

Remembering Robert W. Brown

Number 11 in a series in remembrance of our WWII dead
By Joe C. Fling

The tiny village of Lissie gave more than its share to the effort in World War II. Among those who gave their lives with ties in this tiny hamlet were Billy Cook, Johnnie D. Hutchins and Robert W. Brown. In addition, Preston Brasher and Everitt Wright had lived in the Lissie/Chesterville area.

Robert W. Brown Jr. was born in Sheridan and moved to Lissie as a small child. Like most of the others from Lissie who were killed in the war, Robert attended school in Eagle Lake, where he graduated in 1940.

Brown enlisted in the Army Air Corps on Oct. 14, 1940 and must have performed well. Most of the men who became pilots in World War II had had some college, but Brown had not. Nevertheless, he was recommended for officer's candidate school and became a multi-engine pilot. His training included the B-24 Liberator heavy bomber. As before, I recommend Stephen Ambrose's *The Wild Blue*. There is no better book on the mechanics and op-

eration of the B-24; the character of the men who flew them; and the importance of their mission against Nazi Germany. Read this book and you will understand what Robert W. Brown and men like him did. How unnerving and physically demanding it was to pilot the huge Liberator. How unrelenting and dangerous the missions against Nazi targets were.

The heavy bombers were one of America's primary ways of taking the war to the enemy. They performed tactical and strategic bombing and delivered fear, perhaps even a more palpable weapon than their 1,000-pound bombs. The bombers flew on missions of over 1,000 miles, which took as much as 12 hours to fly; and struck deep into the heart of Nazi Germany and its conquered territories.

Brown's outfit, the 515th Bomber Squadron of the 376th Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force, left the U.S. and arrived in North Africa in Nov. 1943.

Brown would have been involved in missions similar to those in which Bill Foster of Garwood lost his life that same month.

The Americans had jumped from North Africa to Sicily and on to Italy. Soon Brown's squadron was transferred to a new Italian base.

On Dec. 20, 1943, Brown's plane participated in a bombing mission over eastern Bulgaria. His aircraft came under anti-aircraft fire, collided with an enemy fighter in mid-air and fell to earth.

A notice came from the War Department listing Brown as missing in action over Bulgaria. Brown's death was later confirmed. He was survived by his parents, his wife of Blytheville, Arkansas, and a sister, Easter Raasch of Lissie.

Brown is buried in the American Cemetery in Florence, Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Air

Medal.

Robert W. Brown was an exemplary young man. His peers and superiors recognized this and entrusted him with a mighty battle machine and a crew of men under his care.

The U.S. Air Army Air Corps entrusted to hundreds of men like Brown the mission of strategic bombing: the breaking of the Nazis ability and will to make war.

His name is recorded on the Wharton County Veterans monument and the plaque of the dead from Eagle Lake High School, now on display at the Prairie Edge Museum but not elsewhere.

Men like this saved the world and preserved the freedoms that we all hold so dear. We must not forget them.



Catholic Daughters Quilt drawing

Catholic Daughters Court Our Lady of the Fields #2465 will hold its 2nd annual quilt drawing Monday, Jan. 26, 2004 at their monthly meeting. All proceeds from the raffle will go towards scholarships. Above pictured is item one, a Red and White Star king size quilt with shams and throw. The quilt is on display at ELC Internet Services, 105 N. McCarty. You can purchase raffle tickets from any Catholic Daughter member or Glenda Moore, Quilt Committee Chairman, 979-234-5955.

SHERIDAN NEWS

By Velma Kutzer

Clay and Debra Sonntag and sons enjoyed attending a family get together in Sublime Saturday in honor of Debra's grandmother, Dellie Pustejovsky. The large family enjoyed a noon meal and an afternoon of visiting that lasted long into the night. The occasion was Dellie's 80th birthday, which was attended by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and close friends.

The Cheatham Cemetery Association has received a generous donation from the Brisco family. It was collected during the recent family reunion and is much appreciated. Also contributing to the cemetery fund recently was a gift of \$500 from the local TEEA.

A 4-H meeting is scheduled for

Dec. 21. You need to contact Barbara Rutkowski for the time at her home. This will be the last meeting of the year for the group.

Get well wishes were extended to Jennifer Beck who underwent surgery last week and is still awaiting results of tests. I know she would appreciate your prayers. Evelyn Klekar has been quite ill according to her family and your thoughts and prayers are also needed for her.

With the annual community drive in progress the students at Sheridan have been busy doing their part. The sixth grade class was announced as the winner in the Jr. High division bringing in the largest amount of food with

(See Sheridan, Page 6)



Reggins, Stewart to wed Jan. 3

Elaine Reggins and Dennis Ray Stewart invite you to their wedding ceremony at 4 p.m. Saturday, January 3, 2004 at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Alleton. The reception will follow at the Eagle Lake Community Center.

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Dec. 11, 2003 Report
Animals on hand: cattle, 2411; one horse; two goats. **Sellers:** 388.
Packer cows: higher dressing utility & cutter cows, 46-54 per lbs.; lower dressing utility & cutter cows, 38-45 per lb.; thin

cows, 27-36.
Packer bulls: heavyweight bulls 57-64; utility cutter bulls, 47-56¢. Head tested: 315.

Stocker/Feeder Calves/Yearlings
Steers #1: 200-300 lbs., \$1.25-1.40; 300-400 lbs., \$1.22-1.37; 400-500 lbs., \$1.08-1.20; 500-600 lbs., 98¢-1.08; 600-700 lbs., 90-99¢; 700-800 lbs., 80-88¢.
Steers #2: 200-300 lbs., \$1.10-1.25; 300-400 lbs., \$1.10-1.18; 400-500 lbs., 92¢-1.00; 500-600 lbs., 83-93¢; 600-700 lbs., 80-88¢; 700-800 lbs., 74-79¢.

Heifers #1: 200-300 lbs., \$1.15-1.30; 300-400 lbs., \$1.08-1.20; 400-500 lbs., 97¢-1.07; 500-600 lbs., 90¢-1.00; 600-700 lbs., 82-92¢; 700-800 lbs., 80-88¢.

Heifers #2: 200-300 lbs., \$1.00-1.14; 300-400 lbs., \$1.00-1.07; 400-500 lbs., 82-95¢; 500-600 lbs., 78-86¢; 600-700 lbs., 76-81¢; 700-800 lbs., 70-79¢.

Good stocker cow/calf pairs, \$750-850 by the head; medium cow/calf pairs, \$675-740; common cow/calf pairs, \$600-670; good stocker cows & heifers, \$550-650; medium stocker cows & heifers, \$450-540.

Last sale of 2003: Dec. 18 — First sale of 2004: Jan. 8

CCA schedules board election

Combined Community Action Inc. (CCA), the anti-poverty human service agency serving Austin, Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, and Lee Counties, will be holding and election in Jan. for the representation of low-income residents of Colorado County to serve on the CCA Board of Directors.

The by-laws of CCA, a non-profit, tax exempt corporation, require the Governing Board of Directors be representative of three sectors of the community: public officials, private sector, and elected representatives of the participants of the CCA services.

Currently, the Colorado County public official is County Commissioner Doug Wessels. Raymond Dillard of Columbus fills the public position.

There will be an election held to select a participant representative for Colorado County to serve a two-year term. This will take place at several voting sites. The meetings to elect the representative will be held Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004 according to the following schedule: CCA Office, Basement, Colorado County Courthouse, Columbus, 10 to 11 a.m.

Qualifications for the nominees are: Must be a U.S. citizen, reside in the county to be represented; be 18 years of age or older; and declare his/her willingness to serve on the CCA Board.

CCA is now accepting nominations for this position. Nominees must submit forms indicating their qualifications as well as biographical information. The deadline for filing these forms is 5 p.m., Jan. 6, 2004. Forms should be submitted to the CCA administrative office, 165 West Austin, Giddings, TX 78942. Forms and additional information may be obtained by calling 979-540-2980 or 1-800-688-9065.

The CCA Board of Directors oversees the administration of CCA and is responsible for the planning, approval, monitoring and evaluation of all CCA programs. The election of participant representatives has been established to ensure maximum participation of the low-income population in these activities. Results of the election will be certified and the new representative seated at the first regular scheduled monthly Board meeting following the election.

Oops...

It was brought to the *Headlight's* attention that fourth grader John Reed's name was left off of the second six weeks honor roll. Eagle Lake Primary School Principal Sue Weller apologizes for the omission.

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