



Centennial Post 209

P.O. Box 15461
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

AUGUST 1985 NEWSLETTER

Fellow Legionnaires:

First, I must apologize for not having gotten out a Newsletter last month. I had a rather heavy schedule at work, following my absence attending the Department Convention in Breckenridge. However, without last month's Newsletter, we did have a respectable turnout for our post meeting last month that proved to be rather productive. I would like to take this opportunity to give a state of the post report, with your indulgence.

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those dedicated Legionnaires who stood by my side through some turbulent times last year. I would further like to thank all of those who desired to be in the heat of battle but for other obligations, could not -- but gave moral support. Without you as supportive and dedicated Legionnaires, Post 209 would not exist today and I thank you wholeheartedly.

In spite of what some disbelievers may say Post 209 had a very successful year during 1984-85. We started the year with a lot of enthusiasm and we ended it on the same high note even though all our endeavors were not successes. Fortunately, I learned at an early age that if you never try you will never fail; but if you do try and fail, profit by the mistake and keep on trying. As a result of some of our trial endeavors we are not as financially sound as we were a year ago, but we are considerably wiser and still pushing onward. Centennial Post 209 is still a viable entity and will remain so.

An awful lot of positive things occurred during the past year. We found that we could operate a Bingo in our own right, we found out we could recruit new members, we found out we could get members elected to offices at both District and State Levels and we also found that we could claim some modicum of recognition at both Department and National level. You can be justifiably proud of being a member of Post 209.

We came in second in the State last year in new member recruiting and I am sure we will do even better this year. Along with this I am issuing a challenge to the post this year. We ended the year with 77 members and if each member recruits just one (1) new member this year, we will reach 154 members and top post in Colorado. Imagine everyone recruiting two (2) new members !!!

At our last meeting we were pleased to have present three of the young men that we sponsored at Boys State in attendance. I wish that you all could have been present to see the joy and exuberance they exhibited over having

had the opportunity to attend. I only hope we can send ten this year instead of the seven we sent last year. Overall, we had a very successful year.

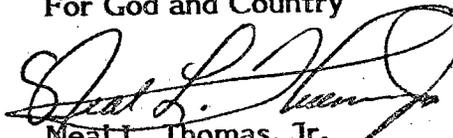
We are now into the second month of this Legion year and we are planning even greater successes for this year. Last year we recruited several new members who were never formally initiated along with other who have been members at large for years. Here is an opportunity for you to be officially initiated and receive your certificate of initiation and your lapel pin to proudly wear. Instead of our regularly scheduled meeting on 20 August 1985, we are having a formal initiation of all new members and old who have not been initiated. This will be a buffet dinner affair and strictly casual. Make a note on your calendar and plan to attend now... it will be held at the Knight's of Columbus Hall located at Galley and Ford Streets. Attitude Adjustment Hour will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Dinner (Buffet, all you can eat) 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. Initiation Ceremony, followed by a video taped movie "History of the American Legion", a really good movie. Legionnaires bring your wives, if appropriate, as we will have the Department Auxiliary President in attendance at this function to answer any questions regarding formation of the Post 209 Auxiliary which we are contemplating very shortly. The tariff for this function is \$6.00 per person which should not be prohibitive for anyone. Come out and let's have a lot of comradery and fellowship. Let's kick off this year in a gala fashion.

Our Bingo is progressing at a somewhat slower pace than we would like but some changes are contemplated in the near future. When these changes occur, we will need even more workers to accomodate the crowd. So if you can only work half a game, get in touch with someone in the post and make this known. All help is appreciated.

We have the new membership cards in and it's renewal time. Don't wait for your notice to renew, because we have new challenges this year in membership. By the way, why not invite a friend to attend the initiation and see what the Legion is all about. If you can attend, please call Wally Lonsinger 596-0194 or Gym Reese 591-8960 by 14 August 1985 and let them know so we can plan for you. Let's kick off this year in fine fashion by making this a gala and memorable function. The American Legion is a family affair, so let's all get involved. Looking forward to seeing you there.

The Little Post - Going Places and Doing Big Things"

For God and Country



Neal L. Thomas, Jr.
Commander

P.S. I will present my challenge at the initiation dinner.

NLT:jbr