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Americanism and Children and Youth Committees. Prior to becoming an officer in Post 639, I had worked with young people in swimming, science fairs and mathematic contests so that Committee fit well with my normal activities. The Americanism Committee provided me the opportunity to refresh my memory and learn more about the basic goals of the American Legion, particularly remembrance of veterans and proper flag etiquette.

All veterans will remember that they served not alone, but with a squad, company, battalion, division, etc. (All you branches other than Army can substitute your own organizational structure) AIRBORNE!!

Our Post also has been able to be an active participant in the Americanism and Children and Youth functions of the American Legion through the help of our members. For the first time in many years, we received invitations from local schools to send speakers to make Veteran's Day presentations, give classes on flag etiquette and to retire old flags. We even managed to have a local Boy Scout troop work to re-stripe our parking lot as a public service activity and to conduct a flag retirement ceremony at our Remembrance Day. A regular part of our work was to present awards to area high school graduating seniors and Junior ROTC students. This could not have been accomplished without the help of Jack Martin, Tom Newsom, Mel McNeal and First Vice Commander Mick Dunn.

Jon Bibler has also been working on establishing a Heroes to Hometown program to assist veterans returning from the middle east conflicts.

Our ghost member Mel McNeal, who

works at St. John's Hospital from 3 pm until finished and is unable to make our meetings, has been very active in supporting the veterans at the Mount Vernon Veteran's Home. His last message was a report on the delivery of nearly 2,000 books and magazines, various toiletry articles, games and cash. Mel plans to make the visit to Mount Vernon a regular occurrence



and has enlisted the help of The Sons of The American Revolution, so please continue to drop off items in the box located in our vestibule.

The veteran's day presentation at Cherokee Middle School was made by our incoming Second Vice Commander, Tom Newsom. All reports received about that presentation were good, so his help was enlisted to present Certificates of Appreciation to the Springfield Police Department personnel of the year in February. He and I, being former firefighters, are working toward including the Springfield Fire Department in next year's presentations.

There are several functions related to both Americanism and Children and Youth that our Post supports, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Junior ROTC, Shooting Skills, Boy's State, outstanding high school graduates at six area schools and an oratorical contest for high school students. In the coming year, I am sure that Tom will welcome all volunteers for any of these functions.

Our Post motto is "Together Then, Together Now". As we proceed in the future, remembrance of this attitude should encourage all of us to

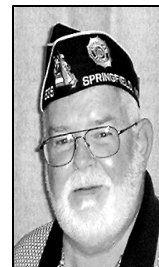
work together to help others.

Be a participant in the Post and American Legion functions that strike your interest. For myself, I will not be an officer or Committee chairman in the coming year, but plan to remain active in the Americanism and Children and Youth Committees as well as helping where I can with keeping our Post and its physical facilities a pleasant place to enjoy meeting with old friends and finding new ones among our new members.

Gary Bockman  
Lame Duck Second Vice Commander

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**CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE:**



Hope everyone had a safe 4th of July and you took time to stop and think what this day really means because our freedom and independence is not free. We have paid a tremendous price for the right to worship as we see fit, the right to express our thoughts in speech and in print, just giving us a few of our Bill of Rights. We are still paying for these privileges, this will never stop.

Remember our men and women in the military and their families, our POW's and MIA's in your thoughts and prayers.

Bob Carroll

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## **ALR CHAPTER 9**

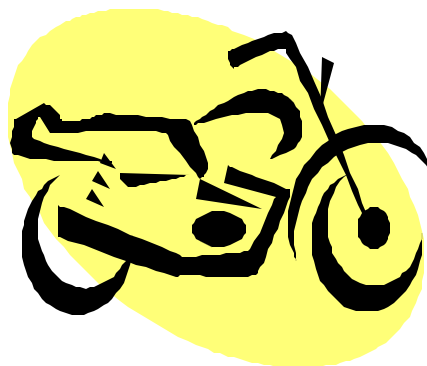
After returning yesterday from our "Ride For The Rockies", trip all I can say is if you didn't go, you missed some of the most beautiful



scenery in the world. The route picked by Paul Kennett [no doubt with help from Jeannine] led us across Kansas to Pueblo for our second night on the road. That's where the adventure really started. An early start led us to Walsenburg for the first climb to a mountain pass. Snow was visible on the mountain tops all around us but the weather stayed dry. Most of the bikes struggled some to pull the long steep grade, but all made the pass without breaking down. As we topped out at Wolf Creek Pass [ele.10,850'] ,we stopped for pictures. The snow was still piled up on the slopes above us but the road was clear. At the turn-out at the top we met a guy on a bicycle. Not knowing strangers, we started visiting with him. The rider noticed the USMC patch on Paul's vest and asked if he was a USMC vet. Turns out Ed, the bicycle rider, was doing a coast-to-coast ride to honor America's disabled vets. We exchanged greetings, stories, best wishes, and business cards. I gave him my card and invited him to stop in Springfield at our Post if his route brings him this way. I hope

Missouri tags on and one guy was wearing a shirt from 'Cartoons' in Springfield. Talk about a small world. He was from right here and the other guy with him was from Greenfield in Dade County.

Our third night found us in Durango, Colorado. Finding rooms was just a bit more difficult but accommodations at Days End motel were comfortable and just across the street from the trolley stop. The only rain we encountered the entire trip was on our "lay-over" day in Durango on Tuesday. Six of us wanted to go to Mesa Verde to see the Indian ruins but just a short time out of town it started raining as we made our way up the mountain to the pass. About 10 miles out of town I called a halt and we discussed the situation. Consensus was to turn and go back. The weather was getting colder and one rider thought he saw



sleet on his windshield. Back at the motel finally, we changed to dry clothes and with the rest of the group caught the trolley to downtown Durango. Of course the sun came out now and it was another spectacular day for the balance of it. We talked to a couple other riders that came in from the same direction we started to go and they reported snow flurries and BAD road conditions near Mesa Verde. Once again, "discretion is the better part of valor". Wednesday found us loaded up and headed for Silverton Colorado. The pass into Silverton took us up over 10,000' again only to

descend to a little mining town at the end of the railroad racks "There say at one time there were 40 "play houses" in that town." Those miners had to spend their gold on something when they came into town. The town's people are still trying to separate visitors from their money, just not quite the same way now. We ate at a BBQ restaurant that claims "the best BBQ over 9,000' feet. I almost found a new career there too. The ride from Silverton to Ouray was undoubtedly the most spectacular on the entire trip. Red Mountain pass tops out over 11,000' and then winds down into the town of Ouray. Several stops along the road led us to meet other bikers and exchange photography skills. We took theirs and they took ours. What a part of our Country to live in and ride often. Once we hit Ouray the high country was over for the day. The road into Montrose followed a river valley most of the way. Not quite as intense as the high country but beautiful none the less.

That night found us in Montrose, Colorado. At Montrose we had to say good-bye to a couple of our new friends from Phoenix. Ann and Keith headed towards Bryce Canyon park enroute to home. They rode from home to visit Ken and Deanna Sandridge in Forsythe and to ride back West with us. I think we all enjoyed their company and look forward to seeing them again. Also at Montrose we lost Jack McKee from our band. He received word that his Father had passed away the night before and headed out on his own to make a blitz run back to Springfield. Our sympathies go out to



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Jack and his family. He called on Friday to let us know he made it home safely and to give us details on services.

Along the way Ken & Deanna decided to make a side trip to Crawford to see Joe Cocker's bar there. Should have done a little more research on it. They found out it has been closed for about 3 years. Nice ride anyhow. Enroute to Canon City we visited Black Canyon park. The view around the rim is amazing. The ride to the bottom of the canyon can only be described as 'intense'. The signs warned of 16% grades for about 8 miles.

As luck would have it the road had just been repaved. At the bottom we stopped and allowed the bikes to cool off a bit before starting back up. First gear was the order of the day going down, in order to not burn up our brakes. Second & third gear brought us back to the visitor center and to those of our group that didn't go down to the bottom.

One more pass to pull had us leaving the high country for the last time. Monarch Pass at over 11,300' was the "top" of our trip. Again we avoided the gathering rain clouds for a beautiful day.

After staying at Canon City overnight we lost Ken, Deanna, & Lowell Miller who wanted to practice for an Iron Butt Rally. They headed home alone and left 8 of the original 14 riders who started out still together. We visited Royal Gorge park for several hours and left for the "Flatlands", around 2pm. The rest of the ride was a bit anti-climatic after the intense scenery of the previous

week but the smell of the feed lots in Kansas will stay with me for a while. Arriving back at our Post around noon on Sunday had us checking our individual mileages. Totals ran from 1900 to over 2100 miles.

Paul & Jeanine, OUTSTANDING JOB, of planning this run. Thank you for doing a great job. You can bet there will be a ton of pictures floating around our Post for a while to come.

Ron Jackson, Asst. Dir. Chapter 9 ALR

Biker wisdom : A long ride can clear your mind, restore your faith, and use up a lot of fuel.

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**LADIES AUXILIARY:**



Happy Summer Ladies! On June 23rd we had our Mt Vernon Vets in for Father's Day . They left again with smiles on their faces and full belly's. We had a wonderful time!!

Thank you all for being there and helping, Peggy your meal has the vets already dreaming of Veterans Day!! Marlene the basket was a hit!!

We had our elections!! Congrats to all! I will Post the names when all positions are complete. Thank you for a great year. Please come to the meetings we have another year to look forward to and we need and want you all to be apart of a great year ahead. Our meetings are always the first Tuesday of the month with dinner starting @ 6pm and meeting @ 7pm.

WE ARE HAVING A " GET TOGETHER" PICNIC ON JULY 28TH . PLEASE BRING A DISH AND JOIN US FOR HAMBURGERS AND

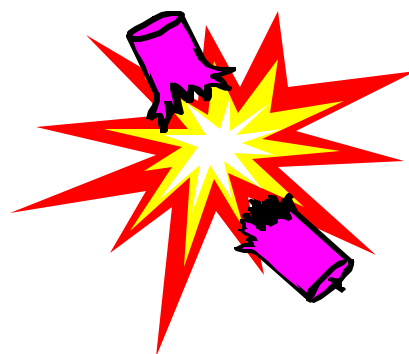
HOMEMADE ICECREAM!! COME AT 3PM AND WE'LL EAT AROUND 4 PM. WE LOOK FORWARD

TO SEEING YOU!!

Come out on Sunday's during July for "Jamin at the Post." Sounds like a great time with music and old and new friends!! Have a safe and great summer. Please remember and pray for our troops.

Thanks a lot, Terri Chandler

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B I N G O Committee !!

Post 639 Bingo is holding it's own during these beginning Summer months, in which a lot of our players are taking their vacation time, you know, like headed towards the lakes and such.

Attendance seems to be holding steady in the 150—160 person range, or thereabouts on a weekly average. I am expecting to see an increase in attendance and also in monies collected as well as monies spent on our Friday Night Bingo.



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to approximately 150—160. We should see an increase in attendance and monies spent on our Friday Night Bingo as attendance increases in the Fall.

Our donations to The General Fund should also increase proportionately as well as we head out of the Summer months and into the Fall and Winter as well.

Many many thanks to all of our dedicated Bingo workers, without you this endeavor would be an impossible task. We will get through these times when business is a little bit slower than other times of the year.

**Jack Martin, Bingo Chairman**

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**Buildings and Grounds ???  
Whoahhh !!**

Welcome to the new Buildings and grounds. My Name is Jeremiah Johnson, from Springfield, MO, US Army 101 st Airborne.

I am holding a Buildings and Grounds Meeting on 19 July 2007 at 1830 hrs. This will be for those who are interested in making a difference in their Post.

Thank you to those before who paved the way for the new and bold. Air Assault

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**Bar & Kitchen Report**



Hello All,

Summer is upon us! June has been a fantastic month. LOVE was in the air! We held two outside weddings and receptions as well as a rehearsal dinner. Thank You Clark and Dea, you have help make some great memories for the happy couples. Congratulations and Thank You for using our Post for your Special Occasion.

The Bugs, Blues and BBQ was a great success. Thank you Susi, Bobi, Andy, for being there for me so that I could attend my son's wedding. The Bar Staff did an excellent job that weekend — to make sure everyone enjoyed themselves.

The VW group have already asked to return in 2008.

On June 23rd The Ladies Auxiliary had the Mount Vernon Vets at the Post for Father's Day. As per their request they had the Garbanzos entertain them. If you have never seen them play ....they are a treat.

Dates to mark on your calendar are July 3rd, 10th 17th 24th & 31st form 11—2

From 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM we serve \$.75 Tacos!

July 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th form 11:00 Am—2:00 PM Mel has her Ham & Beans, Fried Tators & Cornbread and believe you Me, there are people that cannot wait for Wednesdays to

come around each and every week

July 5th, 12th, 19, & 26th, from 11:00 AM—2:00 PM we are proud to present Pork Tenderloin Cindy's way with fries!

It's here, It's what you wanted, It's what you have been waiting for, asking for..... NASCAR Sunday is for you Members. Pizza and Beer specials for **card members only** and don't forget to register for FREE STEAK Dinner.

The Ladies Auxiliary is hosting their annual Picnic on July 28th at 3:00 PM. Bring your Mom Sister, daughter Aunt, Grandma, (any woman you know). It is a day for ladies of the Post.

Later that evening Cindy is hosting our 1st YA-YA Sisterhood Party! Howie and The Hillcats will be performing outside under the full moon ! Bring lawn chairs and blankets to relax on.

Rumor has it there could be some Guest Bartenders! Bring Tiki Torches!

Grandma, Joyce

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I would like to thank all the Ladies in the Auxiliary for their kindness. I'd like to thank Ron Jackson from the ALR, Lance Williams and Past Commander Phil Richardson for their kindness at the time of my daughter's passing.

Beverly Miller

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