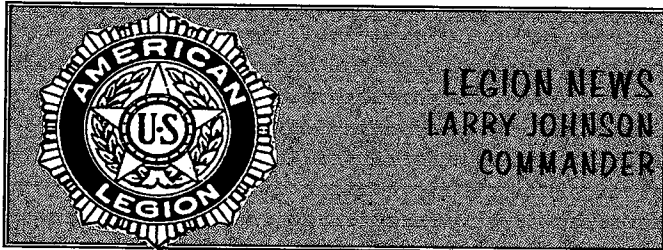


CENTENNIAL POST 209

THE AMERICAN LEGION

JANUARY 1999



I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that you received what you wanted from Santa.

Hopefully everyone will have had a safe and fantastic New Year and that everyone's 1999 is the best ever.

Driving around Colorado Springs during the holiday's I came across the house and barn located on the corner of Fillmore and Union. You know the one it has changing messages painted on the side of the barn. This time it had the message "The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step."

In think about this I came up with this: The American Legion as a whole took the first step when the returning veterans of World War I met and voted to form The American Legion. Through the years, it has been involved with veterans issues and benefits, Children and Youth programs and community involvement.

Centennial Post 209 took its first step when veterans got together and formed Centennial Post 209 in 1976.

When the Post was formed, there was an idea that we should always support the programs of The American Legion and that we should be involved within the Community and that we should have a permanent residence (Post Home) from which to provide this support. We have had success in supporting the programs such as the High School Oratorical contest and the Boys State program, from which we have had many boys elected to represent the State of Colorado as Senators to Boys Nation conducted in Washington DC. Over the years we have expanded these programs to include the support of Cub Scout Packs and high school baseball. Recently, we added The American Legion Marksmanship program through the efforts of our Senior Vice Commander, Francis Redington and Sergeant of Arms Norm Harpole. Francis has received support from the JROTC in Security and is establishing support in JROTC in Fountain - Fort Carson High School.

Many have asked how we manage to do these programs with so few members in the Post. They are

OFFICERS

COMMANDER	LARRY JOHNSON
SR VICE COMMANDER	FRANCIS REDINGTON
JR VICE COMMANDER	HARRY JOHNSON
ADJUTANT	ANN EDSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	AL CYRIAQUE
HISTORIAN	NORMAN MOYER
SGT AT ARMS	NORM HARPOLE
CHAPLAIN	HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE	WALLY LONSINGER
SERVICE OFFICER	TOM MORANT
EXEC COMMITTEEMAN	NEAL THOMAS

DUES \$25.00

ELIGIBILITY

World War I
Apr 6, 1917 - Nov 11, 1918
World War II
Dec 7, 1941 - Dec 31, 1946
Korean War
Jun 25, 1950 - Jan 31, 1956
Vietnam War
Dec 22, 1961 - May 7, 1975
Guatemala & Lebanon
Aug 24, 1982 - Jun 30, 1984
Panama
Dec 20, 1989 - Jan 31, 1990
Persian Gulf
Aug 2, 1990 until the
end of hostilities

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DOROTHY DASSERO
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	
SECRETARY	ANITA MCFADDEN
TREASURER	BARBARA JOHNSON
HISTORIAN	
CHAPLAIN	JUDITH MCFADDEN
SGT AT ARMS	RUTH HORNIK

DUES \$15.00

MEETINGS

3RD THURSDAY 7:00 P.M.
DAY POST #26 PALMER PARK & PETERSON RD

EDITOR

DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA

OFFICE

4201 AUSTIN BLUES PKWY STE 104
COLORADO SPCS CO 80018-2044
719-590-8624

COMMANDER (cont)

mildly surprised when I tell them we are not exactly a small Post but rather a Post which has 316 Legionnaires. They don't believe it.

But, in the past we have some wonderful volunteers who could be counted on to come and do their fantastic work and go home, just as we have today. Many of them do not want to be recognized for their work but would rather see this Post grow and expand its capabilities. We can do this, of course, by having all the Legionnaires who have not renewed their membership for 1999 to do so now and to have all of us bring in at least one member to the Post. By doing this, we will have met another program of The American Legion and helped the Post at the same time.

The biggest step which seems to be the most difficult is the one step towards building a Post Home. We have taken many half steps towards accomplishing this task but it seems to keep eluding us. We started a fundraising activity in

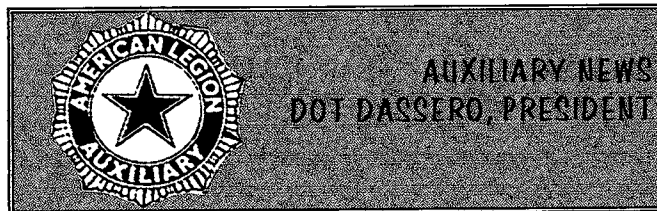
1987 which is still in effect today. That is the game of Bingo we sponsor every Friday evening. We are desperately in need of some new workers who would be willing and able to give us a fresh infusion of enthusiasm and ideas in order to bring more funds into the Post to support the programs and build us a Post Home. We procured a piece of property on which we hoped to build. This is about 7 1/2 acres of land and located on the corner of Austin Bluffs Parkway and Old Farm Road. It is a good spot with the view that anyone would love to have. we had plans drawn up by an architect but the only thing missing is the money with which to build.

Does anyone have about a half million dollars laying around and doing nothing? If you do, we could use it.

You know, we have the best people in the world belonging to Centennial Post 209. Our Legionnaires and Auxiliary members are truly second to none.

Our next meeting will be 21 January at the DAV Post #26 on the corner of Palmer Park and Peterson Road. Meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. I hope that I get to see you there.

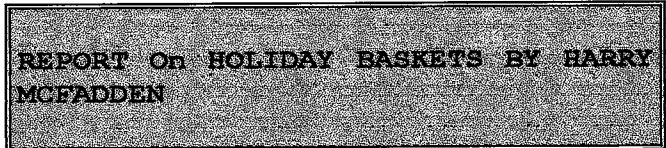
Until then, I hope that everyone recovers from the Holiday festivities in fine shape and ready to get on with a new year.



Hope you have made plans for attending the Mid-Year Conference. Remember it's January 29 at the Holiday Inn just off the Garden of the Gods Road here in Colorado Springs.

The Christmas Party was well attended regardless of the frigid weather. Dinner and dancing were enjoyed by all present.

Ladies, the Post would appreciate it if any of you volunteered to assist at the Bingo games. Generally the Commander asks for volunteers to help and doesn't signify whether they be Post or Auxiliary but each year we receive a donation from the Post to help us financially with our programs and we could repay that with helping to work Bingo. Call the Post or Larry Johnson if you are willing to donate some time on Friday nights.



We were able to give out seventeen Christmas baskets this year. My thanks go to the Military Order of the Purple Heart who participated and to the people who assisted with the baskets and deliveries, Francis, Tom Morant, Larry, Judy. Thanks also to WalMart and King Soopers. You all were much appreciated.