will be supplemented in Wakeman General hospital at Camp Atterbury, Ind., by further treatments in physiotherapy, and later by more surgery to recondition the arm.

Since young Feinstein has returned to the states, his father has received a letter from Maj. Lipscomb, answering one of appreciation for the help he had given his son. He writes:

"I appreciated your encouraging remarks. Such remarks always stimulate us in our endeavors to comfort the sick and wounded.

"It's quite plain to see where Sgt. Ralph acquired his pleas-

ant personality. He never failed an opportunity to express his gratitude for what we were trying to do for him. Furthermore, he was a great help while he was on the neuro-surgical service. What he was asked to do—and that was plenty—he did with a smile."

Two bright spots during his hospitalization in England were when his best friend from Worthington, Minn., stationed in England, who had learned from the injured youth's wife where he was located, called on him; and the day when his great aunt traveled from Glasgow, Scotland, to pay him a visit.

Returning on a hospital plane to this country, the plane was attacked by a German submarine off the coast of Iceland. It fired a few shots, said Feinstein, but later met its doom when American planes at Iceland were advised of its location.

Asked if he was frightened during the shelling off the coast of France, Technician Feinstein said "We had all been trained to know what various guns and shells could do to us, and when they were coming our way, of course we were scared. There is a lot of difference though, between being scared and being a coward. I know there wasn't one man on that boat that wasn't scared, yet none of them failed to do his duty." **10-25-1944 DR**

Lt. George McGovern, stationed with the 15th air force in Italy, writes to his mother, Mrs. J. C. McGovern, 423 North Sanborn street, that he is fairly comfortably situated.

He writes that he has completed seven missions, adding that the weather has kept the planes from getting to the target on several other occasions.

"As a matter of fact," he says, "the weather continues to be our number one enemy — even ahead of the Jerries. I picked up a few gray hairs on my seventh mission when we lost an engine near the target and had to return to our base unescorted through very bad weather.

"To complicate matters a second engine was smoking badly and pulling only about half power. We did manage to hobble back to our base, but not before I had visions of eating supper some place else that night. On a whole though, things have gone pretty smooth for us."

Then of his living conditions he says that the quarters are good, considering the circumstances, and describing the tents in which they make their home he writes:

"The tents are much more comfortable since we hired the Italians to lay a stone and reek floor under them. In these cold, wet, Italian winters a stove is imperative, so from odds and ends we have equipped our tents with makeshift stoves.

"The body of the stove is an oil drum, cut in half; a tin can poked full of holes serves as a burner; and a piece of tubing from a wrecked plane serves to carry the fuel from our reservoir to the burner. Gasoline is preferable as fuel, but we burn anything that even looks like fuel. Of course, now and then a stove blows up, but so far we have escaped without injury.

"The other furnishings in our tents are likewise makeshift items, picked up from time to time, or purchased from the Italians at astounding prices.

"Our food is surprisingly good. We seldom get such things as dairy products, fresh vegetables and other foods such as prepared breakfast foods. The cooks perform wonders with what we do have though. Our Thanksgiving dinner was absolutely tops.

"The Italian people are friendly to us, but in this area they are so sadly lacking of the necessities of life that they have resorted to begging us for supplies and rations. Inflation seems to be unchecked here. The Italians will pay unbelievable prices for almost any items you could mention. They are especially eager to get American clothing and cigarettes. A cheaply made man's suit will sell for \$200 or higher on the enormous black market in Italy. Cigarettes are worth their weight in gold. To complicate matters, almost all of the Italians smoke, including children of grade school age. These people have really been hit hard by the war and Mussolini's regime."

DR 1-5-1945

Music Eases Tension On Eve Of Iwo Jima Invasion, Glidden Says

Sgt. L. S. (Steve) Glidden, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Glidden, 516 West Tenth avenue, is a member of the Fourth marine division, the outfit which invaded Iwo Jima.

Aboard a transport, just previous to the invasion, the Mitchell youth writes of a band program on the deck, the playing of which brings back memories of peaceful days back home to those on board.

"The band started playing as the sun began to set, and we stood there in the gathering dusk, and listened to favorites we danced to in happier times. Yes, music certainly soothes the savage breast," he asserts.

The veterans of previous campaigns and the as yet, untried, all with a common thought. Home seemed closer, somehow, as thoughts turned to mothers, wives and sweethearts left behind. I guess all men are sentimentalists at heart. It is quite evident when you see the pre-invasion tension ease with the soft strains of a dreamy dance number, or the spontaneous tapping of feet with a swing number. There were even a few jitterbugs showing one and all that they hadn't forgotten how. The weekly dances that were taken so much for granted would be indeed events to look forward to with the utmost expectation now.

"As I looked around me, I could see the faces soften and eyes taking on a far away look as they sang softly those old familiar songs. Please God, they may all once more hear those songs at home, and share them with the ones they love, though I know, when you read this, the ears of many of those men who stood around me will be closed forever.

"Yes, we know—yet each of us say to ourselves 'twill not be I.' So we are quite prepared for things to come. Each has his job and is prepared to do that job to the best of his ability. There are no heroes in the Pacific. They are all just plain Joe, who used to live next door and who played ball out in the vacant lot.

"I guess he even complained when his mother called him in when it got dark. That's who we have out here, and each is in a hurry to get back to that house next door, even as I am in a hurry to get back to that little white house, second from the corner.

"We think of the kid brothers, who, we hope, are doing all the things we would like to do. We pray that it may be all over before they are old enough to be forced to give

up the comforts and security of home.

"Let them play and enjoy the carefree life of the high school boy. Then let them tell us about it, for through them we will relive the happiness we ourselves had at that age.

"And so we plug along," concludes Glidden, "with such thoughts to keep us on an even keel and steady our course. The knowledge that those at home are thinking of us and praying for our safe return will bring us through the things to come."

Cpl. William Timmins, who is stationed somewhere in the Southwest Pacific writes to his mother, Mrs. E. Schimke of Mitchell, telling of the arrival of Christmas packages, and of how the natives search the trash barrels for anything the Yanks discard.

"The Americans sure spoil the natives," Cpl. Timmins says, "but the Aussies work the devil out of them and pay them very little.

"The food hasn't been very good lately. We get most of it from Australia, and it doesn't compare with ours.

"We've been playing ball quite often. In this climate, you really get tired. We play at night, so it is little cooler.

"I received about 20 copies of The Daily Republic yesterday. I sure enjoyed getting all the news from Mitchell.

"Some new boys just arrived from the states. I had to laugh at one who said 'Look at the beautiful islands! I'll never want to see another palm tree as long as I live, and I don't believe they will either after they've been here awhile.

"Bet you folks are having some cold weather now. I'd freeze to death now if I came back, although I'd like to have been there for some hunting. I read an article in Esquire on pheasant hunting in South Dakota. It was written about people in Mitchell.

"It's time for me to go to bed. I wonder what a bed will feel like—one with springs, mattress and sheets. I've slept in hammocks, cots, foxholes, decks of ships, floors and hoods of cars since I've been over here. However, although we live primitively, I'm well and weigh between 175 to 180." 12-20-1944

Soldier's Letters

Pvt. Dean A. Tanner, writing to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Tanner from Germany encloses a clipping taken from The Daily Republic, giving an account of First army actions, and underlining portions to indicate that he was there.

Mentioned was the town of Schmidt, said to be one of the strongest belt line positions in the Siegfried line. He tells of a sergeant with whom he had become a very good friend while stationed at Camp Butner being killed in the taking of that town.

He writes of just returning from a pass to Belgium where he spent three days at a rest camp, and of meeting Charles Bunn or Mitnell, on the day he was returning to the front.

He tells of the fine weather they have been having. "The other night I drove some of the boys back for showers and the drive was right along the Rhine, and it was sure beautiful," he says. "It is really a pretty place except for the war machinery that clutters up the place."

Writing of some of the action in combat he says "I suppose you have read about the bridge that the Krauts forgot to blow. Our division was the first to cross it and our regiment was the first in the division to cross it. We were also the first to cut that super highway you have probably read so much about.

"Right now we are having a breathing spell and are having it quite nice. We found a leather factory so I have put white leather seats on my jeep. I don't know how long it will last but it looks nice now.

"We have a kid here that can speak German so we got him to ask some of the German prisoners some questions. They said they thought the war was about over—that it would last from eight to ten more weeks.

"We stayed awhile in a summer house owned by some Kraut that worked for the Ford Motor company in Cologne. It was really a nice place. I've lived in some of the best homes in Germany." 5-7-1945

Hatred Of Nazis Shown By Child

Soldier's Letters

Capt. S. L. Hegvold, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. A. Hegvold, 414 South Montana street, writes of his difficulties with the cooties, and tells of his visits with an orphaned French boy. Capt. Hegvold, who is stationed somewhere in France, says:

"I have my company working on a quiet job not too far down the highway, and they are doing fine. I am playing hookey until I get all my letters written.

"I haven't been sleeping so well lately, ever since I ran into a batch of those fierce, barbaric, cannibalistic, so and so cooties! Yes, it's the same cootie that heckled everybody over here in the last war. Am I lousy and are they persistent. I have everything I wear and sleep in sprinkled with insect powder, so I should be able to tear away from them soon. Guess I got them from a Jerry foxhole. I favored with my presence a few days ago.

"Anyhow, it affects my sleep, and everyone knows how I enjoy a good long sleep. I seldom get to bed until twelve or one o'clock and have to get up at daylight. The last time I looked at my watch before I finally dozed off, it was about three. When I awoke, the sun was shining, and the watch said nine bells. I was flabbergasted! So I decided I might as well make a morning out of it.

"I imagine you hear the news as soon as I do, and so you know that our sector is being mentioned quite a bit, so I shall save the censor the rest of his hair and stay clear of mentioning anything further.

"We are traveling faster every day and from things I've seen, Jerry just isn't mechanical enough to stand up under it long.

"We have a little French boy about eight hanging around camp and the job. He was orphaned by the Germans and was evacuated out of the front lines by some of our boys. He comes around shaking hands with us and grinning. He's very intelligent and quite a boy!

"He can't understand English, and we can't understand French, yet we still get along famously. He has two wounds that are only slight, but well taken care of. I asked him where his papa and mamma were. He said, 'Bosche,

bang-bang! No mamma, no papa, and then he pointed to the wounds on his leg and arm and said, 'Bosche, bang, bang.' He shakes his fist at every Bosche prisoner that passes and spits at them.

"I found out that the town where his home is has been under fire for some time. He pointed it out to me on my map. He pointed to the town, to himself, and to a house near us, and spoke in French. I gathered then he was indicating his home was there on the map. Then he pointed to the town again on the map and said, 'Bosche,' and pointed just north of there and said, 'Americans.' I gathered he meant the Bosche had the town and the Americans were shooting, boom, boom, from just a little north of the town. He was right, too!

"The town was taken by us a short time ago, so I got the kid over to the map. I pointed to the town and said, 'American', they pointed south of the town and said 'Bosche.' His eyes almost popped and then that big grin spread over his face. He repeated what I had said over and over, and traced it out on the map.

"Then he said, 'Bosche, phooh!' and shook his head vigorously, adding 'Americans, um-hm!' nodding his head. Then he got a brilliant idea. He spoke fast in French, pointed to himself, to me, and to my command car, and then down the road leading to that town.

"He made driving motions with his hands and then looked expectantly at me. I knew what he wanted, but I couldn't grant it. He wanted me to take him in the car and drive him down to his home, now that it was ours. I shook my head, pointed to the job we were working on, and tried to indicate that I couldn't leave my men. He understood and was crestfallen.

"After a glum silence, he surveyed the work we were doing and with renewed insistence pointed to the work and said 'Phoof!' Then he pointed to all the men, to me, to all our trucks, to himself, and then pointed down the road. Evidently he reasoned that the job wasn't important, and that if I couldn't leave the men, I should take them along with the two of us. I had to laugh that one off." **8-16-1944 DR**

Pfc. E. J. (Bud) DeLancey, in a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. DeLancey, tells of discussions he has with an English farmer, who pastures his cows in a field nearby the camp.

"He was telling me how much his cows and horses are worth," he writes. "An old scrub cow over here is worth 40 to 50 pounds, and they wouldn't bring \$40 to \$50 dollars in the states. And a work horse is worth from 100 to 150 pounds so you can see how high things are over here.

"Most farmers have only two horses and about 10 head of cattle. Eggs cost three pence each, or six cents in our money, and they are rationed. The farmer I talk to sells his milk for eight pence a pint, and that's twice as much as what you pay for a quart.

"Very few people have a car and those that do are lucky to get two gallons of gas a month. The cars are all the size of our Austin.

"Most of the people here would like to go to the states, I think. Their impressions of Americans is from what they see in the movies. They think everyone has his own swimming pool and about four cars, and that they all drink too much. The Englishmen can't see how the Yanks can drink so much beer.

"I like to talk to the old farmer, and he likes to smoke my cigarettes. Theirs are made of weeds and taste worse. Their food over here is very plain and they get along on much less than you do. If I offer the fellow a piece of candy he'll take it, but never eats it. He takes it home to his little boy.

"They think over here that we have the best equipment in the world, which is the truth. But they also say the Yanks brag and boast too much, which we do, but maybe we have something to brag about.

"We have been sitting here tonight thinking of the most beautiful country we've seen other than home. And we decided on Colorado Springs, Colo. That's where I hope we can visit some day after the war. It's really wonderful in those rocky mountains." **DR 12-20-1944**

10-17-1945

24th Mission Over Japan Quiet As B-29 Carries Supplies To Yank PWs

His experiences in flying supplies to prisoners of war in Hokkaido, the northern most Jap mainland island are described in a letter written by Flight Officer Myron Locke, son of Mrs. LuWelle Clark.

In a letter from Saipan addressed to his wife, Locke writes, "Now to tell you, as I promised, about the supply mission we flew the last two days.

"There was a change the last minute and instead of going to Kobe-Asaka as planned, we went to Hokkaido. Hokkaido is the northern most Japan mainland island. Has a latitude about the same as South Dakota and really looks much the same.

"Our course to Hokkaido took us over none of Honshu except an old favorite of ours known as Chasie point. It's northeast of Tokyo and is one of the hottest flak spots on Honshu. Everytime we raided Tokyo our course out always took us near Chasie and we always caught hell.

"This time we sailed right over it at 8,000 feet and it was really a thrill not to get any flak.

"Just as we sighted Hokkaido, lying right off the coast was a nice rain storm. In order to get under it, it was necessary for us to descend to 1,500 feet. Well, if you can imagine a combat crew with 23 missions behind getting shot at in nearly all 23 of them going over Japan at 1,500, you know how we felt.

"Yes, the war was supposed to have been over but we weren't sure those people knew about it. We decided not to be one of these "unfortunate incidents" the Japs talk about. But it was necessary so we went sailing over Hokkaido at 1,500!

"Passed over a couple of nice airfields, two or three small villages and one fairly large city. In all the towns we could see people on the streets staring up at us. I doubt if they were smiling or happy. Some were running.

"The area our target was in was all mountainous with altitudes from 1,500 to 4,500 feet. This caused us no little concern for we were to drop our supplies from 500!

"The camp was supposed to have been in a small valley, and sure enough it was. A damn small valley. The only good point about the whole thing was that it was part of a large valley.

"We got our air speed down to 150, dropped down to 500 feet above ground and went in. We could see the prisoners in the yard and boy, what a happy bunch. They were flashing mirrors at us, and waving everything they could get their hands on. Shirts, shorts, and one guy was waving what looked like a newspaper.

"The first bomb bay load landed right in the court yard. All the parachutes opened and they floated right where we wanted them. We had to go into a steep climb to avoid the mountains and then come around again. The second run we could see the guys already tearing into the packages of our first load.

"This completed our dropping so we made one more run on the camp and gave them the old air force wing waggle to let them know all was well.

"This time all the prisoners had lined up and formed a big U.S. in the court yard. To tell you how we felt is a hard job. So many conflicting emotions were running through our minds that it's hard to pick out any particular predominating one.

I was a mass of goose pimples when I saw that human U.S. and I think we all choked up a little. It's so worthwhile to see that two or three years of prison haven't daunted those guys' spirit."

Mrs. Locke, who resides in Rapid City, is the former Miss Thalia Van DeBosche of Mitchell.

Pfc. Virgil S. Harbert, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Harbert of route three, of Mitchell, a paratrooper, who has been in France since D-day, writes to his parents that he is still alive and unscratched.

"I had a glorious Fourth with plenty of fireworks. I hope yours was pleasant but a little quieter.

"Here I am, safe and sound, back in England. I don't know why it should be that way, but miracles still happen. It must have been your prayers mother, that brought me through.

"When you talk about all those 800 chickens, it makes me awfully hungry. Just imagine you with all those chickens, and I don't even get a fresh egg." 8-2-1944 DR

Local Man Sees 'Dream Walking'

Sgt. Ivan Nelson, who has been stationed in the Southern Pacific area for 30 months, writes to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Nelson that now he may say that his outfit participated in the New Britain invasion last December and later that of the Admiralty Isles.

"Sometimes mail has difficulty in keeping pace with our 'tours' so I'm always glad when my 'pigeon hole' is tenanted by something other than sundry insects and other people's mail.

"In between mail calls, we try to make the best of incidents and the business at hand by digging out of it some funny angles. For instance, a new pest is despoiling the tenor of our domestic tranquility. It is in the form of a caterpillar, whose exterior is equally as repulsive as its voracious habits. This 'character' has descended upon us in great strength and at strategic points. It takes great pride and joy in eating mosquito netting, socks and other tidbits it finds around our tents. In no time at all, it will transform a sock or two into a silky substance and in which it becomes all 'wrapped up', a cocoon.

"We are very expectant, so to speak, conjecturing to what end our material sacrifices will come—our guesses range from a gorgeous moth or butterfly to a monstrous hulking cadaverous thing that might put Frankenstein's effort to utter shame. We wonder what 'thing' shall flit o'er or stalk the earth a few weeks hence. But come what may, the quartermaster department is taking a terrible beating in the meantime.

"Did you ever see a dream walk? Well I saw one in the raw. One squally, miserable dark night, after appropriately bedding my carcass down for a few sorely needed hours of sleep, and finally succumbing from utter weariness, I suddenly awoke and found myself shuffling aimlessly about in the knee-deep muck and mire, for, I know not how far, from my quarters.

"Embarrassingly in the raw, I wandered, a set up for screaming hordes of insects, until at the break of a tropical dawn, I recovered my bearings and set a firm, quick step toward 'home'.

"This could be read to the local humanitarian society with a background of something from Beethoven. Looking back it has its funny aspects that were entirely absent at the time." 7-20-1944 DR

Number Of Dischargees Reporting To Board Office Here Is Near 500

11-29-1945

Nearly 500 discharged service men and women have reported to the Davison county Selective Service office since the discharge system was put into effect, the office said Thursday.

Twenty-nine Mitchell veterans have reported to the board recently and 22 men from outside the city in the past week.

Local veterans included T-4 Calvin N. Dicus, T-Sgt. Morley E. Pearson, Seaman First Class Lyle F. Shanahan, Pvt. Leonard J. Goldhammer, Aviation Radioman Second Class Kenneth P. Phinney, Pfc. Clifton C. Hill, S-Sgt. William J. Lewis, S-Sgt. Arnold E. Steiber, Sgt. Thomas P. Throckmorton, S-Sgt. Walter D. Flyte, T-5 Carl R. Howard.

T-5 Nick R. Kowall, Seaman First Class LeRoy W. Kenton, Pfc. Roland A. Jirsa, Pfc. John A. Dickinson, T-Sgt. Claude T. Meyer, T-Sgt. Henry J. Kiepke, Sgt. Harold E. Schlinggen, Sgt. Clyde A. Stebbins, T-5 Mike A. Props, T-4 Albert L. Nord.

T-Sgt. Max E. Roberts, Seaman Second Class George D. Pesicka, Seaman First Class Bernard J. Kirby, Pfc. John S. W. Steen, T-5 Joseph M. Henzlik, Carpenter's Mate Second Class Leslie S. Hilligoss and Sgt. Lawrence Strand.

Also reporting was Lt. Clarence J. Shearer who entered navy service Dec. 15, 1941, and received his certificate of service Oct. 25.

Mt. Vernon men reporting were T-5 Leo E. Neugebauer, Motor Machinist's Mate First Class Harvey C. Sorenson, Pfc. Vern H. Shay and T-Sgt. Merle E. Runestad.

Ethan men who reported included T-5 John W. Sandman, Pfc. Walter G. Delzer and Pfc. Everett C. Stainbrook.

Others reporting were Sgt. Michael J. Hafner, Parkston; Storekeeper Second Class Albert J. Yarosh, Kimball; T-4 Everett W. Hohn, Minneapolis, Minn.; Pfc. Donald J. D. Kinyon, Richmond, Calif.; T-4 William A. Parker, Rapid City; Pfc. Reuben A. Sonne, Letcher; S-Sgt. Robert D. Pearson, Langford; Cpl. Henry C. McDonnell, Jefferson; Chief Specialist Sidney J. Larson, Alpena; Pfc. Duane C. Smock, Loomis; T-5 Arnold E. Toman, Forestburg; Sgt. Elwood G. Bramer, Hamersville, O.

Cpl. Donald P. Leahy, Seattle, Wash.; Sgt. Harold E. Davidson, Amarillo, Tex.; Pfc. Anthony B. Heisinger, Parkston.

Dicus, a veteran of the eastern Mandates campaign, joined the army Jan. 15, 1943, and was discharged Nov. 13. Morley E. Pearson,

who joined the army June 12, 1942, received his discharge Nov. 9.

Enlisting in the navy Dec. 10, 1943, Shanahan was released from service Nov. 18. He saw action on Okinawa, the Philippines and Leyte. Goldhammer served in the army from May 14, 1945, until Nov. 14. Service in the navy was seen by Phinney, from Sept. 2, 1942, until Nov. 14 when he was discharged. His campaigns are not available.

Hill entered service in the army April 18, 1939. He was discharged Nov. 4.

A veteran of the Normandy, northern France, central Europe and Rhineland campaigns, Lewis was discharged from the army Nov. 15. He entered service Sept. 4, 1942.

Steiber, who joined the army Feb. 13, 1942, was discharged Nov. 5. He participated in campaigns at Normandy, Ardennes, the Rhineland and central Europe. Throckmorton began army duty Aug. 18, 1941, and saw service in New Guinea and Luzon. He was released from service Nov. 14.

Joining the army Sept. 26, 1941, Flyte was discharged Nov. 20. Howard, who began army service Jan. 9, 1942, received his discharge Nov. 21.

Kowall, who was discharged Nov. 19, saw action in Normandy, northern France, Ardennes, the Rhineland and central Europe. He entered army service Aug. 13, 1942. Kenton enlisted in the navy July 7, 1942, and was discharged Nov. 17.

Action in the Normandy, Ardennes, Rhineland and central European campaigns was seen by Jirsa who joined the army Feb. 13, 1942. He received his discharge Nov. 13. Dickinson, who enlisted in the marine corps Aug. 25, 1943, is a veteran of the Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima campaigns. He was released from service Nov. 16.

Meyer joined the army Nov. 25, 1940, and was discharged Nov. 16. He participated in the Normandy, northern France, Rhineland and central European campaigns.

Kiepke served in the army from May 1, 1943, until his discharge Nov. 21.

Joining army service Jan. 25, 1944, Schlinggen saw action in northern France, Ardennes and the Rhineland. He received his discharge Nov. 22. Wilson served in the navy from Feb. 17, 1945, until Nov. 20.

Discharged Nov. 17, Stebbins is a veteran of the Normandy, northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and central European campaigns. He entered the army Feb. 18, 1942. Props joined the army Oct. 29,

1943, and was discharged Nov. 13. He saw action in northern France, the Rhineland and central Europe.

A veteran of the central Europe campaign, Nord, who entered the army April 21, 1942, received his discharge Nov. 19.

Roberts saw service in the army from April 21, 1942, until Nov. 16. He served in the Normandy, northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and central European campaigns. Pesicka enlisted in the navy April 1, 1944, and was discharged Nov. 14.

Joining the navy Jan. 3, 1942, Kirby was released from service Nov. 18. He saw action in the Coral sea, Cape Esperance, Surigo straits, Leyti, Solomon islands, New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago and Philippines.

Steen served in the army from June 24, 1942, until his discharge Oct. 31. He participated in the Normandy, northern France, Rhineland

and central European campaigns.

As a veteran of the northern France, Ardennes and Rhineland campaigns, Henzlik was released from the army Nov. 22. He began service Mar. 28, 1944.

Hilligoss served in the navy from Sept. 27, 1942, until his discharge Nov. 24. His campaigns are not available.

Strand served in the army from Sept. 4, 1942, and was discharged Nov. 14. He is a veteran of campaigns in Normandy, northern France, the Rhineland and central Europe.

Entering service May 6, 1942, Neugebauer, a veteran of the Rome-Arno campaign, was discharged Nov. 13. Sorenson, whose campaigns are not available, saw service in the navy from June 11, 1943, until Nov. 8.

Shay served in the army from May 20, 1942, until his discharge Nov. 19. Runestad served in the army from Oct. 22, 1942, to Nov. 14.

A veteran of campaigns in the western Pacific, Sandman was discharged from the army Nov. 16. He entered service Oct. 16, 1940.

Delzer joined the army Mar. 5, 1942, served in the Rhineland and central European campaigns, and was discharged Nov. 18. Stainbrook, who entered service May 29, 1942, was released from the army Nov. 15. He saw action in the Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno and north Appennines campaigns.

Joining the army Sept. 5, 1942, Hafner participated in campaigns at Normandy, northern France, the Rhineland and central Europe. He received his discharge Nov. 14.

Yarosh, whose campaigns are not available, served in the navy from Nov. 19, 1943, to Nov. 16.

Action in the Ardennes, Rhineland and central European campaigns was seen by Hohn who joined the army Feb. 13, 1942, and was released from service Nov. 14.

Continued on page 7

Number Of Dischargees
Reporting To Board Office
Here Is Near 500
Continued from page 6

11-17-1944 DR

'Home' Is Built In Italian Camp

Kinyon joined the army April 28, 1943. He participated in campaigns in Normandy, northern France, the Rhineland and central Europe and received his discharge Nov. 10.

Joining the army Nov. 24, 1942, Parker was released from service Oct. 19.

Action in the Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno campaigns was seen by Sonne who was discharged Nov. 11. He entered service in the army Oct. 22.

Robert D. Pearson, who participated in the air offensive over Europe, was discharged Nov. 2. He entered the army Sept. 12, 1942. McDonnell served in the army from Jan. 14, 1944, until his discharge Nov. 17. Larson, whose campaigns are not available, enlisted in the navy July 1, 1942, and was released from service Nov. 10.

Smock joined the army April 21, 1944, and was discharged Nov. 14. He saw action in the Rhineland and central European campaigns.

Entering service July 3, 1942, Tooman participated in campaigns in the Rhineland and central Europe. He was discharged from the army Nov. 21. Bramon joined the army Jan. 20, 1942. He was discharged as a veteran of the Rhineland campaign Oct. 19.

Leahy served in the army from March 5, 1943, until his discharge Nov. 17.

Joining army service Feb. 26, 1942, Davidson received his discharge Nov. 10. Heisinger served in the army from Dec. 5, 1942, until his release from service Nov. 19.

Sgt. David Nelson describes the construction of his "home" in Italy, in a letter to E. B. Tracy, electric superintendent of the Northwestern Service company plant in Mitchell, where he was at one time employed. Sgt. Nelson's wife is residing in Mitchell for the duration. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Nelson.

"It's really not too bad over here, after you get used to it," Sgt. Nelson tells Mr. Tracy. "I miss being able to get out and get a cup of coffee occasionally, but I'm getting used to that too. I found out you have to get used to a h--- of a lot of things.

"When we hit this place they gave us an old, delapidated tent that was almost torn down, ripped and everything else, and said 'This is your home. Fix it up to suit yourselves.' The big catch was that neither we nor they had anything to fix it up with.

"There were six enlisted men on our crew and four officers, so the officers laughed like h--- when they unloaded our stuff at the tent, and naturally we weren't in the mood for any joking. However, they drove off with the officers and stopped again in about 50 yards and told them the same thing. I thought the boys would die laughing. The tent they got was three times as bad as ours.

"We went around to bomb dumps, out on the line and every place else trying to find some boards for walls and floors. We found some crates, but that was all. We asked if we could have them, and you would have thought we were asking for their life. Consequently we had to resort to midnight requisitioning.

"If the guards weren't around we would spend the evening hours carrying old crates, then in our spare time we tore them apart, straightened the nails (a priceless item) and made four walls, a floor, a table and a good door. It took us about three weeks to get the job done, but now we have a fairly comfortable home.

"The only tools we had to work with were a pair of gas pliers, a ball-peen hammer and of all things, the only saw we could borrow was a tack saw, so you can see why it took so long.

"I forgot to mention the fact that after we got the walls and half the floor in they made us move the whole thing about 100 yards so it would be in a company street.

"Then we made a stove—what a headache. We got a bomb stand (it looks more like a metal stool) cut a six inch hole in the bottom and welded the bottom or cap end of a large shell into the six inch hole and drilled about 50 quarter inch holes in the shell, cut the bottom out of a five gallon tin can and set it on top, and cut a hole in the top for a piece of six inch pipe we swiped for a chimney. Then we got some fourth inch tubing out of salvaged ships and ran it from a can outside into the shell case and we are using gasoline for fuel (we can get plenty of that). It really makes a nice heater.

"Since then I've made some footlockers and clothes racks and a checker board, so we are all set for the winter.

"The food, as a rule, is poor. We get about four candy bars, two bottles of beer, two packs of gum and a small tin of peanuts every week, but outside of that there is no place to lunch. We get seven packs of cigars, but one of the fellows doesn't smoke, so we get eight, which is enough to get us by.

"I have eight missions in, and yesterday we were awarded the air medal for completing five missions. Every 10 missions from there on we get an Oak Leaf cluster. I hope I'm around when we get the fourth cluster plus five more missions. We get a few thrills occasionally, but I think we've got one of the best pilots in the business.

"They say we're not allowed to tell you our impression of fiak, but it's hard to describe. Sometimes it looks like a bunch of soot balls around you exploding and then again it looks like you could get out and walk on it. However, we try not to think about it too much."

Lyle's Corner

Here we go again and we are still having fun! Why don't you join us? It's never too late, and there is so much history to record and save for future generations. Donations have been coming in faster than we can get them recorded and put away or on display, but please don't let that deter you from donating your history. We promise to care for it.

Thank you, too, to the many renewed and new members. Many of you also donated dollars very generously. Our unpaid volunteers and I consider your generosity a testament of their countless hours of devoted work.

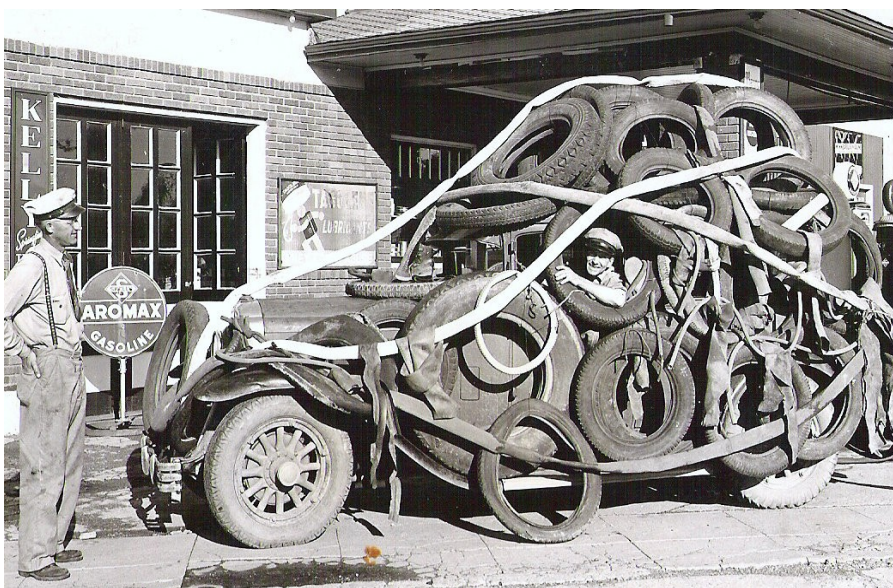
We have had some wonderful programs the last seven months, starting with Dr. Robert Duffet and the history of Dakota Wesleyan University. Since Bob was leaving Mitchell, we thought it appropriate that we have another opportunity to chat with him and hear about his love for DWU. February was topped off with the "History of Boy Scouts in Mitchell" by some of their leaders. In March, Roger Musick, president of Innovative Systems here in Mitchell, brought us the "History of Innovative Systems" which proved to be very interesting and informative. In April, we had Ken Stach of Letcher back again to detail "The Postal History of South Dakota Territorial Forts." You may remember that previously we have had him speak about "The History of Post Offices in Davison County." In the near future, he will return with more on early Sanborn County post offices. All were very interesting programs of history in our own backyard. In May, we were honored with Wally Scott (a young 97 years of age) and his family relating "The History of Scott Supply," their business which is nearly 98 years old. In June, we visited a number of Civil War veterans' graves at Graceland Cemetery with the assistance of Becky Handrahan, sexton, and our own Chris Festvog. July brought us Dr. Alan Outram from Exeter University in the United Kingdom and Dr. Adrien Hannus who heads Augustana's Archeology Department. This is the third year we have been privileged to hear these internationally recognized archeologists. Dr. Outram spoke about "The Fates of Viking Greenland and Iceland – 900 A.D." and Dr. Hannus brought us current with developments at South Dakota's newest state park – "Good Earth State Park at Blood Run." If you would like to hear future interesting programs, please join us. We meet the third Monday evening of each month at the Carnegie Resource Center.

This fall, we will mark the 25th anniversary of the MAHS. Details of this year's very special annual dinner meeting on Monday, September 16, are now final. Be assured it will be a fun and memorable time. The speaker will be the Reverend Boyd Blumer telling about the early preacher circuit riders. If you have heard him before, you know what a wonderful job he does. If you have not heard him before, this will be one you will not want to miss! So, mark your calendar! This will be an evening to remember!

With the timely rains this summer, the Carnegie lawn is growing like crazy. For the past several years, Jim Schneider has - without a penny of pay, even for the gasoline - kept the grass neatly trimmed, but now is suffering from cancer. We thank him so much.

Until next time, know that you are always welcome at the Carnegie to visit or to volunteer for an hour, a day, or a week as you prefer. We need YOU! Call me at 933-0568.

Lyle Swenson, MAHS President and Charter Member



Thomas T. Hersey of Mitchell did his part to help the scrap rubber collection during WWII. This 1,060-pound load is made up of truck, car, bicycle, and road maintainer tires and tubes, shoe heels and soles, overshoes, boots, jar rings, rubber aprons, rubber toys, a tire pump hose, hot water bottles, garden hoses, and a trench hose. The latter is a large hose that resembles a fire hose. It was bought from the government over 20 years before as surplus war material of WWI. (D.R., June 28, 1942)

Genealogy Corner

Good news! MAGS has fulfilled twelve requests for Pioneer Certificates and one request for an Early Settler Certificate since beginning this project in January 2013. For a certificate, see page 11 of this newsletter.

More good news! The change in our business meeting to begin at 6:00 p.m. with the program meeting following at 7:00 p.m. has worked out very well. We seem to get more done and have more time to enjoy our speaker of the evening. In January, Sandy Spanos led us through the ins and outs of computer search with ancestry.com. Our February speaker was Marti Bobertz who did an excellent program on “Secrets to Busting Through Brick Walls.” “Brick walls” means that you are STUCK in your research and cannot find an earlier ancestor or cannot supply proof. However, we genealogists learn how to navigate around those barriers. Richard Stedman gave us a hands-on lesson in “Scanning Our Photos” in March, and Phyllis Knutson led us through Scandinavian Research in May. In June, Jane Healy from the SDSLS, taught us about the records that can be researched online with a library card. A record number of members in July watched a video on “How to Research Germany.” Because of great interest in German research, we will present future programs about specific areas of Germany.

We are rearranging our genealogy research room in the west wing of the CRC to make it easier for those who prefer to do their own research. First priority in any search is to establish a timeline of a period to search. This is where the city directories come in handy. Along with census records, they are real gold mines of information. We also have birth, marriage, death, and burial indexes, as well as many notebooks of newspaper clippings. Our volunteers keep up a steady pace of clipping and filing as well as being tour guides and doing cleaning and upkeep of the building. The school yearbooks collection adds a fun element to the lives of our ancestors. Also available in other areas of the CRC are numerous valuable records. We are able to help researchers because we have computers and access to ancestry.com, the free site of FamilySearch.org, and hundreds of websites with genealogical information.

The SDSHS Archives has placed an index of the South Dakota Naturalization Records online. The index, which includes the First Papers and the Second Papers, provides such information as names, county of residence, birth country, date of intention, and page and volume in the original records. The Second Papers include names, county of residence, final date, birth year, country the immigrant is renouncing, and the page and volume in the original record. There is also a history of the naturalization laws on the site. Other states have such records online. Many times we tend to do research in county record sites; however, a check with the state historical websites may provide much information.

I find it harder than ever to keep up with technology as it applies to genealogical records. After using MAGS’ new Flip-Pal scanner, I was amazed at how fast and easy it was to scan pictures. I then bought a Flip-Pal. What a wonderful little scanner this is! In three days I scanned 125 pictures that went directly into my Family Tree Genealogy program. As the family genealogist, I try to obtain one good picture of each relative to include in my genealogical file. Genealogy is the compelling challenge of assembling the entire picture and story of our ancestors.

As I have emphasized in previous MAGS columns, each family has cherished records and mementos. Always be prepared with the most important items in a “grab-and-go” kit in case an emergency requires a hasty exit from your home. It is also wise to scan family documents and keep the records off-site. Finally, be sure all persons in the household know where the “grab-and-go” kit is kept. However, never should lives be risked to save the family documents.

Andie Harmes-Sindt
President, MAGS

Buy Your Caramel Apples!

Corn Palace Festival and the delicious Woolworth caramel apple sales will begin on Wednesday, August 21, at noon and end on Sunday at the evening closing of the midway.

MAHS and MAGS volunteers, along with other community volunteers based at Einstein’s Costume Rentals (317 North Main Street), will prepare and sell the traditional caramel apples on a stick or sliced in a bowl. Also available will be foot-long hot dogs, walking tacos, and beverages.

For a minimum order of ten items – any assortment – deliveries will be made at no extra charge. For delivery, call 630-0083.

This fundraising project benefits the Carnegie Resource Center in the successful ongoing work by volunteers to preserve the 1903 former Carnegie Library and continue to build its research collection. It also benefits Mitchell Main Street & Beyond in its work to improve Main Street and Avera at Home (hospice).

Don’t want to walk downtown? Caramel apples on a stick may be purchased at Fanny Horner’s Eating Establishment.

**MAHS Annual Dinner Meeting
Monday, September 16, 2013, at the CRC**

Please plan to attend this special annual dinner meeting of MAHS. We will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of MAHS and the 110th anniversary of the dedication of Mitchell's Carnegie Library which, since May 2006, has been owned by and is the home of the Mitchell Area Historical Society. It is also the home of the Mitchell Area Genealogical Society.

The festivities will begin at 2:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting and open house. Kate Aulner, Mitchell Postmaster, will cancel envelopes with the specially designed commemorative cancellation.

At the CRC, Doug Carlson and friends, who are a prize-winning barbecue team, will cook up a fabulous pork feed and Alice Claggett will make her delicious peach cobbler – for \$12.50 in advance or \$15.00 at the door. See the reservation form included in this newsletter.

Everyone is welcome. If weather is inclement, dinner will be served at the First United Methodist Church which is across West Third Avenue opposite the CRC.

After the festivities, the Reverend Boyd Blumer will tell about "Circuit Riding Preachers in Early Dakota History."

Lyle Swenson says, "Do not miss this very special event!"

Family Search Adds WWII Records

FamilySearch has recently added more than 43.6 million indexed records and images from BillionGraves, Italy, and the United States. Notable collection updates include the 10 new indexed war records collections, including: the [United States, World War II Prisoners of War of the Japanese, 1941-1945, collection](#), the [United States, Korean War Battle Deaths, 1950-1957, collection](#), and the [United States, Casualties of the Vietnam War, 1956-1998, collection](#). Search these diverse collections and more than 3.5 billion other records for free at [FamilySearch.org](#).



The above photo was taken in 1942 of the entrance to the Air Base located north of Mitchell. The Air Base closed after WWII and was given to the City of Mitchell. It is now Mitchell's airport. The photo is from Bob Brown's extensive collection.

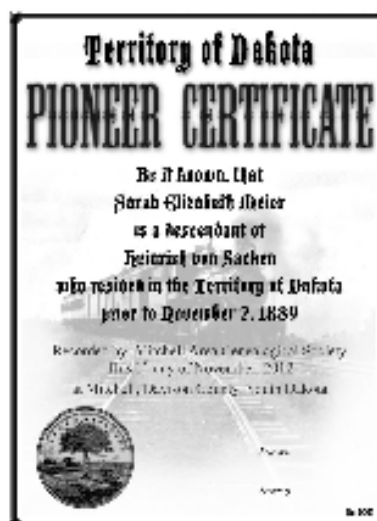
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June 2013 Newsletter

Coming Events (An asterisk denotes event is at the CRC.)

MAHS

***Mon., July 15, 7:00 p.m.** Dr. Alan Outram, "The Fates of Viking Greenland and Iceland - 900 A.D." and Dr. Adrien Hanus, "Update on Activities at Blood Run Park."

***Mon., Aug. 19, 7:00 p.m.** Scott Summers and Samantha Summers Beeson, "The History of Mitchell Iron and Supply - 1884 to 2013."

Aug. 21-25 Woolworth Caramel Apples Fundraiser at Einstein's Costume Rental during Corn Palace Festival.

***Mon., Sept. 16, 2:00 p.m.** Ribbon Cutting, Open House, and Commemorative Stamp Cancellation to celebrate MAHS' 25th Anniversary and the 110th Anniversary of the Carnegie Library building dedication.

***5:30 p.m.** Barbecue pork feed and peach cobbler.

***7:00 p.m.** The Reverend Boyd Blumer, "Circuit Riding Preachers in Early Dakota Territory."

***Tues., Oct 1, 7:00** Tom Riggert, "History of the Riggert Family in Mitchell."

***Mon., Oct 21, 7:00 p.m.** Doug Fickbohm, "Collecting Antique Postcards - Rare and Unique Cards with Explanations."

***Mon., Nov. 18, 7:00 p.m.** Ken Stach, "Red Cloud's War and the Bozeman Trail."

***Thurs., Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.** "Christmas at the Carnegie" featuring the Mitchell Barbershop Chorus and pianist Wanema Wieczorek.

MAGS

***Mon., July 8,** Agenda meeting at 6:00 p.m. Program by Anna Marie Bosma at 7:00 p.m. "Germanic Research."

***Mon., Aug. 5,** Agenda meeting at 6:00 p.m. Program by Megan George on Family Search website changes at 7:00 p.m.

***Mon., Sept. 9,** Agenda meeting at 6:00 p.m. Program by Gary Jerke, President, South Dakota Germans from Russia Society at 7:00 p.m.

***Tues., Oct. 1,** Agenda meeting at 6:00 p.m. Program by Tom Riggert, "History of the Riggert Family in Mitchell" at 7:00 p.m.

***Mon., Nov. 4,** Agenda meeting at 6:00 p.m. Program meeting at 7:00 p.m. Members are asked to bring an item to share.

***Mon., Dec. 2,** Agenda meeting at 6:00 p.m. Program by Laurie Langland, DWU and Methodist Conference Archivist, on using the collection for genealogical research at 7:00 p.m.

**The Carnegie Resource Center is open
Monday through Saturday, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Call 605.996.3209 for additional times.**