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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

AMERICAN LEGION POST 245

CROSS PLAINS

Saturday & Sunday • September 21 & 22, 2024

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Saturday: Community Meal and Entertainment

Sunday: Community Building with History featuring Music, Food, Games, Flag Education, and Fun, Fun, Fun!!!





100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 – 5:00 to 9:00 pm

- **Community Night** – All American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members, as well as the community are invited. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Dinner made by SAL members.
5:00 pm – Social Hour
6:00 pm – Dinner
7:00 pm – Speaker: Jerry Hook, State Vice Commander
7:30 pm – Entertainment: Randy Plunkett

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 – 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

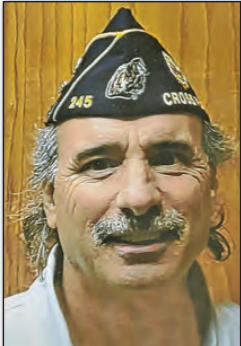
- **Music and Ceremonies** –
11:00 am to 1:00 pm – Waunakee Big Band
1:00 to 1:30 pm – American Flag Folding Ceremony
1:30 to 2:30 pm – Randy Plunkett
2:30 to 4:30 pm – Lake House Boys
4:30 to 5:00 pm – American Flag Retirement/Disposal Ceremony
5:00 to 7:00 pm – Upward Spirals Music Band
- **Kids Games** –
11:00 am to 4:00 pm – Inflatable House and Obstacle Course, Games
11:00 am to 2:00 pm – Temporary Tattoos
12:00 to 4:00 pm – Balloon Sculptor
11:00 am to 7:00 pm – Bean Bag Toss
- **Legion / SAL / Auxiliary** –
History display with pictures inside the Legion Hall
- **Food and Drinks** –
Cross Plains Lions Wagon, featuring Brats, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Soda, and Water
American Legion Post 245, serving Beer



Post 245 remains a strong, vibrant presence in the community

By Steve Zanon, Commander
Cross Plains American Legion Post 245

This September we celebrate 100 years of the American Legion's presence in Cross Plains. Not too shabby a milestone for any organization, let alone a non-profit serving veterans and local community.



The American Legion, organized in 1919 by among others Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., was a resource for war-weary, disabled, unemployed veterans coming home in waves from battlefields in France. Fifteen war veterans returned home to start Post 245 in Cross Plains. As its strength grew, the American Legion became a powerful political group which can be credited for bringing about programs like the GI Education Bill, VA hospitals, veterans employment programs, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) research, and service-related disability programs to name just a few.

Seeing our nation's defense as a priority, the American Legion launched programs to promote health and military readiness for the country's youth. Scholarships, American Legion baseball, youth oratorical contests, marksmanship programs, government leadership courses and camps, all have long histories in the American Legion, and enjoy strong success today because of motivated volunteer Legion members and family which include our spouses, mothers, sisters and daughters which make up our Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion.

The Legion Hall in Cross Plains has the pictures of 42 post commanders, from Joseph Meyer who served 1924 and 1925, right through to my own, as I presently am serving my third year as commander. I cannot recount for you the efforts that went into the development of our post building, the picnic shelter, the war memorial, or the ballpark. This heavy lifting was done by those who have gone before me and has been documented through Cross Plains' history and word of mouth stories of our senior members. I enjoy the accomplishments of selfless volunteers who organized, fund-raised, and sweated the work of building a beautiful facility which is the envy of visitors when we host legionnaires from around the state.

As you read on, you will read some of the history and current status of our community programs from our committee mem-

bers. As a post, the Cross Plains-Middleton group actively awards scholarships to high schoolers pursuing college degrees. These are paid for in part through our flag program, wherein businesses and citizens can make a donation to have a large flag delivered to be flown on their property during national holidays, and the flag is retrieved afterwards by volunteers.

Outreach to youth besides scholarships includes American Legion baseball and softball, Badger Boys and Badger Girls youth camps, Dane County Government days, oratorical contests on the topics of the US Constitution (with scholarship prizes), and Halloween celebrations.

Our post serves as the metal recycling center for the community, and when you drop off your water heater, soda cans, or old swing set for instance, each is hefted into a trailer and brought to a facility by volunteers who make these runs weekly. The monies received from this effort support our cause.

We have a sizeable cache of wheelchairs, walkers, canes, etc. which have been donated by members of the community for use by members of the community. This durable medical equipment is kept in good repair and is available for issue just for the asking.


The respectful retirement of flags is done at our post, and there is a deposit box just outside our front door.

Our Hall is available for community groups to use and is available to the public for low rental fees. It's hardwood floors, kitchen, and bars have hosted many weddings and other celebrations.

In all that time since just after World War I, many local posts have been created and some have dissolved. In 2010 the Middleton American Legion Post ended its charter and joined with Cross Plains. While many veterans' organizations and clubs of other kids find waning interest, the Cross Plains-Middleton Kerl-Endres-Brannan Post 245, currently at 184 members, remains a strong, vibrant presence in the community.

In my short tenure as commander, I have been awed by the efforts of a small group of committed people who show up to present rifle honors at veteran funerals, who volunteer at the VA hospital, who keep the facilities and memorial in good working order, who meet with coaches and leaders to organize community programs, and who cook and clean to provide veterans a really nice place to feel welcome and appreciated. Kids play in the park, people show up and cheer veterans marching in the Memorial Day

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE
continued on page 8



Congratulations on 100 years! We salute you!



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Some history of Kerl-Endres-Brannan American Legion Post 245

When young F.X. Fredrick arrived in Cross Plains in 1860, there were only two or three buildings in the settlement at that time. It was called Christina.

Mr. Fredrick rented a little shack for his harness shop. Soon the young harness maker became acquainted with the Benzmuller family, who had immigrated to the area about four years earlier.

In September he married their daughter Susanna. Soon after their marriage, Mr. Fredrick built his harness shop and a lovely rock home on a spacious city block. When the Fredricks moved to Ashland, the home was sold to John Virnig, who later sold the building to the American Legion in 1937.

The Kerl-Endres-Brannan American Legion Post 245 was organized in 1924 and held its first meeting in the Chas. Meyers Hall. The first commander elected to the post was Joseph C. Meyer, and the first Adjutant was Engelbert Boehnen. Boehnen held that office for 28 years until his death in 1953.

The second meeting of Post 245 was held in the old fire house. Legion members then moved above the Faust Barber Shop and held their meetings there until 1937 when they

bought their present site.

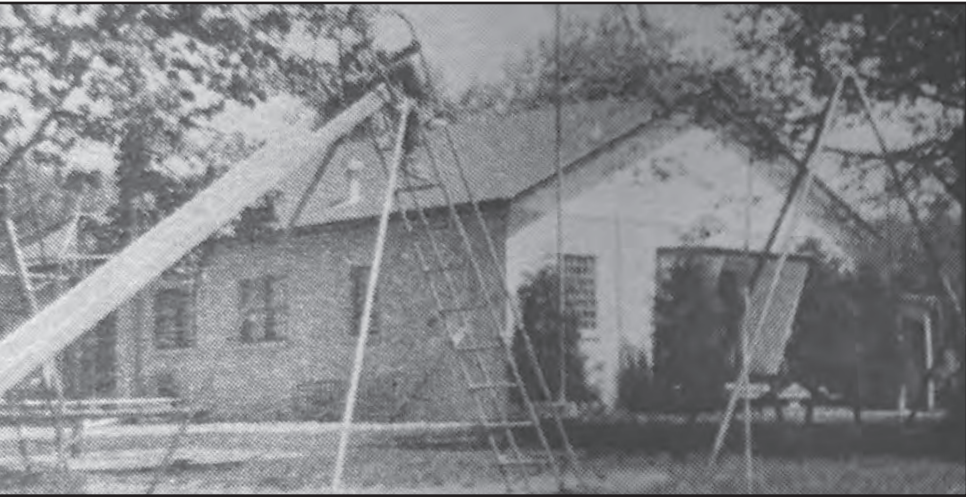
Charter members of the organization were: Joseph Boehnen, Frank Coyle, Tom Coyle, Theo Falkenstein, Jac. Ferris, Engel Faust, Robert Faust, Frank Fell, Jos. Kalscheur, Jos. Meyer, Math Niesen, Victor Saeman, and August Stumpf.

The posts' first fundraising event was a dance on Memorial Day 1924, and netted the grand sum of \$65. The post also raised funds the first year with bird shoots and raffles.

On July 4, 1925, it held its first picnic which netted the post \$450. The first few years saw them sponsoring both a baseball team as well as a basketball team with August Stumpf in charge.

Post 245 sponsored a marching band for many years. This band was first led by Bennie Faust, and leadership was later taken over by Mrs. Vincent Saeman, which gained state and national recognition.

In the spring of 1937 the Cross Plains American Legion Post purchased the John Virnig property for the Legion Hall and Park. Old unnecessary buildings and fences were torn down and the property graded and landscaped to make an attractive park.



Cross Plains American Legion Post 245 Hall pictured in 1974. Playground equipment was added to the grounds and was put to good use by many children in the community.



The original clubhouse – American Legion Post 245 purchased it from John Virnig in 1937. It was replaced by the present clubhouse in 1951. In 1970 an addition was completed to enlarge the building. The latest improvements to the Hall were completed in 2014, adding more storage areas and completing the upstairs bar.



Several rooms were remodeled in 1938, and a flag pole was erected that same year. The old stone house on this property was used as a meeting hall and a place for social events.

After WWII, membership increased and a new building was begun in 1950 and completed in May 1951 at a cost of \$23,000, with the money for the new building lent to the Legion by Mr. Engel Boehnen. Actual work on the building began in May when the basement was started. Herman Simon of Middleton donated the forms and some help, and the Legion members themselves did the work in their free time. Local businesses donated many items for use in the hall, kitchen and bar.

The diligence and cooperativeness of the membership and the citizens in the community is evidenced by the fact that just nine years later, in 1960, the mortgage was burned.

The last half of the 60's saw Post 245 in a building program again. They added a permanent shelter house, a storage shed and an impressive new front which included a new kitchen and office on the ground floor.

Under the leadership of Buddy Schroeder, playground equipment was added to the park, and on summer days children in the community put it to good use. Post 245 also held an annual summer carnival, which was the highlight of the community for many years.

Several additions and much remodeling has been done through the years, with air conditioning being added in 1977. On Memorial Day in 1981, American Legion Post

245 held a dedication ceremony for their new Cross Plains Legion memorial, which still proudly stands today in front of Legion Hall. Additional storage areas were added in 2014, along with completing the upstairs bar.

In addition to its use by the Post and the Auxiliary, the new Legion Hall is now meeting the need as a community building and is used constantly for meetings of various organizations, wedding receptions and dances, and various other functions. The park surrounding the Legion Hall has also seen several improvements through the years, providing updated playground equipment, a ball diamond, and a shelter area with picnic tables. The War Memorial area in the park was completed in 2010.

Post 245 has two charters to the Sons of the American Legion organization. The first was in 1935 and continued active until WWII, when with its Sons themselves in the service and eligible for Legion membership, the charter was returned. In 1961 another charter was awarded the post and continues today.

The three men honored in the name of the Cross Plains American Legion Post 245 all served in World War I. Otto G. Kerl and Michael J. Endres both contracted influenza during the epidemic of 1918 and died. Earl J. Brannan died of lung trouble in 1920 as a result of his exposure to mustard gas.



Legion and SAL members pay tribute during a ceremony at a local cemetery.



Just nine years after the new building was built, Legion members had the loan paid off and “burned the mortgage.”

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Sons of the American Legion serve local veterans, community

By Kevin Boehnen, Commander
Sons of the American Legion Post 245

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Kerl-Endres-Brannan Post 245, we would like to thank all of the veterans who served our Country during times of wars, conflicts and peace. Some of them gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives during service, and some came home wounded or emotionally scarred for life. It is through these veterans who joined the American Legion and continued their service to their communities. They eventually created two other organizations – the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion Post 245 in Cross Plains.

American Legion Post 245 formed the Sons of the American Legion on May 3, 1935 and went into an inactive status around World War II. We were able to find this picture taken in 1935 outside the Witt Photography Studio on Main Street. (See photo below)

In 1961 Ray Faust and Bud Volenec reactivated the Sons of the American Legion where we have grown and have strived to be a service to our veterans and the community of Cross Plains. We have been blessed to have Jim Albertson and Gerald Boehnen step up to be our advisors from the American Legion also over the years.

Since reactivation, we have been fortunate that people have stepped up to serve as leaders in the Sons of the American Legion here



at Post 245. Our Commanders since 1961 have been as follows:

- 1961-1962 – Jay Payton
- 1962-1963 – Allen Faust
- 1963-1964 – Doug Niebuhr
- 1964-1965 – Rodney Jewell
- 1965-1966 – Gary Lukken
- 1966-1967 – Nick Volenec
- 1967-1968 – Ron Faust
- 1968-1969 – Tim Adams
- 1969-1970 – John Frank
- 1970-1971 – Jeff Volenec
- 1971-1972 – Steve Coyle
- 1972-1973 – Marc Volenec
- 1973-1974 – Kevin Boehnen
- 1974-1975 – David Faust
- 1975-1976 – Rock Sarbacker
- 1976-1977 – Robert Greaney
- 1977-1978 – Rodney Faust
- 1978-1979 – Robert Clampitt
- 1979-1980 – Paul Clampitt
- 1980-1981 – Noel Sarbacker
- 1981-1982 – Paul Clampitt
- 1982-1986 – Jeff Cady
- 1986-1990 – Tom Dull
- 1990-1996 – Noel Sarbacker
- 1996-2024 – Kevin Boehnen

We have also had many members become leaders by serving in leadership roles in our Post, the 3rd District, State and even at the National level. Members who served as State Commander were:

- 1967-1969 – Nick Volenec
- 1969-1970 – Ron Faust
- 1973-1974 – John Webster
- 1978-1980 – David Faust
- 2010-2011 – Kerry Severson

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
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Pictured from left to right: Don Frank, Jerry Zander, Ralph Meyer, Harry Meyer, Mark Zander, Roland Frank, Val Frank, Paul Zander, Butch Bowar and Eddie Zander.

Legion Auxiliary supports veterans and their families since 1927

By Joyce Clampitt, Past Auxiliary
President, 1975-77 and 1999-2002

Kerl-Endres-Brannan Auxiliary Unit 245, Cross Plains is an organization whose aim and purposes are to support military veterans and their families – emotionally, financially, and physically.

We were chartered in 1927 with 24 founding members, and in 2024 have grown to 186 members. Our first Auxiliary President was Mrs. Joseph (Lavona) Bowar. The founding members were: Mrs. Anna Adler, Miss Florentine Adler, Miss Eleanore Adler, Miss Catherine Adler, Miss Marie Adler, Miss Henrietta Bowar, Miss Priscilla Bowar, Mrs. LaVona Bowar, Mrs. Eva Bowar, Mrs. Francis Doyle, Mrs. Michael Endres Sr., Miss Holda Endres, Miss Julia Faust, Mrs. Minnie Faust, Mrs. Regina Frank, Mrs. Regina Gorman, Mrs. George McKee, Mrs. Pauline Meyer, Mrs. Kate Saeman, Mrs. Kitty Saeman, Mrs. Catherine Saeman, Mrs. Kate Vasen, Mrs. Loretta Zander, and Mrs. Mayme Zander.

Over the years, we have had many programs that support veterans. Some of my favorites were volunteering at the Veterans Hospital in Madison, the Poppy Program, supporting delegates for Badger Girls State and the Josh Dog Program. Every Memorial Day we started with breakfast at the Legion, then traveled to six local cemeteries to pay our respects to those who have passed on. Darlene Schulenberg came up with the idea to have our chaplain place a flag on the gravesite of every Auxiliary member. We then joined the Legion and the SAL members to march in the Cross Plains parade. It ended at the American Legion grounds where the Post gave a Memorial Day program to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. The Auxiliary awards a Virginia Faust and shared Legion/Auxiliary Scholarship to a senior high school student at the program.

Before the Village of Cross Plains grew so much, our Poppy Days were a lot of fun: we canvassed every home in town distributing poppies. We went in two-person groups and got to know so many residents. We were welcomed by them all. In addition, the village businesses supported our efforts and allowed us to put baskets of poppies for sale in their establishments. The funds from the poppy distributions were earmarked only for veterans' personal use. The Department of Wisconsin got 20%, our unit used the rest of the money for birthday gifts and



more for local veterans.

The Josh Dog program was to give a stuffed dog to children who faced physical problems, for comfort. The dog came with his own doghouse and storybook. The Cross Plains Clinic assisted us with the names of local families who qualified to receive a dog.

At that time, we had three Auxiliary members who volunteered at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison: Beulah Schroeder, Lucinda Coyle, and Joyce Clampitt.

The one thing we were most proud of is that a unit member, Virginia Faust, worked her way up in the Dept. of Wisconsin from Unit, County, Third District and Dept. offices to be elected as Wisconsin Auxiliary President. She was very capable, and we were so proud of her. That was in July 1995-96.

Bunco is a dice game, we played it after every Unit meeting, had tables of four, shook the dice for whatever number the head table said, then the winners would rotate tables. Then we would go to Shelton's and play euchre. My first night Phyllis Esser insisted I go. I told her I don't play it well and she didn't believe me, but after that time she knew I was right – they took it very seriously. At that time the Unit met on Wednesdays and the guys on Thursday, so on Wednesdays it was the ladies' chance for a night out while the dads babysat. I always said I was not a proper Cross Plains wife because I didn't have a euchre deck in my purse, and we didn't have a garden! At that time, Frank's Market was on Main Street and Bob said we could go across the street and get our produce!

Another nice program we still do is distribute either a poinsettia or a fruit basket to shut-in people at Christmas time. This is a joint effort involving Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, Cross Plains Community Chest, and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church,

CROSS PLAINS LEGION AUXILIARY
continued on page 8

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Cross Plains American Legion Post 245 Memorial Project

By Dan Cady, Past Commander
American Legion Post 245

The American Legion Post 245 Memorial Project was initiated at our Legion meeting on November 15, 2007. A motion was made to start researching and fundraising to construct a memorial in the park. When the meeting adjourned, Legionnaires got together to form a committee. That committee included Curt Faust, Don Kirner, Dick Williamson, Tom Foseid, Bob Hutchins, Gerry Boehnen, Dan Cady, Ed Pelowsky, Emily Statz, Mike Roessler, and Frank Kooistra.

There were quite a few doubts as to whether the donations would even get off the ground. A promise was made to the members that until we had \$100,000.00 in donations, we wouldn't start. Soon after, Elvira Sarbacker and Virginia Faust, members of the Cross Plains Legion Auxiliary, joined the committee. Within the next couple of months there were a few road trips by mem-

bers of the committee to view several memorials for ideas. In the end, we decided that putting veterans names on the memorial was a task that was impossible to get completely right – someone would be missed.

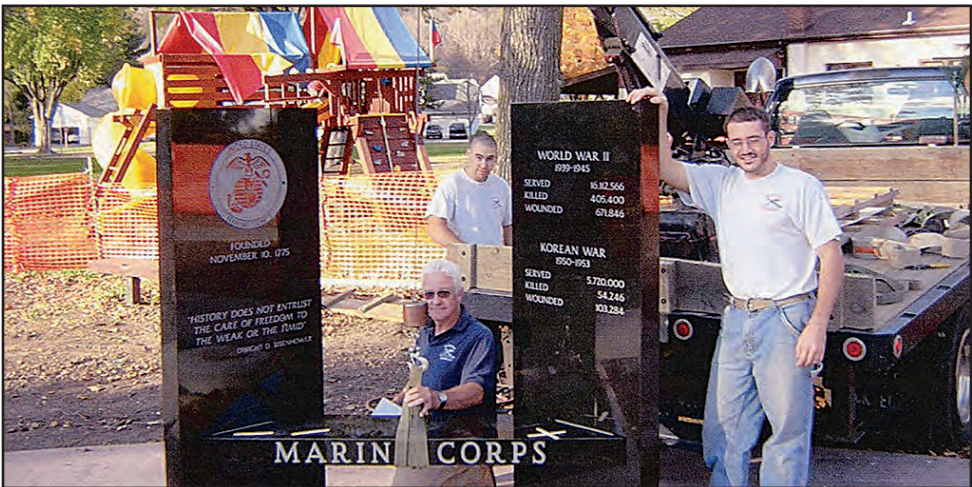
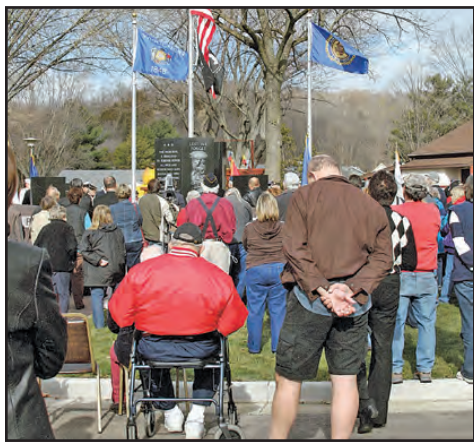
One of the hurdles was finding a chairperson, and we came up with an exceptional individual, who was also a SAL member – John Walsh. Well within a short time we had \$99,000.00 in donations. In the meantime, we approached a CAD class at Middleton High School to help us design the memorial. MHS teacher Brian Borstad and the students were excited to have a real project they could see as their own work. They presented the committee with five individual designs. They came and met with the committee, we eliminated a couple of the designs, and then were down to two or three to pick from. We combined what we liked from the remaining designs, and the students went back to the drawing board and came up with a design we felt very good about.

On June 19, 2008 we presented the final design to the membership, and a motion was made to accept the design. Granite was ordered by Pechmann Memorials, and Green Tree Services provided landscaping. A tremendous amount of help removing pillars at the park, and other work was provided by Boehnen Construction, who also provided assistance to remove the cannon, which was to be painted prior to being relocated back at

the park. There was a lot of concern from the community when they thought the cannon was gone forever!

Dick Williamson and Dan Cady were asked to appear on a radio talk show with Mitch Henck and talk about the new memorial. John Donaldson and the staff at the *News-Sickle-Arrow* were great supporters.

The new memorial was dedicated three years later, on November 11, 2010 at 11 a.m.



Past Commander reflects on his years with Post 245

By Dan Cady, Past Commander
American Legion Post 245

I moved to Cross Plains in September 1967 just out of the Army found an apartment on Main St. I made the statement I wasn't going to join anything and would not stand in line again. Was I wrong? As you all know standing in line is life.



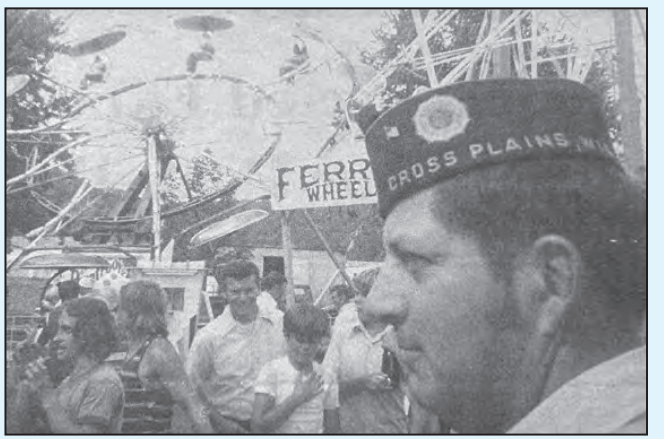
So in 1969 I was working for Cross Plains Hardware and one of the owners, William (Bill) Walsh, approached me to join the American Legion. I hesitated but then joined, and only really participated the week of the Cross Plains Carnival. Otherwise I repaired trikes and bicycles in my basement of the house we bought in 1969 and still reside at.

As time went on I went to a few meetings and then got cornered in the basement kitchen by a few legionnaires who approached me to become an officer starting at 3rd Vice Commander. At that time you held offices at Vice Commander for two years then moved up to 2nd Vice Commander and 1st Vice Commander. At 1st Vice Commander you worked solely

on membership, then to Commander. So in 1984 became Commander. Cross Plains American Legion has always had great support from previous officers so it was a lot of fun working with the Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL.

My first year as Commander at Legion State Convention, we had for several years won the Pendill award. Pendill was, as I remember, the 2nd State Commander and he must have been special as at that time the Legion Post who won this award would lead the Parade at State Convention. The year before we had won it but didn't know about leading the Parade. So my job was to let our members know if we were going to lead the parade and they would come and wear uniforms from their respective units. I proceeded to keep asking if we were going to lead the parade a lot of no's but I was persistent and yes we were going to lead the parade. I called and Post 245 showed up for the parade. We led the parade and the announcer didn't have a clue on who or why we were leading the parade. By the next year if my memory serves me, we won the Pendill again but they had a meeting at State that no Post would lead the parade. I had a little comment about that, I said those who voted to not lead the parade were members of the Posts that didn't do enough to win the award so their Legion would never lead the parade.

From the 1974 *News-Sickle-Arrow*:
"Commander Curt Faust announced that the annual summer carnival of the Kerl-Endres-Brannan Post 245, the American Legion of Cross Plains will be held on the weekend of June 21, 22 and 23. This year's carnival will feature tri-state shows, free entertainment nightly with lunch and refreshment stands."





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American Legion Americanism: Building national pride, advancing patriotism, promoting citizenship, and educating young people

By Bill Statz
Post 245 Americanism Chair

The Kerl-Endres-Brannan American Legion Post No. 245 is one of the most active Legion posts in Wisconsin, and in the nation. It proudly points to its civic achievements in children and youth programs, including Badger Boys, American Legion baseball teams, as well as County Youth Government Day.

BADGER BOYS STATE

Post 245 sponsored three students this year. Badger Boys State 2024 was held on the campus at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. This year's session ran from Sunday, June 9 through Saturday, June 15. We received thank you letters from all three boys, expressing deep appreciation for the opportunity provided by the American Legion Badger Boys State program, AND recogniz-

ing that Legion Post 245 sponsored them so they could attend.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

American Legion baseball remains as a long-standing tradition nationwide. It is the most successful and most visible youth program of the American Legion. Over 75% of college ballplayers and over 50% of major league players have played American Legion baseball during the course of their careers, including Lawrence "Yogi" Berra, Roger Clemens and Larry "Chipper" Jones, Jr. In addition to developing and promoting a spirit of teamwork, good sportsmanship, physical fitness and good citizenship within the community, being a part of the Wisconsin Legion program also allows for participation in one of five baseball classes. Graduating senior players have the opportunity of participating in the annual All-Star Weekend in Milwaukee.

Legion Post 245, serving Cross Plains and Middleton, proudly sponsored two Middleton High School/Legion baseball teams for the 2024 season. Both teams had a great season! Junior Legion finished 14-10. They went 2-2 at Regionals, but fell a little short and were out of the competition. The Senior Legion went 17-15 during the regular season and 12-9 in tournaments.

Special thanks to the Middleton Baseball and Softball Commission (MBSC), and Middleton High School baseball for organizing, managing and coaching the MHS/Legion baseball team. We could not do it without all your dedication and hard work. Also thanks to the true heroes ... the players! The talent of our Legion baseball players is truly awesome, and we know that it takes a lot of hard work and training to become as good as they are. They make the team a team! To the parents - another group of dedicated Legion baseball supporters - a BIG thank you!

AMERICAN LEGION COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY

County Youth Government Day is a field day experience at the county buildings that provides high school and middle school students with firsthand knowledge on how county government plays an important role in their daily lives. Elected officials provide insight on their roles and duties, and give condensed lessons on how the government operates within the county.

This year, Legion Post 245 sponsored students from three middle schools in Cross Plains and Middleton - Glacier Creek, St. Francis, and Kromrey. Legionnaire volunteers accompany the students as chaperones, along with the teachers. County Government Day 2024 was held April 18. Post 245 sponsored a total of 39 students, five teachers, along with four Legion chaperones. They also provided bus transportation and lunch.



'Dedicated to their memory' - The first memorial

On Memorial Day 1981, American Legion Post 245 held a dedication ceremony for their new Cross Plains Legion memorial - following a parade and visit to local cemeteries to honor fallen soldiers. Legion members were aided in the ceremony by members of the Sons of the American Legion. Above, the memorial still proudly stands today in front of Legion Hall.

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Flag program sponsors scholarships

In about 1984, Robert Clampitt proposed posting flags at businesses and homes, starting on Main Street. Within a short time, we were posting about 60 flags for Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. The program was later expanded to area homeowners.

Bob passed the job of organizing it to Dan Cady about 1987. We now have over 300 flags being posted on these holidays.

After the attacks on September 11, 2001, we also post flags each year on 9/11, and post flags every fourth year on Presidential election day. Currently we have eight crews posting and retrieving these flags for each of these holidays.

With this program, each year we are sponsoring four \$1,000 scholarships, and another \$500 scholarship with the Legion Auxiliary, to make a total of five scholarships.



Whatever happened to the ‘tippy car’?

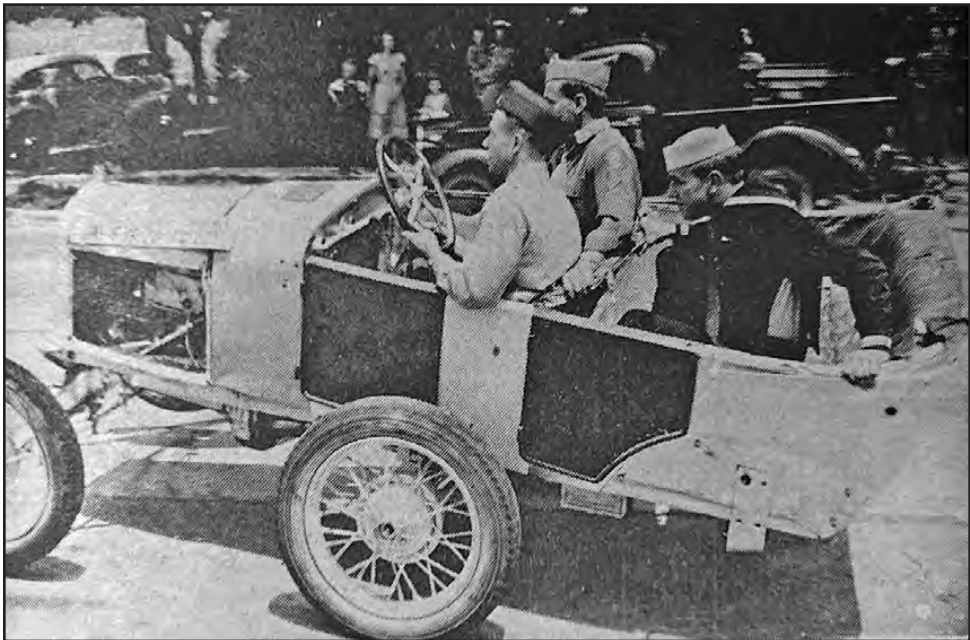
No official records have been found, but it has been told the tippy car (also called ‘Leaping Lena’) was started during the Depression. It mainly was used in parades, such as the Legion State Convention parades, but was also used at weddings to take the bride and groom around town. It was rumored that at one of the state conventions in Madison, they drove it up the steps of the Capitol.

It could be dangerous; it has been said that riders in the back seat were thrown out the tippy car occasionally. Sometimes it would break down during a parade, and would

have to be pushed off to the side of the parade route.

Around the mid 1990’s, the Cross Plains Legion sold the tippy car for \$1.00 to Whitey Hillebrand, Greg Roessler, and Paul Lochner. Around 2001 it was wearing out and they couldn’t find parts to fix it anymore, so they sold it for \$1.00. It is unknown where it is today.

Some of the people that drove and rode in the tippy car were Paul Starczynski, Carl Lochner, Bob Schmelzer, Ken (Gopher) Schwenn, Ralph Schulenberg, Hubby Schulenberg, and Gary Itten.



‘Leaping Lena’ Jockeys Bob Schmelzer, Vincent Coyle, and Paul Starczynski.



By Dan Cady, Past Commander
American Legion Post 245

The cannon in the park has been there long before I moved to town in 1967. There are a few stories I can comment on ...

I have heard stories from kids who played on the cannon growing up, and if they got hurt never a word was said as their parents probably told them several times to not play on it. We have playground equipment – we have had a couple of complaints from parents that their child got hurt on that – but never the cannon.

Now this is what I have heard from many Legionnaires: On Friday night the last weekend of June we had a carnival at the park, and to start the carnival legion members would fire the cannon about

5 p.m. I am not sure of the year but I think it was in the 60’s. On one Friday night, legion members loaded the cannon a little too much, and the force knocked out several windows in neighboring businesses and homes. A collection was taken up and given to those folks to replace the windows. The cannon was then decommissioned and hasn’t been fired since.

When we started the Memorial project in the park, the cannon had to be moved and we found a gentleman from Sauk City that could sandblast the cannon and repaint it. As we removed the cannon for painting there was a lot of worries that the cannon would be gone forever. We had to reassure them it would be back, just in a different area of park, but next to the Memorial.

Recycling program gives back to the community

By Dave Vidlock

The Cross Plains American Legion recycling program was started by Legion member Buddy Schroeder in his back yard before 2012. In 2016 with Buddy’s health failing, I took over managing the recycling program. With Buddy’s passing in 2017, the recycling operation was moved to the Legion garage.

The Cross Plains American Legion has recycled approximately 133,000 lbs. of metal every year since 2017. This takes a large amount of volunteers to sort and transport the metal to the recycler. I would like to thank the volunteers who have stepped up to help with these tasks, and also thank you to the people who donate the metal.

With the proceeds from the metal recycling, we give it back to the community, such as Badger Camp: a camp for people with spe-

cial needs; Camp American Legion: a respite camp for veterans with PTSD; Cross Plains swim team; Stuff the Bus: providing school supplies for needy children in Cross Plains; Cross Plains/Middleton Legion baseball team; Heat for Heroes: making sure veterans are able to have money to pay their heat bill; Cross Plains Giving Tree: helping people at Christmas time; Fruit Baskets at Christmas: given to people who have a serious illness, or who have recently lost a spouse.

I feel fortunate to live in a community where people look out for each other, to make sure a child has materials to work with on the first day of school, to provide a week’s vacation for a veteran and his family who suffers from PTSD, or a child with special needs can go to a summer camp with other children who have special needs.

Thank you for your support.



Congratulations American Legion Post 245 on your 100th Anniversary



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100 YEARS!

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CROSS PLAINS LEGION COMMANDER’S MESSAGE

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parade, and legionnaires, some who are troubled, enjoy a good dinner and a few laughs monthly, as I imagine those 15 founding WWI veterans did a hundred years ago right here in Cross Plains.

If you are a veteran or the family member of one and are interested in joining, our web page is americanlegioncp.org. We would love to have you!



CROSS PLAINS AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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and is followed by a sumptuous meal provided by SAL members. Some of the newer initiatives include Purple Up, where we honor children of enlisted Servicemen/women, and National Guard members. They really serve our nation too, as they face many challenges when their parents get deployed or move to another home. The Hill and Valley Antique Car Show Pie Sale is a fun fundraiser where the car enthusiasts love our homemade pies and ice cream.

The current 2024 Legion Auxiliary officers are: Flo Bayer – President, Katrina McKee – Vice President, Carol Yttri – Treasurer and Secretary, Pat Cady – Chaplain, and Sheila Luhman and Cheryl Kelter – Sergeants at Arms.

Our Legion, SAL and Auxiliary had many good times, parties and dances. We were like family. Good memories!



Current Auxiliary President is Flo Bayer.



Cross Plains Sons of the American Legion getting ready for the parade on Memorial Day 1971 included Ray Faust (bottom right), and SAL members.

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The 2024 Memorial Day Parade included Sons of the American Legion members (left to right): Matthew Cash, Kevin Boehnen, Brian Faust, Ron Faust, Rodney Faust, and Broderick Smith.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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We were very honored to have Dave Faust serve as the National Commander from 1988 to 1989.

Finally, we had one dual member from the Sons of the American Legion Post 245 and the American Legion who became the American Legion National Commander, and that was Keith Kreul.

Over the last 89 years we have been able to participate in many events, and I would like to share some of them with you:

PARADES:

- Cross Plains Memorial Day
- Black Earth Field Days
- Mazomanie Wild West Days
- Middleton Good Neighbor Festival
- Waunakee Legion Carnival
- Mount Horeb Frolic
- 3rd District, State and National
- Driving SAL Tippy Car

AMERICANISM:

- Put up Flags for National Holidays in Cross Plains
- Sell Flags to the Community
- Present Flags at Mollie B. Concert
- Attend Flag Pole Dedications
- Dedication of Dane County Veterans Memorial Foundation
- Participate in 10 Ideals & 5 Star Programs
- Badger Honor Flight Color Guard

MEMORIAL DAY:

- Keep Records of Veterans in Cemeteries
- Put Flags on Graves
- Visit 5 Cemeteries
- Parade
- Program at the Legion

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES:

- Chipmunk Ranch & Wooden Bird Shoot
- Ramish Park Campout
- Milwaukee Zoo
- Raccoon Hunt
- Bowling Lessons & Bowling Tournaments
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Bobbing for Apples
- Christmas Party
- Great America Park
- Weekend Warriors at Fort McCoy
- Milwaukee Brewers Games

FUNDRAISERS:

- Sold Candy to Fund Cross Plains Pool
- Brat Fry for Muscular Dystrophy

Legion Carnival Food Stand & Dunk Tank
Selling Light Bulbs
Madison Motor Cross Dinner

ENVIRONMENTAL:

- Paper Drive for Recycling
- Black Earth Creek Cleanup
- Arbor Day Plant a Tree at Legion Hall
- Collecting Recyclable Materials

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- Youth Dance
- Halloween Parties
- Bicycle Safety Program
- Blood Drives & Donating Blood
- Cross Plains World's Fair
- Toys for Tots, Central Colony & The Martin House

DONATIONS:

- Ray Faust Scholarship
- Sponsor a Badger State Girl
- Adopted an Orphan
- Wisconsin Badger Camp
- Holiday Giving Fruit Baskets
- VA Hospital
- 147th Battalion Soldier's Christmas
- Helping Heroes of America
- Cross Plains Lions Stuff the Bus Drive
- Optimist Santa Visit

SUPPORT LEGION ACTIVITIES:

- Spaghetti Dinner
- Pancake Breakfast
- Drawdown
- Remodeled Legion Hall in 2008
- Legion Golf Outing
- Cooking for May & November Meetings
- Cooking for Special Events
- Bartenders for Events

During the past 89 years it has been a great honor for our members to be a part of the Kerl-Endres-Brannan Post 245. We truly understand the sacrifices that each veteran has made while serving our country. But more remarkably, we have learned to never forget what our veterans have done and how they have taught us to look forward and be of service to our community.

We congratulate you on celebrating your 100th Anniversary, and we look forward to serving with you as we reach out to veterans and serve the Cross Plains and Middleton communities in the future.



Badger Honor Flight Honor Guard, includes left to right, Dave Maier, Rodney Faust, Kevin Boehnen, and Mike Greaney.

LEST WE FORGET...

THE HONOR ROLL



THE UNITED STATES CIVIL WAR

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| John Paschke | Jacob Hays |
| John H. Thomas | James Hayes |
| William Woolston | Jerome A. Norton |
| Timothy A. Perry | Robert E. Ford |
| James Logerson | Robert Bride |
| Jacob H. Webster | James Bride |
| Anton Munster | Allen Drake |
| Milo Cody | Josiah Hadiman |
| Andrew J. Warren | Daniel B. Young |
| Thaddeus Rice | Amos Ford |
| John Fox | William Coan |
| William Smol | William Haynes |
| William Martin | |

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Melchoir C. Esser

WORLD WAR I

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Otto G. Kerl | Frankland Haberland |
| Michael I. Endres | William C. Stekelberg |
| Earl Ignatious Brannan | |

WORLD WAR II

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Willford M. Hellenbrand | Norman H. Schulenberg |
| Orlando E. Matz | Jacob P. Dresen |
| Joseph M. Annen | Milton Norbert Bachman |
| Francis Richard Krantz | Henry A. Bram |
| James D. McCormick | Charles W. Juris |
| Henry A. Sukowatey | Joseph W. Kruchten |
| Amos G. Overland | Francis B. Ferstl |
| Stephen A. Thomas | William L. Simon |

KOREAN WAR

Clarence L. Bentley

VIETNAM WAR

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Ronald R. Reinke | Dennis M. Stoppelworth |
| James G. Hildbrandt | Duane L. Richard |
| David R. Kink | William V. Quast |

IRAQ-AFGHANISTAN

Christopher M. Allgaier

Cross Plains American Legion Post 245 Commanders, 1924-2024



Joseph C. Meyer
1924-1925



Engelbert Faust
1926-1928



John Zander
1929-1931



August Stumpf
1932-1934



Joseph F. Bowar
1935-1936



Frank Coyle
1937-1939



Fred Statz
1940-1941



Don Miller
1942-1943



Joseph Bowar
1944-1946



John Baer
1947



Val Frank
1948-1951



Robert Schmelzer
1952-1954



Ray Faust
1955-1956



Bernard Schroeder
1957-1960



Don Butler
1961



Milt Lukken
1962-1963



Darwin G. Blankenheim
1964



Carl Lochner
1965-1966



Paul Starczynski
1967-1968



Harold Bergum
1969-1970



Robert Holtz
1971-1972



Curt Faust
1973-1974



Ralph Schulenberg
1975-1976



James Tetzlaff
1977-1978



Robert Clampitt
1979-1980



Orville Kerl
1981-1982



Frank Kooistra
1983



Daniel Cady
1984-1985



Morris Sanftleben
1986-1987



Michael Schutz
1988



Joseph Hodgson
1989-1990



Joseph Maier
1991-1992



James Albertson
1993



Richard Hinrichs
1994-1995



Harold Bergum
1996-2001



J.P. Andreoni
2001-2006



Bill Statz
2006-2008



Dan Cady
2008-2012



John Hill
2012-2016



Dan Cady
2016-2017



Ed Pelowsky
2017-2020



Gary Itten
2020-2022



Steve Zanon
2022-present



Memorial Day 1964



Memorial Day 2024

Cross Plains American Legion Auxiliary Presidents, 1927-2024

 <div>Lavona Bowar 1927-1928</div>	 <div>Kitty Saeman 1928-1932</div>	 <div>Loretta Zander 1932-1936</div>	 <div>Pauline Meyer 1936-1938</div>	 <div>Catherine Saeman 1938-1940</div>	 <div>Florentine Adler 1940-1942</div>	 <div>Kate Miller 1942-1944</div>
 <div>Regina Gorman 1944-1946</div>	 <div>Eva Bowar 1946-1948</div>	 <div>Henrietta Schoepp 1948-1951</div>	 <div>Marie Kaltenberg 1951-1952</div>	 <div>Virginia Faust 1952-1953</div>	 <div>Rosemary Schmelzer 1953-1955</div>	 <div>Geraldine Zander 1955-1956</div>
 <div>Eunice Bennett Schmitz 1956-1957</div>	 <div>Mary Frank 1957-1959</div>	 <div>Phyllis Esser 1959-1961</div>	 <div>Betty Foye 1961-1963</div>	 <div>Gail Thomason 1963-1965</div>	 <div>Henrietta Schoepp 1965-1967</div>	 <div>Lois Niebuhr 1967-1969</div>
 <div>Donna Faye Statz 1969-1971</div>	 <div>Beulah Schroeder 1971-1973</div>	 <div>Ethel Hellenbrand 1973-1975</div>	 <div>Joyce Clampitt 1975-1977</div>	 <div>Alice Lukken 1977-1981</div>	 <div>Elvira Sarbacker 1981-1985</div>	 <div>Virginia Faust 1985-1987</div>
 <div>Betty Kemp 1987-1989</div>	 <div>Regina Ripp 1989-1991</div>	 <div>Margaret Walsh 1991-1993</div>	 <div>Darlene Schulenberg 1993-1996</div>	 <div>Donna Juris 1996-1999</div>	 <div>Joyce Clampitt 1999-2002</div>	 <div>Gail Faust 2002-2006</div>
 <div>Joan Runk 2006-2017</div>	 <div>Carol Yttri 2017-2019</div>	 <div>Karen Runk 2019-2022</div>	 <div>Debby Niebuhr 2022-2024</div>	 <div>Flo Bayer 2024-present</div>	 <div>Lavona Bowar's first parade uniform, 1928.</div>	



CONGRATULATIONS CROSS PLAINS
AMERICAN LEGION POST 245!

WE SALUTE YOU ON YOUR
100TH ANNIVERSARY
AND FOR YOUR SERVICE AND
DEDICATION TO OUR VETERANS
AND COMMUNITY.



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