



*Preserving the Past  
Enlightening the Present  
Living Vision to the Future*

*Villisca Historical Society, Inc Newsletter*

Volume 2, Issue 1, Apr  
2009

*Today is tomorrow's history!*

The recent success of the VHS boys basketball team has prompted us to recall some earlier teams that attained notable success during their seasons. Some of those teams are featured in this issue.

I am sure this is not a complete picture of all the teams. Let us know what we missed and we will include them in a future issue.

I must admit that I had a lot of information regarding the 58-59 team as I was a member of that team. It so happened that my wife's school scrap book is a treasure trove of memories. No favoritism intended. More on following pages

#### In This Issue

- ✓ High School Basketball Teams
- ✓ Armory Update
- ✓ Remembering Villisca
- ✓ 1929
- ✓ All Class Reunion 2009
- ✓ Dr. Fred Humphrey

A tribute to a former VHS coach and teacher.



Newsletter Date

Volume 1, Issue 1

## *HOOPS FLASHBACK!!*

THANKS TO MERRILL NICELY FOR PASSING THE PHOTO ON TO MARY HANSEN OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

1947-48 TEAM



coaches: Geo.  
Bowman (left)  
(Champlin (right)

Back row: Bill  
Wills, Tom Good-  
man, Merrill  
Nisely, Kenneth  
Moore, Bob Carmi-  
chael, Gib West-  
over, Frank Froyd

Front Row: Ed  
Gidley, Kenny  
Westerlund, Don  
Heller, Joel Taylor,  
Chuck Graham

**VILLISCA WINS  
HAWKEYE  
SEVEN CAGE  
TITLE**

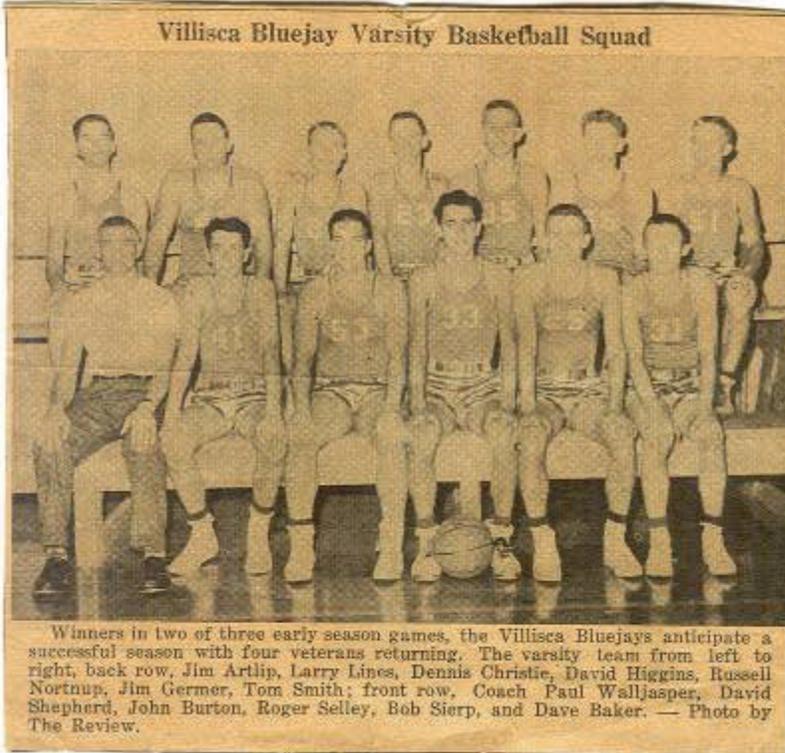
(FEBRUARY 27, 1947)

The Bluejays tripped Shenandoah here Friday night 51 to 42 to earn an undisputed Hawkeye 7 title. It is the first clear cut championship the Jays have won since the league was organized 17 years ago (1930). The 1937-38 basketball team shared a basketball championship with Creston.

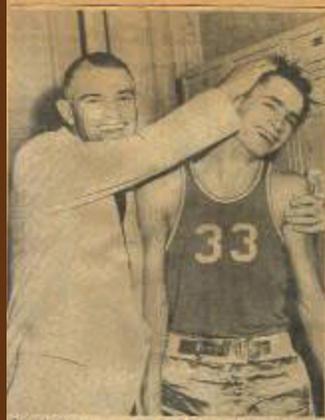
The Jays won 11 conference tilts in the 1946-47 season while losing 1. Their conference win record exceeds by 3 games the school record for Hawkeye 7 tilts won in a single season. The team advanced to the District and won two games from Corning and Oceola. They were then qualified to play in the sub-state tournament. The Jays beat Abraham Lincoln 41-36 before losing to Atlantic by a score of 41-29.



## 1958-59 TEAM



Winners in two of three early season games, the Villisca Bluejays anticipate a successful season with four veterans returning. The varsity team from left to right, back row, Jim Artlip, Larry Lines, Dennis Christie, David Higgins, Russell Northup, Jim Germer, Tom Smith; front row, Coach Paul Walljasper, David Shepherd, John Burton, Roger Selley, Bob Sierp, and Dave Baker. — Photo by The Review.



### Selley Leads Villisca Win Over Bedford

Bulldogs Handed 1st Defeat in 22 Tilts

By Howard Bantz  
*Special Staff Writer and Editor*  
 Red Oak, Ia.—Young Roger Selley and his Villisca mates were the apex of the floor here Monday night.

Villisca led Bedford from the ranks of the substitutes in Class A district playoff action with a 60-47 upset.

In a Class B game, College Springs eliminated Stanton, 75-46.

For Bedford, it ended a 21 game unbeaten winning streak. The Bulldogs opened the season with a 90-48 victory over Villisca.

Selley Catches Win

Selley, a thin athletic center off the bench to replace Russ Northup with 6:32 remaining, when the ball fell on Selley in the basket hoop left on Selley.

It was Selley's basket which led to play that ended the 69- to 66-43 to clinch the victory.

Three Shepherd's men in the closing seconds got into 40 of the game.

Villisca's 10-man roster in the Hawkeye Eight will play the winner of tonight's Manning-Drawa game Thursday at Atlantic.

Feels He'll Beat Bedford

Bedford, plagued by foul throughout, suffered its most damaging blow with 4:00 in play in the third quarter. De- murence then Harold Shepherd sealed out after playing less than half the game.

The Bulldogs held a 19-18 edge in field goals but the Bluejays converted 17 free throws to 25 Bedford had.

Villisca never caught the Bulldogs' Conference Kings and five seconds remained in the third quarter. Manning's fine underbasket maneuvering forced a 30-29 tie.

Christie Breaks Tie

The score was knotted five times in the first two minutes of the last quarter and Villisca seems to have it stay for two less than by Dennis Christie at 47-45.

But Sierp added two more points at 1:52 but they were nullified when Don Cox connected for Bedford. It re-

Beating Bedford in Red Oak was a big deal and I remember it well. Packed house, big celebration and Bedford was undefeated at that time, beating us in an early match on their home court by a score of 60-46.

Roger Selley's tip at the end of the game was truly miraculous as the clock ran out, propelling us to the District final in Atlantic against Manning.

## Manning Turns Back Villisca in Two Overtimes, 55 to 53

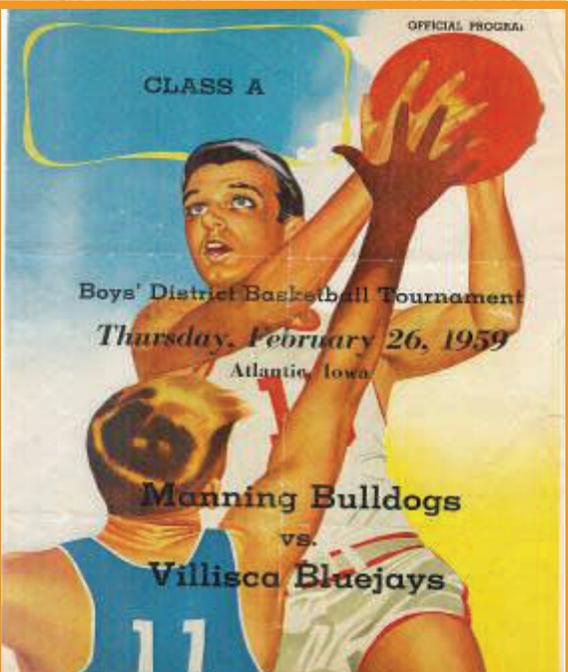
The World-Herald's News Service.  
 Atlantic, Ia.—Two free throws in the sudden-death overtime Thursday night gave Manning a 55-53 edge over Villisca in the boys' Class A district meet.

Phil Knaack, whose 23 points paced Manning, sank the one for the winning two-point margin with 30 seconds gone in the second extra period.

Russ Northup had tied for Villisca at 50-all with a basket six seconds from the end of regulation time. That climaxed a fourth-quarter surge that brought Villisca from a 42-34 deficit.

Manning will play Carroll at Jefferson Saturday night in the split district championship game.

Manning (55)		Villisca (53)	
Greench	10-21-11	Sierp	14-26-11
Parker	1-0-0	Sherford	1-1-4
Spencer	0-0-0	Necklin	1-2-4
Evans	4-2-2	Baker	0-3-4
Rowe	1-0-3	Amjose	0-0-0
Totals 25-53-16		Totals 27-53-14	
Manning	10-18-11-3-32-39		
Villisca	14-12-8-10-30-33		



The 58-59 team ended the Hawkeye Eight conference standings in 3rd place behind Atlantic and Creston. Our record was 10-4 in the conference. We swept through the Sectionals at Red Oak with wins over Cumberland-Massena, Corning, Red Oak and beat Tabor in the finals.

As a young teenager I was always impressed with Coach Paul Walljasper. To me he was what a coach and a leader of young adults should be. He always dressed with a sport coat and tie, never lost his temper and insisted on the team taking free throw practice before every game. Later when I had the occasion to coach youth basketball while stationed in West Germany I recalled those basic tenets. I guess to some extent he was a mentor and he influenced me in a positive manner as I am sure he did others as well. I have tried to locate him on several occasions but with no success. His coaching style of fast break, full court press or slow down allowed a team with smaller players to be a contender during his coaching tenure at VHS.

# 1968 JAYETTES TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



**FRONT ROW:** Gary Johnson, Coach.

**BACK ROW,** Left to Right: Judy Rancy, Gwen Alexander, Lois Means, Bev Erickson, Kathy Gourley, Lois Williams, Paula Means, Colleen Means, Sheri Scanlon, Carole Dickey, Cheryl Frey, Jeri Smith.

NUMBERS		PLAYER	HEIGHT	POS.	YR.	FOULS	POINTS
Color of Shirt							
DARK	LIGHT						
15	24	GWEN ALEXANDER	5' 5"	G	12	_____	_____
21	20	CAROLE DICKEY	5' 6"	G	12	_____	_____
31	30	BEV ERICKSON	5' 7"	G	11	_____	_____
41	54	CHERYL FREY	5' 5"	G	11	_____	_____
35	50	KATHY GOURLEY	5' 8"	G	11	_____	_____
23	32	COLLEEN MEANS	5' 8"	F	11	_____	_____
25	34	LOIS MEANS	5' 7"	F	11	_____	_____
33	44	PAULA MEANS	5' 9"	G	12	_____	_____
11	22	JUDY RANEY	5' 4"	F	12	_____	_____
45	52	SHERI SCANLON	5' 8"	G	11	_____	_____
51	43	KATHY SCOTT	5' 4"	F	9	_____	_____
13	40	JERI SMITH	5' 5"	F	10	_____	_____
43	42	LOIS WILLIAMS	5' 9½"	G	12	_____	_____

County: Montgomery

Superintendent: Dr. Louis A. Sullivan

High School Enrollment: 251

School Colors: Blue and White

SEASON'S RECORD: Won: 21 Lost: 1

School Song: "Loyal and True"

Coach: Gary Johnson

Population: 1,800

Team Nickname: Jayettes

1968 Picture comments: the girls lost in the 1st round to Paton-Churday, 62-61 That team lost to Rockwell City and Rockwell city lost to Union Whitten, the team that won the state championship

I don't know how much longer that the good old "Iowa" style of girls basketball survived. I expect this team still played the half court style with defense on one end and offense on the other. I think the switch occurred in the 70's some time and I do remember that Iowa was one of the last or perhaps the last state to convert to the full court style of play which is done today.



## All Class Reunion Update

Recent information received from Villisca's Alumni Foundation Association (VAFA) has provided an overview of scheduled activities for the July 3-5 2009 Celebration. Here are some important items from the schedule:

- Friday, July 3
  - 10AM to 6Pm Registration at the City Park
  - 10AM Tee Off, Bluejay Classic Golf Tournament
  - Kid's Games, City Park, all day
  - Breakfast and lunch meals at D&D, Country Lane, Witch's Den, Villisca Foods Deli, and Casey's
  - 1-4 PM School Tours
  - 1-6 PM Villisca Armory Open
  - 6:30 PM Chamber BBQ at Football Field, Talent Show and First Inductees into Bluejay Hall of Fame
  - Dusk, Fireworks
- Saturday, July 4
  - 7-9AM, Pancake Breakfast, Senior Center, Fund Raiser
  - 7:30 AM Bike rides
  - 8AM to 4 PM Registration at the City Park
  - 8AM Fun Run
  - 10AM Parade, food booth's and businesses open all day , water fights with fire hoses
  - 12:30 PM Hot Wheels and Big Wheel Races
  - 1:30 PM Pedal Pull
  - 1-3 PM Former and Current Teachers/staff greet at Community Center
  - 1-4 PM Garden Tours, Fund Raiser Villisca Library
  - 1-4 PM Feather Party, VFW Hall
  - 5PM, All Class catered dinner, served by Villisca Foods or BBQ in park by Firemen
  - 9PM to 1AM, Street Dance
- Sunday, July 5
  - 10AM Church in the Park
  - 11AM Advent Christian Church brunch at Community Center

If you are following current news from Villisca, perhaps subscribe to the Review or just keeping in touch with friends you surely know that Roxanna Sieber has a full plate and is doing yeoman's work in many different ways. She recently sent me internet information that will help you stay on top of the "doings" in Villisca. She should be commended for spending the many long and arduous hours staying current of all the work and helping to stimulate interest in Villisca.

On Saturday, I uploaded onto the [www.villisca.com](http://www.villisca.com) website the registration form for the 3 on 3 basketball tournament that will be held during the Joel Herzberg Family Fun Day here in Villisca. Several days ago, I put the tentative schedule on the site as well. I try to limit the use of these e-mail addresses we have for VHS alumni, limiting it to information regarding VAFA. At the same time, I am conflicted knowing that some would like to know about Villisca comings and goings. I'm taking this opportunity to let those of you who do not know, that we try to keep [www.villisca.com](http://www.villisca.com) up-to-date with information that is sent to us. We also put more casual information on the blog at [www.villisca.typepad.com](http://www.villisca.typepad.com) and send information to those who have joined the Villisca Alumni and Friends Asso. facebook page. I also maintain an e-mail address book for "Villiscans" that I occasionally use to send information that is specific to local people. If you would like to be added to that list, let me know at [villisca@villisca.com](mailto:villisca@villisca.com). So, you see, there are many avenues available on the Internet to keep up on Villisca events. We have some exciting events coming up in Villisca – keep up-to-date with us on the web and, in support of one of our local businesses, through the Villisca Review. Did you know that they offer subscription in pdf format that can be delivered to your e-mailbox? That information is available on the Subscription page of [www.villiscareview.com](http://www.villiscareview.com)

## A Look Back -- Remembering Villisca

*1929, some items of interest:*

- Jenkins garage advertised the greatest Hudson ever built for \$1095.00!
- Wheat: \$1.05
- Corn: .76cents
- Oats: .42c
- Eggs: .25c
- Hogs: \$8.75 to \$9.75

By

Audrea Higgins

At one time in the 30's, I can recall numerous clothing and shoe stores in Villisca. They were Winters Clothing, Andrews Clothing, George J. Muller, Spurgeons and Brentons Ladies Wear. There were also Pleak's Shoe Store, Kehrs Shoe Store, Froyd's Shoes and Repair. Zaelke's handled mens shoes and work clothes.

At different times there were several dress shops. One didn't have to go to Red Oak, Clarinda or Shenandoah to shop. Those trips were a treat for a family back then.

At one time there were 3 drug stores in Villisca, Moore's Drug Store on west side of City square, Stillians Drug on South side of the square and Honeyman's Drug north of the theater.

### **Sciola Band, Huh?**

Yes, Sciola had a band and there is a picture of its members some where in an old album or in a closet, long forgotten.

My grandfather Lars J. Larson played trumpet and a few others I remember were Burleigh Mayhew, Joe Marvick and Hal Damuth.

### **Summer Band Concerts in the Park**

In the 30's, Villisca always had weekly band concerts in the City Park. Harold Todd was the conductor and the band was composed of townsman and high school instrumentalists. Occasionally a local vocalist would perform.

It was a nice weekly family outing and entertainment.

**ARMORY HISTORY** (Susie has provided a series of articles concerning the Armory. They have been published in the Villisca Review. They will be provided in this NL and future NL to keep all informed of the ongoing initiative to preserve the Armory)  
Susie Enarson

During the past year, you may have read in the Review or on the Villisca.com website about discussions to restore the Armory in Villisca.

The building is currently owned by Villisca Community Schools and is used almost daily by young people of all ages for basketball, volleyball and weightlifting practice. Some adults have been going in to walk this winter while the sidewalks are too icy for safety. The school also uses it for storage. However, with the school funding situation becoming more limited, there are no funds to make needed repairs and restoration.

Following a community meeting in late 2007, it was determined that there was interest in supporting a "Save the Armory" project. The community has received a bid by Invision, an architectural firm from Des Moines that proposes a fee of \$24,700 for project management, programming, schematic designs and renderings for the initial phase of the project. There have been some contributions and grants awarded toward this goal, but the total amount needed has not been reached.

There are currently several Horizons committees taking action to work on community projects, and one of these committees decided to take on the challenge of raising the remaining funds needed to do this study of the restoration of the Villisca Armory. There is currently a letter writing campaign with letters being sent by Villisca elementary students to some out of town alumni, encouraging them to make donations to this initial fund raising effort. There has been a good response to these letters and the students are excited when they learn that their letters have helped in this project.

To date, approximately \$4200 is needed to reach the amount of \$24,700. When this amount is raised, a permanent committee will be formed to take charge and make decisions about expenditure of these funds and the direction and scope of the project.

***If you have memories or pictures of Armory events you would like to share, please contact [armory@villisca.com](mailto:armory@villisca.com) or Susie Enarson, 100 S 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Villisca, IA 50864***

## *The Town and Country Grocery Store*

It was 1957 and I was one of the lucky town kids to have a job. If you didn't work on the farm or it wasn't de-tassling or haying season there wasn't much for us town kids to find for steady work. A few of us managed to mow lawns or get a job at one of the local gas stations in town, or like me, work at one of the grocery stores in town. There were several then. The Weiner's hired me as a bagger and general help at their original store which was on the NW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. A recent visit to Villisca shows that the building is no longer there. I think their original store was called the Villisca Fruit and Grocery store. The people that I recall that worked there were, Mildred Hefflefinger, Irma Patterson, Howard Miller, and Walt Webster. The bagger complement was completed with Judd Nordyke and Richard Phillis. Of course, Ed and Tillie Weiner were ever present at the store. They were always exemplary in their attendance to the store and to their customers.

I usually worked on Saturdays, took a break on Saturday afternoons when business slowed and then was back by 5PM to be on hand for the Saturday evening business rush. I rode my bike back and forth to the store east down 6<sup>th</sup> Street from our house out on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. All of us were on hand to move the grocery store to the new building across the street at the NE corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. I remember the effort as a major task in cleaning out the old store and moving as soon as we could in order for the new "Town and Country" store to be opened on the next business day. There was a full basement under the old store and it was totally stocked with canned goods and other non-perishable items. If I recall, the move all happened at the end of the day on a Saturday night in 1958 and was completed on time for the next Monday when they would reopen. In those days the store was not open on Sunday nor were there many businesses that were open on Sunday. As a bagger I got to meet a lot of folks, knew them and their families and learned such things as responsibility, courteousness and reliability. Believe it or not a large part of Ed's business was based on delivery of groceries to the many customers around Villisca. Ed always had a good delivery truck that we could stack full of orders in wire baskets to be delivered. Tillie would receive the orders early in the morning, right them up and then the baggers would collect the items through out the store. Once enough orders were available then the delivery truck driver would make the rounds to the customers. This was a personal service at that time that the many citizens of Villisca enjoyed. I think at least two other stores in town also provided delivery service.

The Weiner family was extremely proud of their new store. I think at that time it was probably one of the newest and most modern stores in the area. We continued with the same type of routines in the new store and with the same employees. The condition of the store today is a testament to how well Ed took care of it during their ownership. Ed and Tillie's sons, Dik and Howard were available to help on the weekends and when home from college. Ed always managed to be in position near the front door to welcome customers and to exchange comments with them. Tillie was ever mindful and polite in every way to all of us and to their customers. They were an essential ingredient in the fabric of Villisca. They were appreciative of their customers and the town most certainly benefited from their devotion to their store, their family and to Villisca as a whole.

### The History of the Villisca Armory, continued. Susie Enarson

As related in past news information, the town of Villisca built the Villisca Armory in 1912. There were active military units in Villisca at least as far back as 1877. The "Highland Blues" used the floor of the Opera House on 4<sup>th</sup> St as their drill floor before the erection of the current armory. From the beginning, the new building was used for many community events, stage shows, band concerts, dances, plays, graduations, etc. as well as for the local National Guard unit.

Among the many community events held in the armory, was the Class of 1916 graduation ceremony on May 25, 1916. Twenty-six members were granted their diplomas, including Sylvia Enarson, for whom the local elementary school was later named.

Just one month later, Captain C.J. Casey received notice that the local guard unit was called to assemble at the armory with orders placing them in federal service, anticipating further aggression on the Mexican border. This was no doubt the first time the unit had been activated since the armory was built.

On Sunday, June 25, 1916, the seventy-five members of Company F were called to assemble by the bugler at the Villisca Armory. From there, they were led to the depot by members of the Grand Army of the Republic, who more than fifty years earlier had also been mustered in to serve their country and by former members of the Villisca National Guard companies.

It was a festive gathering, with many townspeople out to support the troops, families gathered at the depot for final good-byes and the train locomotive decorated with bunting and flags. The unit was sent to Camp Dodge for intensive training before they were sent to Texas to be involved in the "Border War".

## Fred Humphrey, Former VHS Coach and Teacher



• Serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission in my fair city in Arizona I received a subscription to the National Parks and Recreation magazine. I was surprised to open it in 1994 and see a feature article and obituary of Dr. Fred Humphrey. The last I remember of him was that he had left Villisca to work in Clarinda. There were a lot of good things said about him and I have included some of the remarks concerning his career as an educator in this article. He didn't have a long tenure in Villisca as I recall. I suspect most teachers used Villisca as a career path to higher paying jobs while gathering solid experience. One of his former graduate students stated that he was "intolerant of the intolerant" That is quite a complement for one's character.

This issue of our Newsletter has devoted much of our space to basketball as well as the Armory. Most of us growing up in Villisca have vivid memories of the Armory and of course playing the sports that we love and had the opportunity to play. From the time I played basketball on the court on the north side of the Lincoln building and through high school I loved the game. I think it has changed a lot since my day and the game has lost a lot of its finesse. It seems to be much more of a power sport than I recall. Even in elementary school I looked forward to the High school basketball season so we could go to the games in the Armory and more importantly play games at the half time of the varsity games. Playing those quick little games with the pull over red shirts and the controlled chaos, dribbling up and down the court and perhaps getting a chance to make a shot, brought real excitement for the youngsters in Villisca. Those games could not have lasted more than 5-10 minutes but it was our chance to be in the big boy arena.

I looked forward to playing at the Junior and Senior High levels, which brings me to my thoughts about Fred Humphrey. I remember him as a stern but straight forward coach. I never had the chance to be in any of his classes as I think he left Villisca after my Freshman year, in 1957. During those years he was the varsity coach, but as we started practice in the fall he was the guy blowing the whistle during those gut wrenching drills on the floor of the Armory. I remember him refereeing and umpiring many of the games that I played in both football and basketball.

After leaving Villisca he made quite a mark on the recreation world and those accomplishments extracted from his obituary are included here. He went on to receive a Masters degree at University of Iowa and later had a Doctorate bestowed upon him from Penn State University. Little may have been known in Villisca about Dr. Humphrey's background, completing his bachelors degree from Tarkio college after service in WWII and receiving debilitating wounds in the Battle of Bastogne while serving in the 14 Armored Division's 19th Infantry Battalion. A crippled arm led him to develop his own rehabilitation program. Before he came to Villisca he was offered a chance to try out for the New York Knickerbockers as he was an outstanding player in High School and College. He declined in order to pursue his chosen career path. He developed expertise in therapeutic recreation. He devoted 45 years of his life to teaching and mentoring in the parks and recreation profession. His early life experiences were instrumental in developing his zest for life and his love for therapeutic recreation. Some highlights of his career:

- After receipt of his Master's degree served as the first full time recreation and activities director and the State Institute in Clarinda Iowa
- Director or State Activity Therapies at Jamestown North Dakota
- Activity Director, Mental Health Institute, Mt. Pleasant Iowa
- Pursued and received Doctorate degree at Penn Statue University while also serving as "instructor in charge" of therapeutic recreation.
- Developed similar programs at Temple University and Maryland University
- Consulted for University of Kentucky, University of Illinois and the University of North Carolina
- Two time president of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society
- 17 Years served as the Department Chairman at the University of Maryland for Parks, Leisure and Recreation.
- Received Distinguished honors from National Therapeutic Recreation Society, Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, National Recreation and Park Ethnic Society for outstanding contributions to graduate education.

**Villisca Historical Society, Inc Newsletter**

**Volume 2, Issue 1, April 2009**

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**We're on the Web!**

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Mailing Labels Placed Here

Our policy for articles is an open door one! Please feel free to forward us any articles or items of interest to our readers and members of the Historical Society. If there is anything in particular that you would like to see covered in future issues we would like to hear from you. This is strictly a volunteer newsletter so we welcome



any help we can get. The pay is not that good, but it is good to know that we can help keep alive the memories and current relevant news of Villisca. We would like to cover more memories of Villisca, particularly in its earlier days when the town was a bee hive of activity. Gosh how many implement dealers were there in Villisca at one time? Remember John Deere Days? Email or contact any of our officers with your ideas and thoughts. Here is wishing you the best of spring and summer wherever you may be. Don't forget the All Class Reunion!

***SEND IN YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS FOR THE ARMORY STUDY!***