



Spring 2019 Newsletter

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Ankeny Historical Society Celebrates 100 Years for Albaugh-McGovern Post #42 American Legion



*Lester Raymond Albaugh
April 5, 1897-October 15, 1918*



*Charles A. McGovern
September 5, 1895-
October 6, 1918*

Article Taken from Ankeny: The First One Hundred Years

The American Legion of Ankeny, Iowa was organized March 1919 by Dr. C.W. Likely of Ankeny. A temporary charter was issued by the state department, and was named the Charles A. McGovern Post #42. Mr. McGovern was the first Ankeny service man to give his life in World War I.

The Post was then changed to be known as the Albaugh-McGovern Post #42. This was in the honor of Lester Albaugh who died in France in 1918. Thus, Albaugh-McGovern Post #42 was the first post in Polk County.

The first commander was Dr. C.W. Likely, Adjutant—L.E. Brewbaker, and Finance officer—C.O. McLean.

The main purpose of the American Legion is to honor and respect the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America.

The American Legion has a very active past, taking part in all civic and patrol affairs of the community. Memorial Day and Armistice Day were celebrated with full observance.

Then came World War II in 1942. This war took many young men from the community. These men were in the service for almost four years. After their return home, they became interested in the American Legion and many joined which created the need for a larger Legion Hall. A larger hall was built and dedicated. The Legion became interested in organizing a Boy Scout Troop and still Sponsors Troop 88.

Membership again increased when men from the Korean conflict and Vietnam returned.

100 Years for Albaugh - McGovern Post #42 American Legion Continued -

Many memories linger with the remaining first Legion Post members. They are very grateful to the present members for carrying on the principles of the American Legion.

American Legion and Auxiliary

On November 28, 1919 Commander C.W. Likely called together the wives, mothers and sisters of Post 42 to organize an Auxiliary. Sixty-three members signed the Charter, with one Gold Star Mother, Mrs. John Albaugh. Clara Mathis was elected President on March 1, 1921 and served the Auxiliary five different times as President.

The Auxiliary had no permanent meeting place so the members took turns meeting in the homes. In November 1939, the Legion purchased a building known as the Farmer's Savings Bank. Through their kindness the Auxiliary finally had a home and many hours of hard work promoting the following: Child Welfare, Rehabilitation, Poppy Poster Contest, and selling poppies before Decoration Day. Their goals were to help others and serve mankind.

***“I pledge allegiance to the Flag
of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.”***

The United States Flag Code says: The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces not in uniform and veterans may render the military salute in the manner provided for persons in uniform.

***In Memorium...
Gerald R. “Jetter” Ballard
WWII Coast Guard Veteran
July 23, 1921—February 14, 2019***

Gerald Ballard helped keep Post #42 from going into bankruptcy several years ago by selling over 400 flags annually to businesses in the Ankeny community. For Ballard, selling flags was a labor of love. “The Legion flag sales are important for what we want to do. If we want to continue to support the community, we’ve got to have some funds,” Ballard said.

***Please join us as we Celebrate 100 Years of Albaugh-McGovern Post #42
American Legion at our Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction,
Sunday, June 23, 2019!***

Recollections of Reco...

In our Winter 2018 newsletter, we featured Pfc. Reco Logli, one of our Ankeny ancestors who honorably contributed to the war efforts during WWII and was a proprietor of one of Ankeny's first grocery stores. While reading and reminiscing the article on Reco, several former employees of Reco and his brother Richard's grocery store, asked to share some of the personal memories of Reco and how those memories shaped their lives.

Their recollections are as follows:

By: Robert "Bob" Pitts
Ankeny Class of 1965
Colonel, US Army, Retired

It was 1964 when I started working at Logli's grocery store. I was probably 16. I was naïve, innocent and immature like most 16 year olds I imagine back then and even today. I worked there for maybe 2 or 3 years so there was plenty of interaction with Reco. What I remember about him was, that as a boss, he was serious and a little gruff. As I look back now he was supposed to be that way. He showed me the only way to mop the floors and how to count back change. Hardly anybody today knows how to count back change and watching someone today with a mop makes me want to show them the "Reco Way". I remembers that he could pinch a penny. Reco was about doing things right and doing it right all the time. He expected no less from me and the others. He held us to a high standard—a standard he learned in the Army and a standard I would learn during my 42 year Army career. So fast forwarding about 50 years and, for some reason, I wanted to know more about Reco. His daughter, Denise, filled me in. Remember how by immaturity made me not appreciate Reco way back then. After much recollection and reflection about him recently, I now recognize the positive influence Private First Class Reco Logli had over me. I never knew back then of his war experience. He was part of that "Greatest Generation" that didn't talk much about it and considered it to be part of the job. I regret today that I allowed Reco to slip between my fingers back in 1965 for in my mind today he is true hero. I have a very restrictive definition of that word—hero. These are the words I think of when Reco comes to mind—selfless, integrity, courageous, service, family, duty, honor and country. My path crossed with a great man a long time ago and today I cherish that experience...for Reco Logli was and is a national treasure.

By: Dennis Den Adel
Ankeny Class of 1963

I started working at Logli's when I was a freshman in high school. I had quit my paper route one week before I started working for Reco and Richard. We started at 50 cents an hour which sounds very low but was actually a good part-time wage at that time. Later we got a 10% raise (about a nickel an hour), but we were proud of it. The Logli brothers taught us so much from properly sacking groceries and stocking shelves to eventually checking out customers. In those days, we had to memorize prices and specials, unlike today where checkers just scan the groceries. Later they gave me the responsibility of ordering groceries in two of the aisles. I think one of the most important things I learned was how to treat customers with respect and courtesy. Reco and Richard ingrained in all of us to show up to work on time and to work hard while we were there. I was very fortunate to have that job at that time. They worked around our sports and school activities which I appreciated so much.

Recollections of Reco...

Dennis Den Adel continued—

Reco did share a couple of his military experiences with me. If you recall, many people in the 50's and 60's smoked. When people would smoke in the store, Reco would never let them light more than two cigarettes to a match. When I asked why, he told me that when he was in the military during combat, that when someone would light a match, the enemy would see the first cigarette lit and grab his rifle. When the second one was lit, the enemy would take aim. By the time the third cigarette was ready to be lit, the enemy would fire. This stayed with Reco the rest of his life.

He also told me that the enemy would string fine, almost invisible wire across roadways at the same height as a driver's neck when riding in a jeep. The result was the decapitation of many of our soldiers. Our military eventually engineered a device mounted to the jeep that would break the wire.

I really appreciated that Reco and Richard allowed me to continue to work at the store while I was in college. They even gave Bruce Hokel and me the responsibility of running the store by ourselves on Sundays. Even now all these years later, I am grateful for the trust that they placed in us.

I look back fondly on my eight years at Logli's and working for Reco and Richard. There were so many of us that benefited from the experience of working at their store. I'm just not sure those kind of opportunities exist for young people today and that is a shame.

By: Bruce Hokel Ankeny Class of 1965

It was early June of 1961 and I was helping my dad work on some porch steps. The house was on SW Logan Street, about half a block north of Richard Logli's house (it seems like we always remember places where significant things in life occur). Richard stopped by and was visiting with dad. Out of the blue, Richard asked me how old I was and I told him 14. Then he said, "Well, what do you think about coming to work for me? I can pay you 65 cents an hour." Dad wiped the sweat off his brow and just nodded and smiled. I was surprised and apprehensive, but said ok. That was a big step; no coincidence that we were working on steps that I took one of the first big steps of life—going from the comfort zone working with dad to—the unknown.

The first day at Logli's came and I showed up in my crisp white shirt and bow tie and was handed an apron and taken immediately to "the front" to watch Murl Bechtol sack groceries. Prior to that point, I don't recall meeting Reco, only Richard. Suddenly, Reco was right next to me, telling me to sack while he watched. I was very nervous—he was really serious and was quite intimidating! But after some trials and errors, I was able to meet his approval and I felt good about that. Reco had taken me to the next step without me having the slightest idea.

I know that if I could have looked up the "staircase of life," I would not have been able to see the end of all the things lying ahead, some good, some not. Reco was serious-minded, detail-oriented and all business. At first, I incorrectly interpreted that as being "crabby." He and Richard were so good to all of us, we sure didn't fully appreciate it then. Every time I turned around, Reco was teaching me how to do things better—how to graciously count back change with a smile to customers, how to mop

IGHSAU Honors Oldest Living Former Ladies Iowa Basketball Player—

On Saturday, March 2nd, at the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union's Championship game during the halftime of the 3:00pm game, the IGHSAU honored the oldest living former basketball player from the State of Iowa. Five ladies were nominated from Ankeny, who still live in Ankeny. Three of the five were in attendance at the game. Those nominated and honored are 90 years young!

Those nominated were as follows:

Dena Logli Randolph—Class of 1935—100 years young
Wilma Moore Cornwell—Class of 1935—99 years young
Marie Howard Ballard—Class of 1939—97 years young
Tina Gioffredi Battani—Class of 1942—95 years young
Mae Dean Blair Frisk—Class of 1943—93 years young

Wilma, Tina and Mae Dean were in attendance at the event!
Also listed—Mary Ann Cory and Family from Elkhart.

Congratulations Ladies
We are Ankeny Proud of You!



Mae Dean, Tina and Wilma



Mae Dean Frisk and Family



Tina Battani and Family



Wilma Cornwell and Family



Mary Ann Cory and Family

Photos
Provided
By
Jackie
Frisk

Our Dads as Friends Working Together...



Our Dads, Noel (Windy) Albaugh and Paul Kochheiser were good friends that worked together for years for Vernon Smith at VW Smith Oils on the corner of Third Street and Hwy 69 in Ankeny, now Casey's General Store.

Now Their Daughters as Friends Working Together...

Their Daughters, Kathy (Albaugh) Alleman and JoAnn (Kochheiser) Adamson are good friends working together at Ankeny Area Historical Society to help preserve the memories of their dads and their dads' and others' contributions to the development of Ankeny.



★ ***Check out our new website!***

★ ***We are proud to unveil our new and updated webpage! Ankenyhistorical.org You can now pay for your membership online if you wish. As a member, you can now view our newsletters, upcoming events, flyers and pictures of Ankeny through the years.***

★ ***Our monthly "Ankeny Through the Decades" feature is now in its fourth year! Members of the society review articles from Ankeny's former newspapers: *The Ankeny Times*, *Ankeny Today*, and *the Ankeny Press Citizen*.***



Dates for 2019

March 26—7:00pm – Monthly meeting

April 7— 1:00pm—Program—*Barns of Iowa*—
By Ober Anderson
2:00pm—4:00pm—Open House

April 23—7:00pm—Monthly meeting

May 28—7:00pm—Monthly meeting

June 5— 6:00pm-8:00pm—Night of the Museum
Murder Mystery

June 23—2:00pm—4:00pm—Ice Cream Social

***Visit our Open Houses every Sunday from Memorial
Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend from
2:00pm—4:00pm!***

***Check out our new website for upcoming
dates and programs!
ankenynhistorical.org and follow us
On Facebook!***



Mission:

***The Ankeny Area Historical Society's mission is
to inspire in our community a sense of meaning
and belonging by sharing the history and
culture of the Ankeny area.***