

# The Pine Bough

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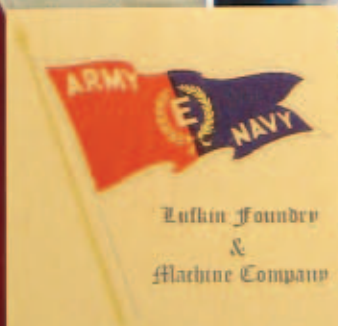
ANGELINA COUNTY  
at WAR

A World War II Exhibit



Prisoner of  
War Interns  
Stage Strike

Prisoner of War Interns Stage Strike  
By [Name]  
[Text]



# OUR HISTORY



**Jonathan K. Gerland**  
Director

In late June I received a letter from the Texas Historical Commission announcing their fall launch of a three-year initiative to commemorate the end of World War II and honor all the men and women who helped us win that epic conflict more than 60 years ago. Known as “Texas in World War II,” the initiative involves identifying and highlighting the many World War II resources in the state, including projects to identify and interpret historic sites, implement a series of new historical markers, and create a heritage tourism brochure and website.

The Commission wanted to know what World War II resources The History Center held in its collection and what World War II exhibits we might be planning in the near future. They encouraged us to participate in the statewide initiative and asked me to complete and return a survey concerning our resources and plans.

At the time I knew we held very little World War II material outside of newspapers and a county-wide Veterans of Foreign Wars World War II photographic tribute book—certainly nothing to produce a full-blown exhibit. I mentioned the letter to staff members, and without hesitation they enthusiastically said creating a new World War II exhibit was something they would enjoy doing. With that we embarked on collecting the necessary resources and creating “Angelina County at War: A World War II Exhibit.”

Community response was immediate. Area veterans and their families generously donated and loaned photographs, uniforms, medals, weapons, and letters to help us tell Angelina County’s World War II story and honor the men and women who sacrificed so much for our freedom. By the end of summer we were well on our way. The experience not only increased our knowledge of the World War II era but more importantly we gained profound appreciation and gratitude as we got to know the war’s participants—hometown heroes in the truest sense—and their individual and collective stories.

Producing the exhibit required the scanning of several hundred photographs and documents, as well as the printing and mounting of more than 220 of those images. The exhibit was installed and completed in late October, and encouraged by community interest, I decided we would use this year’s issue of the Pine Bough to also feature Angelina County’s contribution to winning the war. Of course just as we were unable to display in the exhibit all the material collected, so too are we unable to include all exhibit items in this magazine edition. Nevertheless, we did try to include at least one item from each donor. (Having an abundance of material is a blessing in itself).

I hope you enjoy this special World War II issue of the Pine Bough and will take time to appreciate the sacrifices made and still being made for our precious freedoms. I wish all of you great joy this Christmas and New Year.

Jonathan K. Gerland  
Diboll, Texas



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### About the cover:

*Front:* Left to right from the bottom: Frank Devereaux; detail of Z.R. Cummins' Army-Navy E Award certificate; Bill Lindsey; a Lufkin Daily News clipping; O.P. Rushing's Purple Heart; Webb, Delbert, James, and Johnnie Burchfield; Joe Denman in flight; Jesse Bradford's Normandy invasion cricket clicker; exhibit title image; Gayle Cruthirds' dog tags; medals and wings of Walter Broker Jr., Tom McKinney, and Gayle Cruthirds; Charlie Harber; welder Margaret Jones Osburn; and O.P. Rushing's burial flag.

*Back:* Navy Division Leader Joe Denman, fourth from left, stands with fellow fighter pilots in front of his F4U Corsair in about 1943.



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## THE PINE BOUGH

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Jonathan K. Gerland, Editor  
Emily E. Hyatt, Assistant Editor

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**The History Center**  
102 N. Temple  
Diboll, TX 75941

phone: (936) 829-3543  
fax: (936) 829-3556  
[www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com](http://www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com)

### Staff:

Jonathan K. Gerland, *Director*  
Emily E. Hyatt, *Archivist*  
Patsy Colbert, *Assistant Archivist*  
Louis Landers, *Archival Assistant*  
Brandi Clark, *Research Assistant*

### The History Center Committee:

Ellen Temple, *Chair*  
Jonathan Gerland, *Executive Director*  
Lanny Parish  
Kathy Sample  
Pete Smart

Kathy Sample, *Chair, Board of Directors,*  
*T. L. L. Temple Memorial Library & Archives*



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*Layout/Design by Jay Brittain*



**Exhibit title graphic based on a popular poster produced by the Office of War Information, the federal office that coordinated information outlets in an effort to consolidate the government's wartime message. This image was widely used to promote war bond drives.** Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration and the Library of Congress.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, and communities around the world are marking this occasion in various ways that honor the men and women who gave so much during this conflict. As our communities lose at a staggering rate the veterans who fought and the citizens who supported them and suffered through the home front effects of the war, the horrors and heroism fade from memory into history. World War II was the pivotal event in the 20th century and shaped much of our world today, and as such, should not be relegated to one of history's many footnotes.

This year, The History Center joined with communities, museums, archives, governments, and private individuals across the state to recognize the sacrifices of this generation and honor the men and women of Angelina County who so selflessly gave so much. Using artifacts, photographs, posters, and text, the History Center has put together an exhibit to tell the story of Angelina County's contribution to America's successful World War II efforts.

Angelina County's men and women joined the armed forces, fought in battles across the globe, nursed the injured, worked in factories, rationed goods, grew victory gardens, and bought war bonds in an unprecedented effort to ensure an Allied victory. Area veterans and their families have generously donated and loaned photographs, uniforms, weapons, medals, and letters to help The History Center tell Angelina County's World War II story from its many angles. The photographs and stories that follow are just a sample of the items entrusted to The History Center's care by families wishing to honor their heroes. Let these items be a reminder of sacrifices made here in our own community. Let them serve as a call to honor the men and women to whom we owe so much, while we still can.

# Angelina County at War: A World War II Exhibit

*by Emily E. Hyatt*

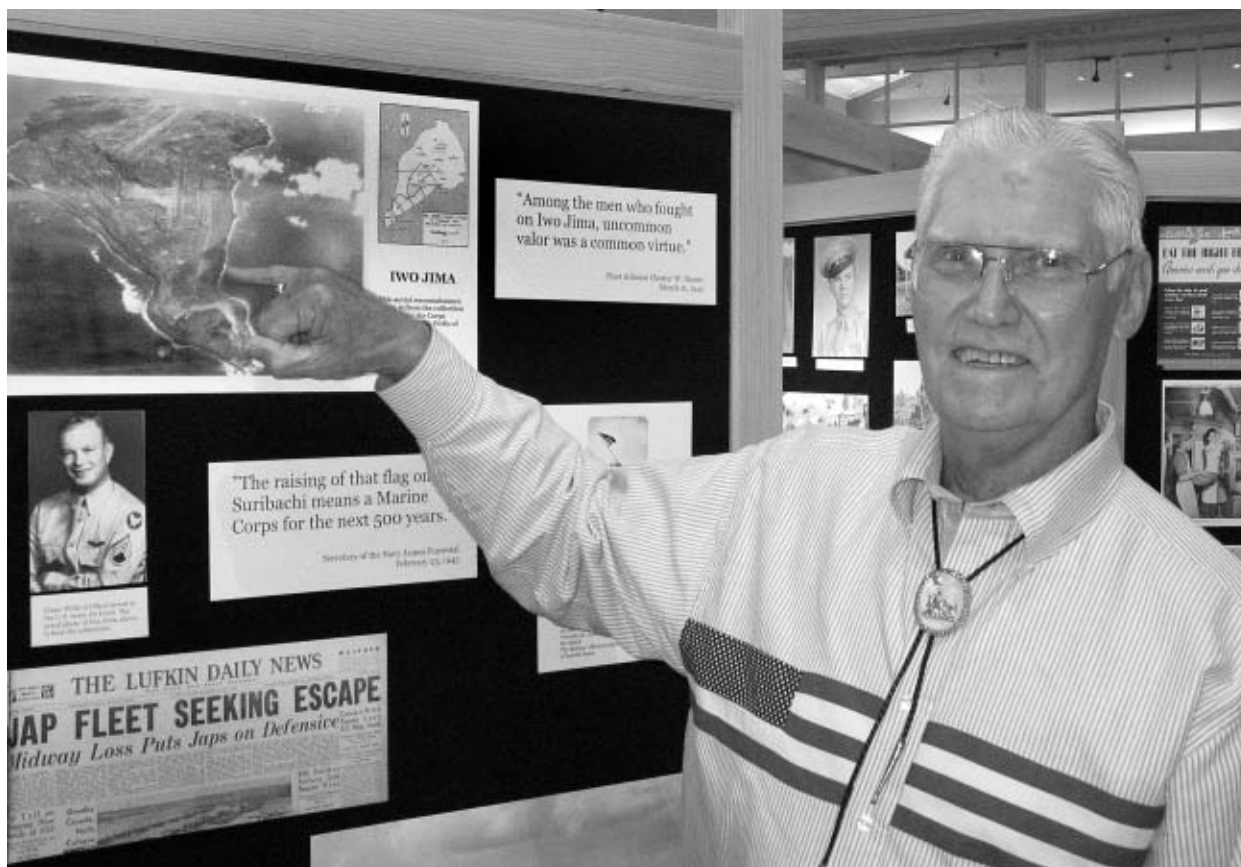
**Dorothy Farley points to a photo of her husband Bobby, who served in the Army Air Corps in the India Burma Theater, and her brother Gayle Cruthirds points to a photo of himself as a nose gunner on a B-24 bomber in Europe. They also have two other brothers who served and whose photos are also part of the exhibit.**







Walter Broker Jr and O.P. Rushing, both of Diboll, are two of Angelina County's 141 war dead memorialized here.



Marine John Powers points to the beach area where he landed during the battle for Iwo Jima.



**Uniform, flight logs, medals, and other personal belongings of World War II pilot Bill Lindsey and toggler/nose gunner Frank Devereaux.**

**A tribute to some of  
Angelina County's World  
War II aviators.**







**Archivist Emily Hyatt played a lead role in the exhibit's planning, wrote nearly all of the interpretive and supporting text, and tracked all exhibit loans and donations of materials.**



**Archival Assistant Louis Landers made most of the exhibit resource contacts and aided in photo identification and interpretation. He poses with a photo of his father, Louis Landers Sr., who served in the Pacific Theater of Operations, seeing action at Solomon Islands, Okinawa, and the Philippines, and served as a tail gunner on a B-26 Bomber as part of the 70th Bomber Squadron, earning 9 Battle Stars.**

# A LETTER FROM FRANCE

by Robert L. Poland

**On June 7 Robert L. Poland and his engineer group followed behind the main invasion force, going ashore at Omaha Beach, but they still faced resistance from the entrenched Germans who grew more desperate as the days passed.**

*On June 6, 1944, the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy to begin the invasion of Europe and push Germany out of France and the other occupied territories. An unprecedented number of soldiers, sailors, boats, ships, guns, planes, and paratroopers left England to face the heavily armed and well fortified Germans. The main invasion force landed on the morning of June 6, known as D-Day, but the Allied troops kept landing on the Norman beaches for several days following, each wave reinforcing the gains made by the ones before and insuring that the Allies would retain control of all the points taken from the Germans as they retreated back through France. On June 7 Robert L. Poland and his engineer group followed behind the main invasion force, going ashore at Omaha Beach, but they still faced resistance from the entrenched Germans who grew more desperate as the days passed.*



Born on May 4, 1919 in Manning, Texas, Robert Linwood Poland grew up in the Piney Woods of East Texas, graduating from Huntington High School in 1937. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering at Texas A&M University in 1942 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Eventually reaching the rank of Captain, Poland took part in 5 campaigns in Europe during World War II, earning the Bronze Star, the Crois de Guerre, and the Presidential Citation for excellence in combat. He was discharged as a Major in 1946.

Following the war he married Adell Slover of Lufkin and began working at Lufkin Foundry & Machine Company (Lufkin Industries). After 21 years at Lufkin Industries, he became President in 1967 and CEO in 1968.

Poland's wife, Cadet Nurse Adell Slover Poland, served in the Army Nurse Corps, as did his sister Maxine Rene Poland; his sister Lt. Gladys Poland served in the WAVES.

Poland vividly recalled his experiences at Normandy in a July 5, 1944 letter to the editor of the Angelina County News, published at Huntington. Here follows an excerpt from that letter, taken from a recent transcription in Poland's possession



*Somewhere in France, 5 July 1944*

This war is a grim, horrible business. I have seen sights I did not think possible. Death is so commonplace, life is so cheap, agony and suffering so ever present, that one is numbed by it all, and only the loss of your very close friends affect you. It is nothing to eat and sleep with the body of a fallen soldier who died beside you.

The news accounts seem to have indicated the landings on the beaches were easy - I can paint a far different picture on our beach. Never could I have conceived in my wildest imagination, the complete destruction, ruin, chaos, and death that littered our beach for miles. Landing craft and invasion ships lay smashed on the beach or drunkenly askew high and dry at low tide, their sides with great gaping holes, rusted and charred from the fierce fires recently burning within them, having served their purpose as a crematorium for the poor devils within.

Shattered and tangled wreckage, barely recognizable as tanks, trucks, and jeeps - the finest military equipment in the world - covered every inch of beach, partially out of the water, partly submerged, bulldozers and guns overturned and smashed from the mines and shell fire as they came ashore. The dead lay in grotesque shapes where they had fallen, now half covered by the shifting sands, as revealed each time by the outgoing tide. The gruesome sight of legs and arms without bodies floating by or sticking out of the sand; the pitiful sight of personal belongings, the snapshots of mothers, wives, and sweethearts; letters, billfolds - all littering the sand at the high water mark; equipment, smashed radios, rifles, mess kits, blankets, machine guns - enough to equip an army - washed ashore; the inadequate plain white stakes, each with a dog tag attached, already marked the start of a beachside cemetery for the assaulting troops. It was a grim sight - and so horribly real.

There is a side less horrible and it is that side which enables us to go on. If we did not grow accustomed to the horror of war and instead, enjoy the lovely apple orchards and beautiful countryside, we would all probably crack under the strain. Some who have not been able to adjust themselves have cracked; the rest of us are going on looking at the nicer things. Right now we are bivouacked in a lovely orchard. The sky is a beautiful blue above, the grass an emerald green underfoot; fat nice looking milk cows are grazing near us. It is a lovely scene. The war and death seem like a bad dream - only one seldom wakes up!

The French people are very courteous to us and offer us wine and flowers. I sometimes wonder if we are liberating or obliterating these poor people by the looks of their towns and homes, which are just rubble after we pass. The fields are full of bloated remains of dead cattle, horses, and pigs; shell battered trees and hundreds of holes where we live and fight, yet they go about their daily work as if nothing was happening.

We are not a pretty bunch these days -grimy, dirty, stinking. I haven't had my clothes off since boarding the invasion ship in England. I have slept every night in France in a slit trench, part of the time covered with dust, part of the time wet with mud. I have lain in my trench and watched a pyrotechnic display at night which would be the most beautiful thing in the world or a Fourth of July - the sky lined with the shooting streaks of flame, a sight to behold - and to fear. I have given up hope of ever again having dry socks, clean hands, mud out of my hair, a shirt that is not truly black to the collar; still it isn't too bad. One gets just so dirty; everyone else is the same way, and you never have to worry about trying to keep clean at all.

It is far, indeed, from the lush green fields of Normandy to the sun-bathed Pines of Angelina County, yet our thoughts jump back over the miles at the slightest provocation. The parties at Mrs. Stewart's basketball games, picnics, are the topics of many a foxhole bull session.

But as it has always been said, "Hope springs eternal," and we are all looking forward to the march through Paris, and finally to our last invasion, completely equipped with a pocket guide to America.

Best regards,  
/s/ Robert

P.S. It's far from being quiet on the Western Front.

*For the citizens of Lufkin, KRBA radio provided a daily link to the outside world, filling their homes with music, news, and advertising jingles from 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. every day. As overseas war developments came across Teletype machines, announcers Al Vinson, Richman Lewin, and Murphy Martin dutifully conveyed the news to Lufkin's citizens. The planned invasion of Europe would be the biggest news event since Pearl Harbor, and Vinson and his KRBA colleagues planned to make sure Lufkin stayed informed for every minute.*

*In the following article, long-time KRBA radio announcer Al Vinson shares his memories of D-Day in Lufkin. He credits Richman Lewin with the station's quick response to this important event and is quite proud that KRBA was able to quickly and consistently keep Lufkin's citizens informed of D-Day developments. A short time later, Vinson joined the Merchant Marines. He was stationed on an island in Boston Harbor as a radioman and later served at sea, where he radioed the orders for German U-Boats surrender. Vinson wishes to dedicate this article, written several years ago, to the memory of Richman Lewin.*

# D-DAY

## in Lufkin, Texas

### 6 June 1944

*By Al Vinson*



**Al Vinson at his home in Lufkin, November 2005.**

*Photo by Jonathan Gerland.*

The D-Day invasion was the biggest story since the attack on Pearl Harbor. Not until the first atomic bomb fell fourteen months later, would we hear such momentous news again. Radio news in East Texas was still in its infancy, and without the genius and talent of men like Richman Lewin, we would not have heard the D-Day story told in the timely and dynamic manner that we did. Richman gave the event a new dimension on the local scene. He was not only professional, he had a certain brilliance and energy that set him apart from other broadcasters.

He was miles ahead in his planning. It was his idea, for example, to tie the news coverage to the War Bond Drive to help raise money for the war effort. And he was a good teacher. We have all profited from his tutorial in radio broadcasting. His memory will long dwell "Among the Pines."

Every year on June 6th, I drift back in time to recall D-Day, 1944, and give thanks for being safe and secure in my hometown. D-Day was a long awaited event. Everyone

**A KRBA Radio wartime advertisement from a 1945 issue of the Lufkin Daily News.**





# EUROPEAN INVASION ON



AMPHIBIOUS LANDING BARGES—Soldiers in their various landings, British and Canadian soldiers in the beach of Omaha. After the invasion, the beach was heavily defended by German forces. The soldiers in the barges are seen in the water, with the beach in the background.

## LONG-AWAITED ASSAULT HURLED AGAINST REICH

### Allies Unleash Avalanche Of Military Might From Land, Sea and Air

#### Commanders in Invasion Men Experience

Gen. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces, is seen in a photograph. The text describes the experience of the commanders involved in the invasion, including the challenges they faced and the coordination required for such a large-scale operation.

#### America's Winged Fury Gives Ample Support to Invasion Forces of United Nations

By JAMES A. STUBBS  
American Fifth Air Force fighters, including the P-51 Mustang, played a crucial role in the invasion. The text details the aerial support provided by the American forces, highlighting the effectiveness of their tactics and the impact on the German defenses.

#### Leigh-Mallory Charged with Air Command

Blowing Blot of War  
Who Fought at Dieppe  
The text discusses the role of Leigh-Mallory in the air command during the invasion, focusing on his strategic decisions and the challenges he faced in coordinating the air forces of the Allies.

LONDON, Tuesday, June 6 (AP)—The Allied invasion of Germany-held Europe is underway!  
The following statement by Gen. Eisenhower was broadcast by Allied radios in London:  
"People of western Europe! A landing was made this morning on the coast of France by troops of the Allied Expeditionary Force. This landing is part of the concerted United Nations plan for the liberation of Europe, made in conjunction with your great Russian allies."  
American, British and Canadian troops landed in northern France, launching the greatest overseas military operation in history with word from their supreme commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, that "we will accept nothing except full victory" over the German masters of the continent.  
The invasion, which Eisenhower called "a great crusade," was announced at 7:32 a. m. Greenwich Mean Time (3:32 a. m. Eastern War Time) in this one-ten-second communique No. 1:  
"Under the command of General Eisenhower, Allied Naval forces supported by strong air forces began landing Allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France."

First extra edition of the Lufkin Daily News' coverage of the Normandy invasion, 6 June 1944.

#### Montgomery Bears Reputation Of Being Real 'Man-o-War'

The text discusses the reputation of General Montgomery as a "Man-o-War" and his role in the invasion. It highlights his strategic vision and the challenges he faced in leading the Allied forces.

#### Ramsay Wins Honors at Dunquerque

The text reports on the honors awarded to Ramsay for his role in the invasion. It details the specific actions he took and the recognition he received from the Allied command.

#### Eisenhower Makes Rapid Rise To Prominence with Army

The text discusses the rapid rise of General Eisenhower to prominence in the Army. It outlines the key moments in his career that led to his role as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces.

It was announced yesterday that Britain's Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery, hero of the African desert, was in charge of the assault on the continent.  
Eisenhower himself, without Godspeed to the participants who were the first to land on the enemy-held soil of France.  
For three hours previous to the Allied announcement the German radio had been pouring forth a series of lies reporting that the Allies were landing between Le Havre and Cherbourg along the south side of the Bay of the Seine and along the south coast of Normandy.  
This would be across the channel and almost due south of both British ports at Hastings, Berghen, Portsmouth and Bournemouth.  
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, June 6, (AP)—It can now be revealed that the Allies have been conducting a series of feints in advance of the invasion today.  
These feints were predicted accurately ago by Prime Minister Churchill, and were designed to tell the Germans so they would never know when the blow was coming.  
On several occasions thousands of troops, even with corresponding aircraft, sailed out in great fleets to almost without shell usage of German defenses in Europe as though they were going to attack while Nazi reconnaissance planes closely checked movements.  
Three feints had been carried out on widely separated points.  
The Supreme Command ready to leave about its intention to attack but the surprise was that the Germans did not know where the main blow was coming.

#### Spaatz a Quiet Man But Real Strategist and Hard Fighter

By the Associated Press  
The text describes General Spaatz as a quiet man but a real strategist and hard fighter. It details his role in the invasion and his reputation among the Allied command.

#### Nelson Says Big Production Ahead

The text reports on Nelson's statement about a big production ahead. It discusses the challenges of maintaining a high level of production during the invasion and the importance of the Allied forces.

#### Ration Roundup

The text discusses the rationing of food and supplies during the invasion. It highlights the challenges of maintaining a steady supply of resources for the Allied forces and the impact on the civilian population.

knew it was coming. And since so many local men and women would be directly involved, interest was at a peak.

At the time, I was a staff announcer at Radio Station KRBA, the town's only radio station. Others working as announcers were Richman Lewin and Murphy Martin.

Richman was a fixture at the station, and excelled in his daily performance. He later managed a new radio station, KTRE, and then television Channel Nine, KTRE-TV. Murphy Martin later became a successful broadcaster on the national scene with ABC Radio and Television.

KRBA was on the air from six a.m. till nine-thirty p.m. I had closed the station on the night of June fifth. At home, at about 11:30 p.m., I had a call from Richman.

He had been listening to network radio stations, and was convinced the invasion was about to begin. He said we should meet at the station to check the teletype for wire reports on the situation. We were in the studios by midnight.

The exact time and date of the expected



*THE PINE BOUGH*





The front side of a radiogram sent by Merchant Marine Radio Officer Al Vinson on 8 May 1945 explaining German submarine surrender orders.

play a single phonograph record for the next thirty-six hours we were on the air. War news and war bond sales were the only thing scheduled for this moment in history. And this marked the first time 24-hour radio was offered in Lufkin.

We were indebted, too, to the wire service for providing that backup copy. It saved the day for the broadcasters. I remember the three of us hovering over the teletype reading and re-reading the copy coming down the line. But teletypes were slow in those days, and to fill the time with information people wanted, we were able to deliver from this resource.

We soon found that voices wouldn't last without rest. We began a rotation of three or four hours each. And a two hour nap was all we needed to get back to the task. When my break time came, I walked home. Little or no air-conditioning existed in those days. Windows were open in every home, and each one had a radio tuned to KRBA. The air was filled with war news, and I didn't miss a word going to and from the station.

The major difference then, and now, was the lack of news commentary. We simply

reported the facts about news from the front, as described by correspondents on the scene. There was no second guessing, no word about the movement of troops, or future plans-and certainly no criticism of our government and its leadership. Our nation was like a family, and each of us would do anything to protect it.

Three months later, I would be in boot camp, and on to radio school, to become a radio operator on Merchant ships. That night in June, I little realized how much the world would change. Murphy Martin has since served as television news anchor for ABC-TV Network WFAA-TV in Dallas, WABC-TV in New York, and was the Voice of the Dallas Cowboys in Texas Stadium for 24 years. Today, Murphy proudly wears a Dallas Cowboy Super Bowl ring. Since retiring from that position, Murphy is a successful Motivational Speaker. He also served as President of United We Stand, the Ross Perot sponsored MIA/POW program. Murphy will surely attest he has covered most of the changes the world has seen since D-Day, 61 years ago.



Sp (S) 3/c Rebecca Behannon of Lufkin served with the Navy in the American Theater of Operations.



Cadet Nurse Joy Kirkland Brown served with the Army Cadet Nurses' Corps at the Methodist Hospital in Houston.

## Their War Too:

# The Women of Angelina County

*by Emily Hyatt*



Pvt. Rachel June Carlisle of Lufkin served with the WAAC at George Field.



SP 3/c Marjorie Ann Chambers of Lufkin served with the WAVES in the USA.



Ensign M. Louise Cheneval of Lufkin served in the Navy Nurse Corps in the American Theater of Operations.



RN Birdie M. Cloud of Huntington served as a Nurse Cadet in Texas.

Following the example of their county's namesake, the Indian guide Angelina, Angelina County women answered the call to aid their country in its time of war. The county's women joined the various branches of the military open to them and became WACS (members of the Women's Army Corps), WAVES (members of the Navy's Women Accepted for Voluntary Service), and Women Marines, as well as the Army and Navy Nurse Corps and the Red Cross Nurse Corps. Equally important, they entered the labor force, mastering the jobs men left behind after enlistment and supporting the county's industries. Angelina County had its own band of Rosie the Riveters, operating and repairing machinery and keeping production going. Women also kept the home front running smoothly, mastering the use of ration cards, taking part in Red Cross drives, growing Victory Gardens, encouraging their children to collect scrap metal for scrap drives, and maintaining hearth and home for the men off fighting. Home front contributions sometimes get overlooked in the excitement of honoring those who fought the war, but without the women staffing production lines and offices, canning their own vegetables, walking to and from the store and work to conserve gas and rubber, and sending encouraging letters across the miles to their men in the war zone, the massive American mobilization in World War II would have been more difficult. Angelina County women contributed in every way possible and should get a portion of the victory praise.





Lt. (J.G.) Floy H. Cochran of Lufkin served in the Navy in the 8th Naval District, New Orleans, Louisiana.



Cpl. Geraldine A. (Purvis) Corbin served in the WAC in Australia.



Cpl. Maxine Franklin of Lufkin served in the WAC at March Field, CA



Pfc. Lucette Virginia Garrett of Lufkin served in the WAC in the American Theater of Operations.



T/5 Alice Larue Goodson of Lufkin served in the WAC in the USA.



2nd Lt. Mary Grisham served with the Army in the USA.



Cadet Nurse Lois Hazelwood of Lufkin served in the Cadet Nurse Corps.



Cadet Nurse Winnie Hazelwood of Lufkin served in the Cadet Nurse Corps.



Cpl. Mayme E. Lacey of Lufkin served in the WAC in the American Theater of Operations.



2nd Lt. Juanita Lindsey served with the Army Nurses Corps at a Station hospital in Australia and at Camp Berkeley, Abilene.



Junior Cadet Nurse Mildred Lindsey of Huntington served as a Junior Cadet nurse at Waco.



A.S. Mrs. Irene Mayberry served with the WAVES.



Sgt. Susie L. McKinney of Lufkin served as an Army Air WAC in Orlando, FL.



Pfc. Sofia Miranda of Diboll served with the WAC.



Cadet Nurse Mary Moody of Lufkin served in the Cadet Nurse Corps in Savannah, GA.



Pfc. Sarah Nellie Oliver of Lufkin served in the WAC in England and France



Lt. Irma Owens of Lufkin served as an Army Nurse in San Antonio, Texas and Chicago, Illinois.



Lt. Eunice I. Parrott of Zavalla served in the Army Nurse Corps in the Philippines and Japan.





Cpl. Marjorie J. Perkins of Redland served in the Army Air Corps at Ellington Field, Texas.



Cadet Nurse Adell Slover Poland of Lufkin served in the Nurse Corps in the USA.



Lt. Gladys D. Poland of Huntington served with the WAVES in the Pacific Theater of Operations.



Cadet Nurse Maxine Rene Poland of Huntington served in the Nurse Corps in Maryland.



2nd Lt. Jimmie Porter of Lufkin served in the China-Burma-India Theater with the Navy Nurse Corps.



S 1/c Ida Dell Purvis of Lufkin served with the Navy.



WAVE Lorraine Sheffield of Huntington served in the WAVES at the Bureau of Ships in Washington, D.C. and Maryland.



Pvt. Mozelle M. Sims of Kirbyville served as a nurse in the WAC.



S 1/c Opal Inez Stanaland of Burke served with the Navy



Cpl. Pearl Stanley of Zavalla, attended Zavalla High served with the Army in Holland, the Philippines, and in Manila.



Pfc. Emily M. Thompson of Lufkin, served as an Air WAC in England.



Cpl. Neva Jane Thompson of Lufkin served with the Marine Air Corps.



Sgt. Ceola M. Williams of Lufkin served with the WAAC in the American Theater of Operations.



Red Cross Staff Assistant, Frances Wilroy of Huntington served with the American Red Cross in Manila and Tokyo.

A clipping on gardening and canning from the February 20, 1944 issue of the Lufkin Daily News.

## Canners Like New Program

### Green Reports Splendid Response to Training Plan

Excellence response of housewives in the Lufkin school district to the rural war training program for increased production of garden products and canning, gives indication that this area will meet its food problem during the spring and summer months, J. C. Green, vocational agriculture teacher for Lufkin high school and supervisor of the program, said Saturday.

Enough women registered Tuesday and Thursday of last week to insure three group meetings each week for planning of production, in advance of the canning season that starts May 29, to last through August 18.

Canning equipment will be available at the high school without cost during that period. Mrs. Jones Smith will supervise the canning and aid the women, who must do the work themselves. Supt. George Wells is handling the funds and equipment for the training program.

A similar program has been instituted at Dunbar high school for negro women.

In discussing the program, Mr. Green cited the required food budget for one person for one year. According to home economics authorities the following is needed:

Leafy, green or yellow colored vegetables, 70 pounds fresh and 30 pounds canned; other vegetables and young corn, 164 pounds fresh and stored, 36 pounds canned; starchy vegetables, 20 pounds fresh, and 180 pounds stored; citrus fruit or tomatoes, 46 pounds fresh and 54 pounds canned; protein rich foods, lean meat, fish poultry, 100 pounds; egg, 17 dozen; mature peas and beans, 25 pounds; fruits, 90 pounds fresh and 80 pounds canned; fats, 40 pounds of butter, eight pounds of lard and 12 pounds pork and bacon; grains, 86 pounds flour, 85 pounds meal, 10 pounds rice, 10 pounds whole cereal and five pounds macaroni; milk, 73 gallons for cooking and drinking, 104 gallons for butter; sweets, 10 pound jelly, preserves, etc., 10 pounds honey or syrup and 50 pounds sugar.

### NEGROES TO TAKE PART IN PROGRAM

Negro women in the Lufkin school district will have an opportunity to participate in the rural war training program for victory gardens and canning. Vocational Agriculture Teacher John Simonds of Dunbar high school announced Saturday.

Those wishing to participate in this program, which includes aid with gardening problems and free canning facilities may register at the Dunbar home economics building at any time. Early registration is urged.

Lufkin Daily News  
20 February 1944





A victory garden advertisement from an April 1942 issue of the Lufkin Daily News.

Mr. and Mrs. Josh Duncan and their crop of Irish potatoes, 1943. Photo courtesy of Lufkin Industries.





Women workers at Lufkin Foundry's tank gear department enjoy a lunch break on June 17, 1943. Photo courtesy of Lufkin Industries.

Margaret Jones Osburn, a welder at Lufkin Foundry's howitzer carriage plant. Photo courtesy of Lufkin Industries.





**Certificate of Registrar**

*This is to Certify* that pursuant to the Rationing Orders and Regulations administered by the OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION, an agency of the United States Government,

(Name, Address, and Description of person to whom the book is issued)

*Cummins Clara Ann*  
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

*202 Branch*  
(Street No. or R.O. Box No.) (Street or R.F.D.)

*Lufkin Angeline Tate*  
(City or town) (County) (State)

Stamps must not be detached except in the presence of the registrar, his employee, or person authorized by him to make delivery.

has been issued the attached War Ration Stamp this *14th* day of *May*, 1942, upon the basis of an application signed by himself ☐, herself ☒, or on his or her behalf by his or her husband ☐, wife ☐, father ☐, mother ☐, exception ☐. (Check one.)

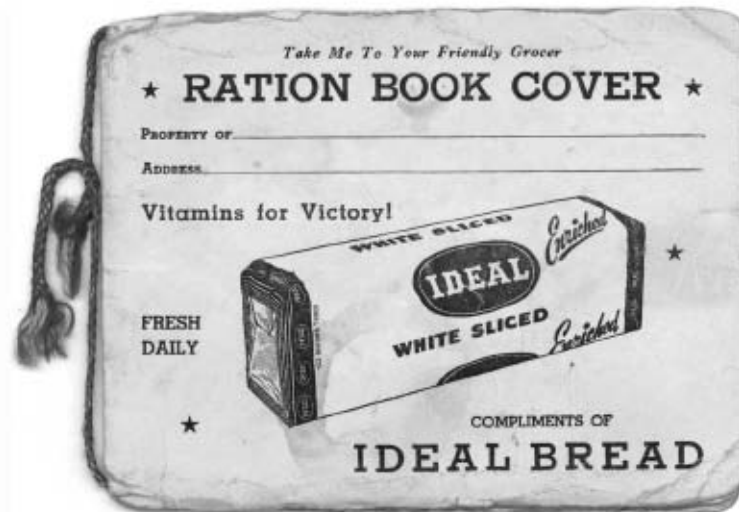
*Mattie Kinsolving* (Signature)  
(Registrar)

Local Board No. *4* County *Angelina* State *Texas*

5 ft. *3* in. *170* lbs. *Blue Brown* *42* yrs. Sex ☒ Male ☐ Female  
(Height) (Weight) (Color of eyes) (Color of hair) (Age)

WAR RATION STAMP 22  
 WAR RATION STAMP 20  
 WAR RATION STAMP 19

War ration book of Clara Ann Cummins of Lufkin.



Beatrice Gates, a worker at Lufkin Foundry's tank gear plant. Photo courtesy of Lufkin Industries.

# Scrapbook Pages

1

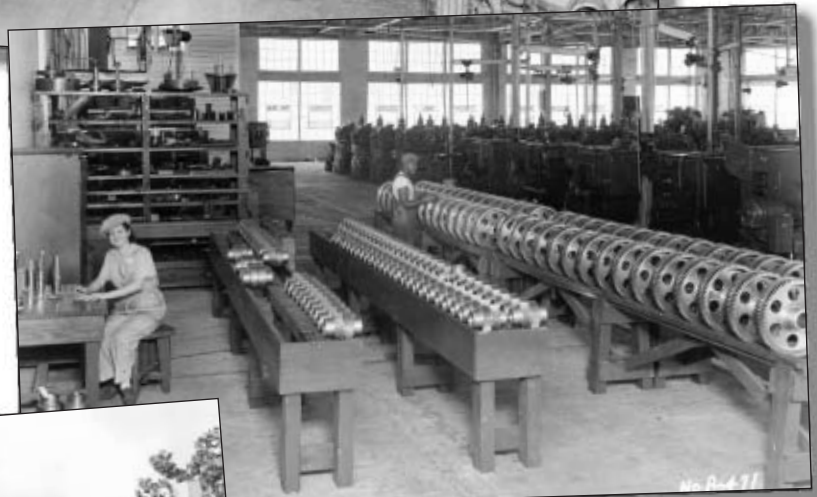


2

On June 24, 1943 Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company received the Army-Navy "E" Award at a ceremony at Lufkin's Panther Field. The Army- Navy "E" Award honored war producers for production excellence, encouraging American companies to take part in the war effort. W.C. Trout accepted the award on behalf of foundry employees (second from left in photo 1). The City of Lufkin and the State of Texas also took great pride in this award, since it emphasized to military and national leaders the viability and reliability of Texas workers and their contributions to the war effort. Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company's howitzer carriages (photo 2), tank gears (photo 3), marine propulsion engines (photo 4), practice bombs, and trailers (photo 5) were as vital components of America's war efforts as the men and women from Angelina County serving in the armed forces.



3



4



5







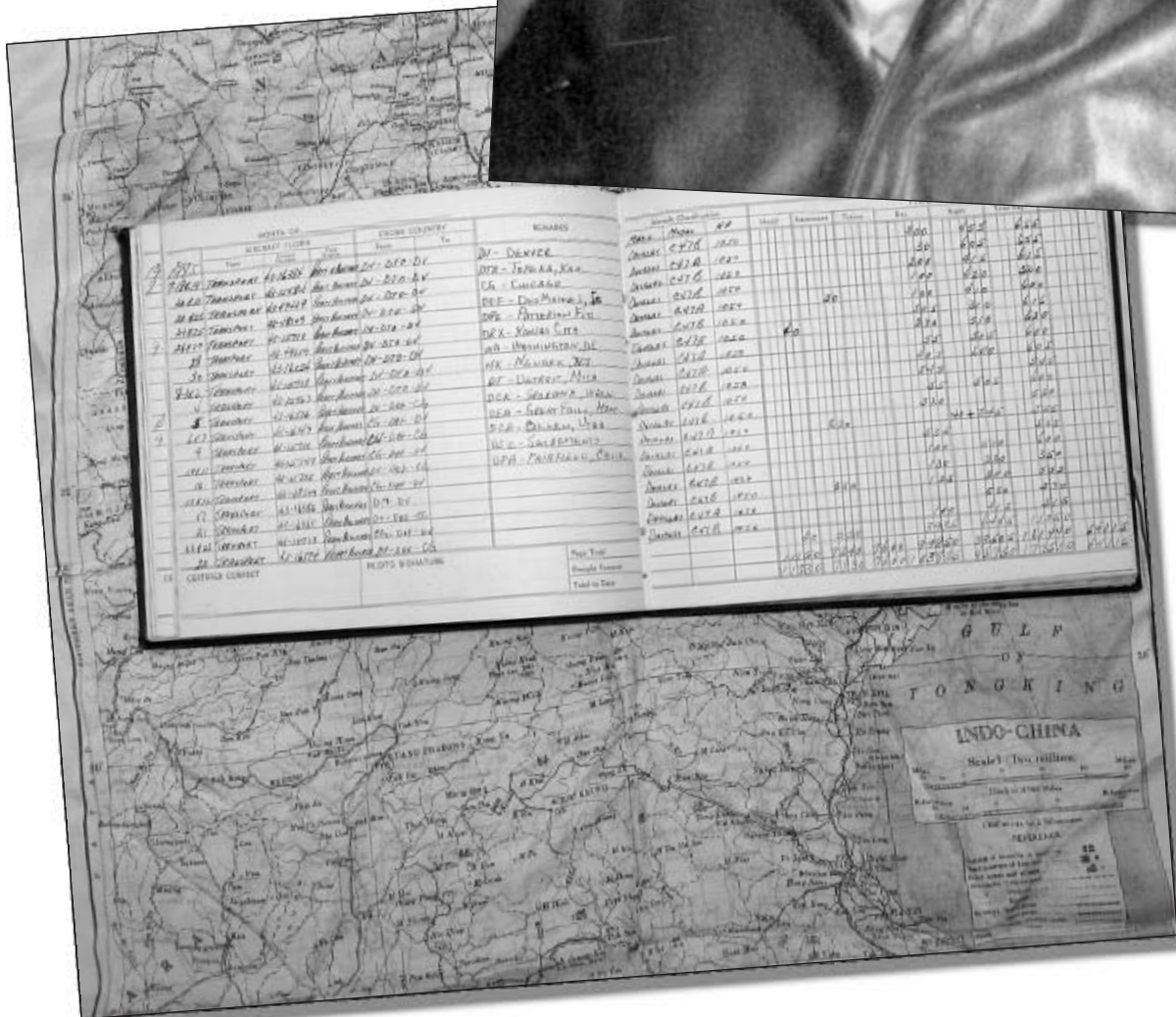
Alton Tucker Warner, ca. 1941.

When the Japanese launched their attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Lufkin resident Alton T. Warner became an eyewitness to and a participant in one of the most pivotal days in American history. The long-time Navy man vividly remembered his every action on that day and the frantic days that followed for his fellow crewmen aboard his ship, the USS Worden. Attached to the USS Dobbin for routine repairs, the destroyer Worden was, like the other ships in port, unprepared for the attack. Unable to lift anchor and head out to sea until 3 hours after the attack began, the crew manned their guns and hurriedly reassembled the engine room with bombs falling all around them. Warner spent at least an hour in the depths of the ship retrieving ammunition for his gun station (ammunition was always stored below the waterline while ships were in port), all the while worrying that the bombs dropping all around them would land on his ship. He recalled that one bomb missed the destroyer by about 5 feet, killing 4 sailors on the neighboring Dobbin. Throughout the attack and his time in the ship's hold, Warner relied on his training, saying, "You just do things automatically. You don't really stop to think. When they give you an order to do something, why, you're trained to do it." The crew's training and fast work helped the Worden get underway relatively quickly, considering the engine room was completely disassembled and the parts were being repaired on the Dobbin. The crew also shot down at least two Japanese airplanes, probably saving lives in the process. Warner's ship continued to patrol the Pacific, and he was eventually transferred away from the Worden. For the rest of the war, Warner served in various capacities on several Pacific islands, and he continued serving in the Navy until 1962.



USS Worden, Warner's ship during the Pearl Harbor attack.

Lufkin native and longtime Temple company pilot Bill Lindsey served as a cargo pilot with the Army Air Force in the China Burma India Theater. All pilots in that theater were required to wear a scarf like this one, with a map of the area drawn on both sides. If he had been shot down or forced to land away from Allied bases, Lindsey's scarf would provide valuable information to help him get back to the Allied lines and avoid enemy territory. Lindsey kept this flight logbook during the war; he recorded every flight he made, whether in the American Theater or the China Burma India Theater.





## Scrapbook Pages



Doyle Cummins, 1939.

Career Navy man Doyle Cummins of Lufkin enlisted in the U.S. Navy in January 1939 and served as a flight crewman and engineer on the aircraft carriers USS Ranger (CV4) and USS Wasp (CV7) prior to the United States' entrance into World War II. The Wasp, pictured bottom right at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 1940, served in the Mediterranean Sea until late spring 1942, when she left for the Pacific to support U.S. Marine landings on Guadalcanal. The Wasp was lost on September 15, 1942 near Guadalcanal after being hit by three torpedoes from a Japanese submarine. 1,946 men were rescued; 193 were lost with the ship. Earlier, in the photo below, Cummins posed aboard the USS Wasp with a Navy F4F Wildcat that shot down three German Messerschmidt Bf-109 fighter planes over the Mediterranean Sea in late 1940, a year before the United States' official entry into the war. At the time, the Wasp and its fighter planes were transporting and escorting warplanes to British forces at Malta.



Fighting Wasp emblem.



Matchbook showing the USS Wasp.



## Scrapbook Pages

Diboll native S/Sgt. Frank Devereaux served as a togglier on a B-25 Mitchell Bomber in the 380th Bomb Squadron (M), 310th Bomb Group (M) based in Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart for an injury on February 24, 1945 when flack hit his plane over Germany - he was hit in the hip by shrapnel. His bomber crew subsequently dubbed him "Purple Heart Devereaux." He received the Soldier's Medal on May 3, 1945 for stemming the flow of gasoline into the bomb bay after flack hit his bomber over Germany, allowing the pilot to safely return the plane and its crew back to base in Italy. Devereaux kept a flight log, detailing the location and success of each mission. These excerpts tell of Devereaux's bombing missions in early 1945 while his squadron was assigned to keeping Brenner Pass, an important German Army supply route between Austria and Italy, closed. Usually delivering four 1,000-pound bombs each, the planes attacked railroad yards and bridges, often "with good results," as Devereaux recorded.

1/4/45, Brenner Pass.  
Bombed Ladisica Rail  
Road Viaducts with  
good results.  
The flak was plenty  
heavy & we lost one ship.  
Lt. Pickett & crew went  
down.  
My first mission  
as bombardier.  
The flak was so close  
near the plane that  
I could hear it go.  
Flying time {4:20}  
Bomb load 4X1000

Fronta  
12A, 1/30/45, Brenner Pass.  
Bombed Fronta Marshaling  
yards. Good results.  
Capt. J. Flak, one piece  
took my flak suit.  
4X1000 B.D. F.F. {4:00}  
Eight holes in our plane.

12B, 1/31/45, Bombed R.R.  
Bridges at Chiusaforte,  
Italy. We made six  
runs on target, didn't  
drop bombs.  
4X1000 B.D. F.F. {0:20}

Brenner Pass  
2A, 2-20-45, Bombed Ala.  
Northern Italy, R.R.B.  
& Marshaling yards.  
We were hit by flak.  
Flak was scant.  
2X1000 B.D. 2.2 {3:40}

2A, 2-24-45, Brenner Pass.  
We Bombed Davis R.R.  
division. Flak was  
heavy, I was hit in  
the hip & one engine  
was knocked out by left  
engine.  
4X1000 B.D. 2.2 {4:40}

2A, 3-3-45, Brenner Pass.  
Alarone R.R.B. 7M  
Flak.  
4X1000 B.D. 2.2 {4:20}





Lt. JG Jesse Bradford of Lufkin commanded LCT 659 at Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. His LCT was part of the largest armada ever assembled, which landed on the heavily fortified French coastline in order to force the occupying German Army out of France. The 119 ft. LCT (Landing Craft Tank) Mark 6 had a ramp at both the bow and stern and carried a crew of 12. For the D-Day invasions, LCT's were armored and carried men and tanks ashore. Lt. JG Bradford kept many souvenirs of his time in the Navy, particularly from the D-Day invasion. This cricket clicker is an example of those issued to Allied troops before the invasion. The large size of the invasion forces combined with the huge area of the invasion site meant that soldiers, sailors, and paratroopers would be scattered all along the coast and throughout the Norman countryside without traditional battle lines and fronts. The Allies used these clickers to identify themselves during the invasion. If a soldier came across a position occupied by an unknown group, they would click once. If they received two clicks in response, it was a friendly position occupied by fellow Allies. It was hoped that these clickers would allow Allied troops to find each other amidst the chaos of the invasion without alerting the entrenched Germans to their positions.



Bradford also saved this propaganda leaflet, dropped by the Germans onto the invading Allied armies. The unprecedented scale of the Allied invasion at Normandy caught the German forces off guard, and as they were forced farther away from their fortified positions along the coast they attempted to demoralize the invaders with propaganda meant to cause dissention among their ranks.

On January 22, 1946, Jesse Bradford was stationed on the American freighter Brevard, patrolling off the coast of China. His ship encountered a sinking ship filled with almost 4300 Japanese citizens on their way to repatriation in Japan. The Brevard successfully rescued all passengers on the disabled ship within 25 minutes of responding to the disaster. As the Japanese ship continued to sink, the Brevard was forced to pull away, but several small boats, under the command of Jesse Bradford, were able to rescue the remaining passengers.





A smiling, smut-darkened John H. Taylor, standing far right, a paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles, waits with Stick #77 just before take off at 11:07 p.m. on 5 June 1944 for the D-Day jump into Normandy.

### D-DAY 6 June 1944

At 1:00 a.m. on June 6, 1944, Lufkin native John Taylor was a 26-year-old paratrooper waiting for his turn to jump into the smoke and bullet filled sky over Normandy, France. He had begun his journey two years earlier, joining the Army in July of 1942, leaving behind his hometown, his family, and the "Taylor Brothers" paint contracting business he ran with his three brothers. Before he finished his time in the United States Army in 1945, John Taylor would almost drown on D-Day, fight his way through Holland in Operation Market-Garden, hold a squad member as he died after a German tank attack, fight against the Sixth German Parachute Regiment three different times, endure frozen nights surrounded by Germans at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, suffer from the flu in the cold rain, and guard Hermann Göring's treasures. John Taylor considers himself lucky, even entitling his wartime memoirs "Fortunate Soldier," because he was the only member of his platoon never to be wounded and because all four Taylor brothers returned home from the service in World War II. On that dark morning in June, his two years of training were about to be tested and his battle for survival was about to begin.



Technical Sergeant John H. Taylor of Lufkin, Squad Leader, 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, American 1st Army, Allied Forces.



1



2



3

1. Navy fighter pilot Joe Denman (fourth from left) poses with other fighter pilots in front of Denman's F4U Corsair in about 1943. From the left are Gene Hall, Glenn Tierney, Dean "Smiley" Wilson, Denman (Division Leader), and "Pappy" LaPorte.

2. Denman stands on the wing of an F6F Hellcat. The Hellcat shot down 4,947 enemy aircraft by the end of the war, almost 75% of all US Navy air-to-air victories against Japanese aircraft.

3. Denman prepares to land his F4U Corsair aboard the USS Bunker Hill in 1943. A highly successful fighter (with an 11:1 ratio of kills to losses in combat against Japanese aircraft), the Corsair was the first Navy warplane to exceed 400 mph in level flight and became the last piston-engined fighter in production for any of the US services-until 1952. During the Korean War a Corsair was credited with downing a MiG-15 jet.

4. Denman in flight, ca.1943.



4



1

B-17 Crew Chief Tom B. McKinney of Burke (at left in photo 1) served with the Eighth Air Force's 615th Bombardment Squadron, 401st Bomb Group (Heavy), based at Deenethorpe, England. He listens to the heroic exploits of tail gunner James Hamilton (of Georgetown, KY), who shot down at least three enemy aircraft and for a while was unconscious on a bombing mission to Oscherleben, Germany in January 1944. McKinney served as the crew chief for "Little Boots," a B-17 Bomber (photo 2), pictured here over Germany in about 1944. McKinney slept in a tent along the airfield runways and was ultimately responsible for readying the plane before and after each flight, including refueling and reloading the bombs and ammunition.



2





## Scrapbook Pages



Diboll's R.V. Wilkerson was drafted into the United States Army at the age of 23. After training in El Paso and sailing across the Atlantic on the Queen Elizabeth, Wilkerson arrived at his duty station in Taunton, England, 90 miles from London. Wilkerson didn't face down German panzers or slog through the trenches, but his contributions to the war effort were vital. His job was to feed the American and British troops based in this part of England. The Somerset region of England, where Taunton was located, had been on high alert since the beginning of the war, housing several thousand London children escaping the German bombs in that city, and handling a large number of American and British soldiers on their way to and from the battlefields in Europe. Working 12 hours a day, Wilkerson and his fellow cooks fed a revolving group of about 500 men at this important base. Each soldier received 3 meals a day, so Taunton's crew prepared and served 1500 meals each and every day!

Wilkerson is standing fifth from the right in this photo, shown with his fellow crewmen at Taunton with one of many Clubmobiles, a sort of meals on wheels for busy airmen.



A post card showing the interior of a Clubmobile.



Though they were located far from the battlefields of Europe, Wilkerson and his fellow soldiers witnessed the German planes on their way to bomb London, Bristol, and Bath, local large cities with military, industrial, and cultural importance. On the other hand, they also cheered on Allied planes on their way to Normandy on June 6, 1944, seen here flying overhead on their way to support the D-Day invasion. Photo by R.V. Wilkerson.

## Scrapbook Pages

1: This stone, believed to have been inscribed by a German prisoner of war, forms part of an entrance wall to a former Lufkin POW camp that operated between late 1943 and early 1946. During this time Lufkin, the county seat, was home to two such camps, where several hundred German prisoners were brought to perform forest work, primarily in the pulpwood and lumber industries. The stone wall, originally part of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp wall of the 1930s, still stands off Raguet Street in northwest Lufkin. Photo by Jonathan Gerland, September 2005.



2

### Nazi Prisoners Will Undertake Forestry Work

(Approved by Commandant Huntsville War Prison Camp)

The war that is being fought on scattered fronts of the world has been brought close to Lufkin in the form of a prisoner of war camp located at the Texas Forest depot on highway 69, about one mile from the city limits.

The prisoners, all of whom are Germans, have been brought into Angelina county for forest work.

The camp, a sub-station of the war prisoner camp at Huntsville, is under the command of Lt. George Lawtum.

At present, the prisoners, exact number of which is restricted

information, are constructing quarters for their indefinite stay here. It is expected the construction work will be completed within a two-week period.

The prisoners of war, wearing blue dungarees with the letters "P W" plainly on their backs are under the constant and close scrutiny of approximately 20 American military police authorities.

Activities and information of the prisoners of war while interned here are being withheld, pending a release from high authorities at Washington.

3

### Prisoner of War Interns Stage Strike

While Allied troops are locked in conflict today with the Germans, a minor "conflict" consisting chiefly of a clash of wills is understood to have developed in the prisoner-of-war camps in this area.

No contact could be made with authorities in charge of the prison camps, who would be prohibited by wartime censorship from revealing details, but the Lufkin Daily News learned from authoritative sources that prisoners-of-war engaged in logging and pulpwood operations had gone on a strike Saturday.

According to the reports, the prisoners served a demand on camp authorities that they would work no longer at the prescribed 80 cents, but must have \$1.50 instead. The former pay is established by the Geneva conference.

The work stoppage continued Monday and Tuesday and "striking" prisoners were reported on restricted rations so long as they declined to work.

There has been no actual difficulties, the News learned.

Lufkin Daily News 6 June 1944

2-4: The Lufkin Daily News reported on activities of the camps, including a work strike in early June 1944. For more on the prisoner of war camps, see Mark Choate, *Nazis in the Pineywoods* (Lufkin: Best of East Texas Publishers, 1989).

4

### Prisoners of War Return to Work

DALLAS, June 9 (AP)— Eighth Service Command headquarters announced work is expected to be resumed today by approximately 250 German prisoners of war who quite work at the No. 2 Branch Prisoner of War Camp at Lufkin, Texas, last Saturday after they were told to increase their wood cutting output.

Headquarters said the prisoners have agreed to return to work and to cut the amount of wood requested by the camp commander.

The camp commander last week told the prisoners, who were cutting three-quarters of a cord of pulpwood per day per man, to increase their output in view of the fact that civilian laborers were cutting from two to three cords a day each.

Lufkin Daily News 9 June 1944



Jack Devereaux of Diboll served as a Navy Motor Mack, 2nd Class, aboard LST 343. He saw action in the assault and occupation of Okinawa. These are photographs he collected while overseas.



**Holocaust:** A term derived from the Greek "sacrifice by fire," it is used to describe the systematic, state-sponsored murder of roughly six million European Jews, hundreds of thousands of mentally and physically handicapped patients, hundreds of thousands of Roma (Gypsies), millions of Soviet prisoners of war, and hundreds of thousands of social, religious, and political dissidents from all corners of German occupied territory. Through an efficient system of concentration camps, ghettos, einsatzgruppen (mobile killing units), and extermination camps, the Nazi party and its collaborators rounded up and killed everyone they did not consider to be "desirable." As Allied soldiers began to push through Europe, the Germans tried to eliminate any trace of their killing machines by forcing camp survivors on death marches away from the advancing armies or killing them and destroying any evidence of the camps. Fortunately, they weren't fast enough, and several camps were liberated by Allied troops. Sgt. James Steve Waley of Diboll was one of the American soldiers who helped to liberate the Dachau camp in Germany. He returned with these photos, collected from the former camp officers' belongings.





# Angelina County's 141 World War II Dead

From:  
Angelina County Free Press  
17 June 1959

Jack Douglas Agee, Bert L. Allen, Barney F. Arnold, James B. Asby, Wayne S. Baker, Peyton W. Beckham, Curtis E. Blakeway, George F. Blankenship, Boyce R. Bridges, Walter L. Broker Jr., Roy Brown and Oscar Burks.

Also, Horace V. Carpenter, William R. Carr, Jack A. Casey, Granvel Church, Jesse W. Clifford, Hollis A. Cloyd, Aubrey L. Collins, Robert Lee Collins, L. G. Clyburn, Ray Cornick, Junior C. Crawford, Prentice Crawford, Walter F. Crawford, Kenneth Hawkins Cruse and Robert Couie.

Also, Olan E. Davidson, Claudie Dearmond, Richmond A. Dickerson, Lynn Drew, Gordan Edwards, Robert S. English, Robert H. Esery, Jack Ford, Marvile E. Fulmer, Winston J. Gamble, T. T. Gay Jr., Grady Gentry, Jesse W. Gentry, Burnell G. Gilmore, Edwin Goode and George C. Goodwin.

Also, William E. Holcomb, Orville D. Hallmark, Larry Charles Hardin, Carlys Harper, China Harvard, Marvin Headrick, William E. Heath, John Wesley Herrington, Tom Henderson, Louis Hicks Jr., Jesse P. Hipp, Elvyn Hopper and Noah Horn.

Also, Alvis L. Jacks, Lonzo L. Jones, Winford Jones, Charles Kannerberg, Homer L. Kelley, Gerald Kerr, Doyle Kimmey, Edwin F. Kimmey, James R. King, Doyle L. Kirkland, Laverne Kirkland, Delbert A. Locke, Robert Lovelady, Tom W. Luce, John Luttrall, Jessie D. Mash, William E. Magee, Benjamin Manley, Jack Dillon Mills, Farris Massey, Joseph O. Minton, Fred B. Mathis, Bryant S. Mitchell and Donald I. Milhado.

Also, Ray M. Mitchell, Floyd C. Morgan, Elbert Morris, Ernest F. Mowlen, Alvin McAdams, Sherman McBryde, Eugene B. McCall, Charles McFarland, Ernest L. McLane, Ernest Oates, Raymond Oliver, Harry M. Orr, Milton R. Parker, Vance Bervil Perkins, Andrew F. Peters Jr., Samuel Raley and Gerald W. Redd.

Also, Talmadge W. Redd, William R. Reynolds, Troy Rhodes, Lyman D. Rice, Johnnie Richardson, Almon Roberts, Vernor L. Roberts, James E. Robinson, Lee W. Roynston Jr., O. P. Rushing, John Jep Russell, Franklin C. Sanford, Sid Scott Jr., William B. Saxon, Bert Selman, George Shaw Jr., Nathaniel W. Smith, Melvin R. Squyres, James M. Staton, Elmer R. Stephens, Lemeul P. Stephens and Airst Lee Stokes.

Also, Harold Taylor, Frank M. Tuttle, William Vincent Todd, Alonzo B. Vail, Peter H. Walker, Elton P. Ward, Robert D. Warren, Harold M. Webb, Raymond Weeks, William C. Wells, C. A. "Bert" Westmoreland, L. H. Wheeler, Thomas J. Wheeler, George M. White, Van A. Widner, Doris J. Williams, James R. Williams, Ben Williamson, Charles B. Wilroy, John Paul Wood and James D. Yates.

## Scrapbook Pages



Army Corporal Lee Horace Diboll and Groveton served in England and Italy and was killed in action in Italy in 1944.



Seaman First Class Charlie Harber of Lufkin served with the Navy in the Pacific. Among his service honors are three Battle Stars and four over-seas stripes.



Sgt. Thomas "Bill" Greer served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater.



Dibold Native S/Sgt. John W. Rector served with the U.S. Army in Germany.



Zusle Rush Jr., of Burke served in the Army in the Philippines.



Army Corporal Milton S. Smith of Lufkin served in Africa and Italy.



Lieutenant JG Annon Card of Lufkin served as a Navy flight instructor.



Arthur Temple Jr. served as a Navy storekeeper.



Navy St. 1/c Archie Nash of Diboll served in the Pacific Theater. He was awarded a medal for discovering mines in the China Sea.



## Scrapbook Pages



T/Sgt. Charles Rector of Diboll served in the U.S. Army.



Corporal Milton Broker of Diboll served in the Army Air Corps Headquarters Services Command in Calcutta, India.



S/Sgt Thurman Waller of Diboll served in the Army in the European Theater of Operations. He was wounded in 1944 and received the Purple Heart.



Diboll's Webb, Delbert, James, and Johnnie Burchfield.

## Scrapbook Pages



T/4 Ernest Boyd McGowen of Lufkin served in the Army on Saipan, Tinian, Wake, and Guadalcanal, among other places.



Sgt. Ezra Rector of Diboll served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater.



Carl Pavlic served on the island of Guam as a Navy storekeeper for Fleet Air Photographic Squadron Five (VD 5).



S 1/c Buck Lester of Diboll served with the U.S. Navy in Saipan and Japan.



S/Sgt. Louis Landers, Sr., of Diboll served in the Pacific Theater of Operations, seeing action at Solomon Islands, Okinawa, and the Philippines, among others. He served as a tail gunner on a B-26 Bomber as part of the 70th Bomber Squadron, earning 9 Battle Stars.

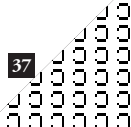


Willie C. George served as a radio operator in the Pacific under Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, commander of the US 5th Fleet, headquartered on the U.S.S. Indianapolis. George was aboard the Indianapolis during the Battle of Iwo Jima, when it was hit by a kamikaze and was later on the U.S.S. New Mexico during the Battle of Okinawa, when it too was hit by a kamikaze.

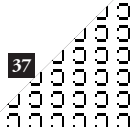


Sergeant Ruell Stanaland served in the Army in Germany.

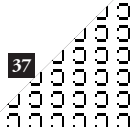




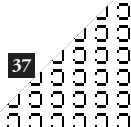
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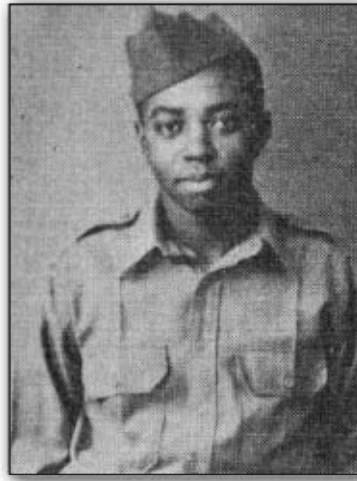


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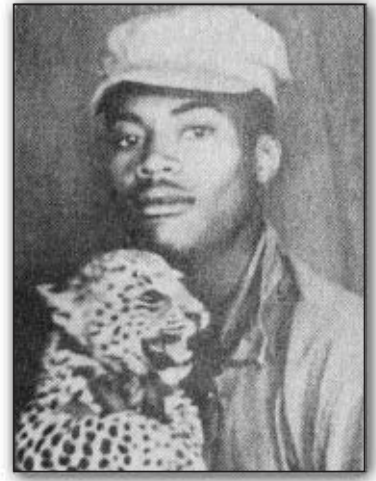
## Scrapbook Pages



Clayton Busby of Diboll served in the Army in the American Theater of Operations.



Army T/5 Hollis L. Charlton of Lufkin served in England, France, and Germany.



Army TEC 4 Nelson J. Proctor of Lufkin served in India, Burma, and Saipan and was awarded two Battle Stars.



Ernest Bartlett of Lufkin served in the Army Air Corps.



Pfc. O.P. Rushing served with the United States Army in the Pacific Theater of Operations during WWII. He was killed in action on May 10, 1945 and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.



Army T/5 Temple L. Covington of Diboll served in England, Tunisia, and Italy.

S/Sgt. Walter L. Broker, a nose turret gunner on a B-24 Liberator, died on a bombing mission to Linz, Austria on March 2, 1945. His bomber suffered a mid-air collision with another American airplane near Kossen, Austria, about 14 miles south of Lake Chiem. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.



James B. Rector served in the Marine Corps and was wounded on Okinawa, receiving the Purple Heart.





A vintage aerial photo of Iwo Jima, collected by Diboll's Elmer Wells of the Army Air Corps. Mt. Suribachi, site of the famous Marine flag raising photo, is visible at the bottom.



An aerial photo of the invasion of Iwo Jima, taken from a B-24 of the Navy's Fleet Air Photographic Squadron Five (VD 5), from Carl Pavlic's VD 5 unit history. Mt. Suribachi is visible as the white mass at the left.

## Scrapbook Pages

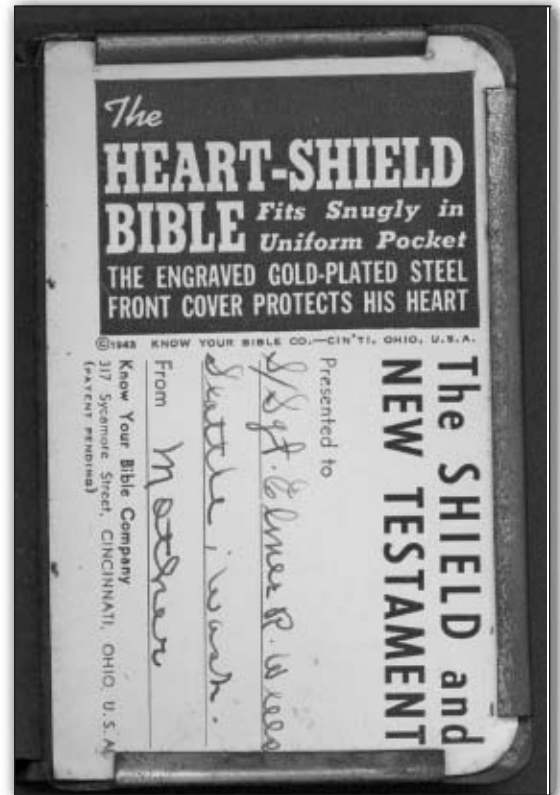


T/Sgt. Elmer R. Wells of Diboll served in the Army Air Corps in Tinian and Japan, and for a while was a gunner on a B-29 Bomber.

Navy SK 2/c J. C. Lewis of Lufkin served in the Pacific Theater.



John Powers of Diboll served in the Marines in the Pacific. He saw action at Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Bougainville, among other places. He was wounded at Iwo Jima and received the Purple Heart.



Elmer R. Wells' mother provided this "Heart Shield Bible" for him when he was based in Seattle. The cover is made of gold plated steel. When kept in the left breast pocket, it was supposed to protect the soldier's heart.



American servicemen on the Solomon Island of Bougainville, 1943. Diboll's Robert F. Cook is pictured in the group.





Servicemen on the dedicated highway in Bougainville, collected by Diboll's Robert F. Cook, Jr., USMC.



Robert F. Cook, Jr., Garland Ashworth, and Jack W. Sweeny, members of the 711th Platoon of the United States Marine Corps who served in the Pacific Theater of Operations, including Bougainville.



An early morning church service in Italy by members of the 432nd Anti-Aircraft Battalion of the 5th Army. From the collection of Irvin Engelbrecht.

## Angelina's War Victim Honored



DOYLE KIMMEY

"Award, posthumous, of the Distinguished Service Cross—by direction of the President under the provisions . . . to Doyle Kimmey, 6265447, Staff Sgt. . . . For extraordinary heroism during Japanese attack on Hickam Field, Territory of Hawaii, Dec. 7, 1941." read the letter received Thursday by Mr. and Mrs. Wood H. Kimmey of Huntington, parents of the late Sgt. Kimmey.

The letter of notification, sent from Headquarters Hawaiian department, Ft. Shafter, T. H., was dated March 28, 1942, and signed by J. Lawton Collins, Colonel, General Staff Corps, chief of staff.

In describing the incidents surrounding Sgt. Kimmey's death, the letter read: "While on duty as an aerial engineer, Sgt. Kimmey voluntarily obtained a submachine gun, took cover under a small truck, and opened fire at the low-flying enemy planes which were bombing and strafing the area."

"When his supply of ammunition was exhausted Sgt. Kimmey courageously left his shelter during the heavy attack to retrieve an abandoned submachine gun with a supply of ammunition. Regaining his former position, he resumed fire until the truck under which he had taken cover was directly hit by a bomb, resulting in his instant death."

**Lufkin Daily News**  
April 19, 1942

Angelina County's first World War II victim was Staff Sergeant Doyle Kimmey, who was killed in action defending Hickam Field on December 7, 1941.

## Scrapbook Pages



J.D. Burchfield (left) poses with a buddy and their tank in Europe.



Navy MM 3/c Percy L. Ratcliff of Lufkin served in the Pacific Theater.



Ivan Engelbrecht served in the 432nd Anti-Aircraft Battalion of the 5th Army in Italy.



T/5 Eddie Bass of Huntington served with the Army in Europe.



Army Sergeant Fred W. Grevenberg of Diboll.



Jim Tanner of Huntington served with the Army in Germany.



Lufkin native Bill Wesley poses with the former Japanese Premier Hideki Tojo, who he guarded during his war crimes trials in Japan prior to conviction and death sentence.



## Scrapbook Pages



S/Sgt. Verdell J. Graham of Diboll served with the Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater. He poses with a P-47 Thunderbolt.



Army T/5 I. D. Tims of Lufkin served in New Guinea and Australia.



Army T/5 Jack Booker Rollins of Diboll served in the European Theater.



Sgt. Robert "Bobby" Farley of Diboll served with distinction in the Army Air Corps during the China Burma India Campaign. He poses here in his parachute at Diboll.



Captain Leslie Cruthirds of Diboll served with B-17 Bomber crews out of England. He was awarded the Air Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and 4 Clusters.



Nosegunner S/Sgt. Gayle Cruthirds of Diboll, standing third from the left, poses with his B-24 Bomber crew. He was awarded the Air Medal with 3 Clusters and was wounded on June 4, 1944, receiving the Purple Heart.



Corporal Raymond Cruthirds of Diboll served stateside in the Army Air Corps.



Army Corporal Willie Brown of Lufkin.



L. D. Langrum of Diboll served in the Army in England, France, Belgium, and Germany, and received three Battle Stars.



George R. Beavers of Lufkin served in the Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Bennington in the Pacific.



# Scrapbook Pages

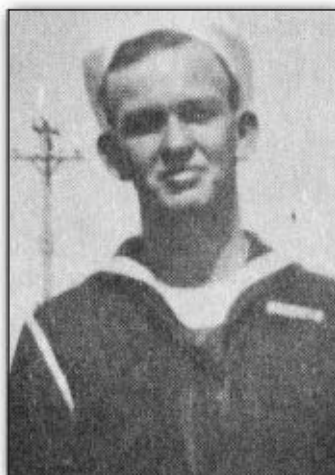


**VICTORY CELEBRATION**  
END OF JAPANESE WAR---Service Squadron Ten Anchorage, Leyte Gulf,  
Philippine Islands.

Charlie Harber of Lufkin witnessed this Navy victory celebration aboard the YSD-42 on 14 August 1945. He says thousands of tracer rounds were shot up by jubilant sailors, several of whom were wounded in the excitement.



Lt. Ernest W. Rutland Jr. of Lufkin served with the Marines in Australia and India.



Brothers Thrailkill, Harvey Monroe, Verdie Joe, and Clyde Lee, of Pollok served in the Pacific Theater of Operations. Clyde Lee also served in Alaska.



A clipping from the Lufkin Daily News, August 12, 1945.



Virgil Havard of Diboll served in the European Theater in the Army's 276th Ordnance Maintenance Company.

*The student of history soon learns that claiming “the first” in anything can be a perilous pursuit, for it seems there is nothing truly new except the history we don’t know. Nevertheless, we cautiously present the following “firsts,” perhaps “the first” of such lists to continue in future issues of the Pine Bough*

# 1

## A LIST OF FIRSTS IN DIBOLL

*compiled by Patsy Colbert and Louis Landers*

### SCHOOLS / EDUCATION / SPORTS

**First kindergarten class in Diboll** began in fall 1960. *Source: Free Press, September 28, 1960.*

**First black student to integrate a formerly all-white school in Diboll Independent School District** was first grader Valerie Anderson. *Sources: Free Press, September 2, 1965 and the 1966 Lumberjack school annual.*

**First girls to participate in vocational agriculture classes at Diboll High School** were Janice Steel, Pam Havard, Vicki Jones, Jean Sheddan, Rhonda Pressley, Janie Harris, and Lisa Burkhalter in fall 1974.

*Source: Free Press, October 10, 1974.*

**First Diboll High School sports team to win a district championship** was the basketball team of 1922.

*Sources: Lufkin Daily News, February 18, 1922, Diboll News-Bulletin, October 23, 1953, and Free Press, August 8, 1963.*

### MEDIA

**First true commercial newspaper in Diboll** was the News-Bulletin, which began as a monthly publication in October 1952 (following discontinuance of Southern Pine Lumber Company’s monthly house organ, The Buzz Saw), becoming a weekly paper by fall 1955. Begun by Paul and Jimmie Beth Durham, it developed into the Angelina County Free Press in July 1958. *Sources: Free Press, July 10, 1958 and January 16, 1963 and various items in our vertical file collection.*

**First newspaper printed entirely in Diboll** was the Free Press issue of January 16, 1963. *Source: Free Press, January 16, 1963.*

**First public radio station in Diboll** was KSPL-1260 AM, which first aired on Sunday morning, June 2, 1957. *Sources: “KSPL: Diboll Turns On the Radio,” Free Press, March 30, 2000 and Lufkin Daily News, May 31, 1957.*

### COMMUNITY

**First nuclear fallout shelter in Diboll** was built by the Joe C. Denman family in 1961. *Source: Free Press, September 13, 1961.*

**First woman city council member** was Bea Nogle, elected in 1971. *Source: Free Press, April 8, 1971.*

**First black city council member** was Sam Coleman, elected in 1975. *Source: Free Press, July 29, 1976.*





1: Here is Diboll's first kindergarten class, shown here in September 1960 at the home of Mrs. Dennis Maynard, 141 Hines Street, where school hours were held between 8:30 and 12:00 noon. Left to right in the front row are Jerry Joiner, Mackie Nash, Jay Dossett, Vickie Perry, George Mancil, and Stephen Maynard. In the second row are Welton McAdams, Royce Shaw, Ken Nations, John Holder, Mike McMullen, Stephen Bryce, Bruce David Durham, Larry Murphey, and Joe Bruce Lowery. Mike Magill, not shown, was ill the day the photo was made. Mrs. Dennis Maynard and Mrs. Curtis Heath served as teachers with Miss Carolyn Brown assisting with Music. *From the Free Press issues of August 14 and September 28, 1960.*



Diboll High School Vocational Agriculture Instructor Jesse Bradford addresses an animal science class in October 1974, when seven girls participated in Vo Ag I courses for the first time in the formerly "all-boy" program.



Valerie Anderson was the first black student to integrate a formerly all-white school in Diboll Independent School District. This photo is an extraction from her first grade class photo in The 1966 Lumberjack (Mrs. Rogers' class).



Diboll High School's first sport champions were the District Champs 1922 Basketball team. Left to right, standing, are Coach R.O. Davis, Ed Burroughs, George Wilmoth, J.D. Green, and Carl Fairchilds. Sitting are Ernest McCarty, Franklin Farrington, Wyatt Cross, and Satchell Steagle.



Paul and Jimmie Beth Durham at an awards dinner given by the Texas Press Association. The two began in 1952 what is now the Diboll Free Press.

## DIBOLL ANNEXED THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The splendid, well coached basket ball team of the Diboll High School won the district championship in this city yesterday afternoon when defeat was administered to the high school team of Nacogdoches in a score of 14 to 8, in a well played game in which the losing team was very preceptibly out-classed, although battling royally for a victory that was out of their reach. The exhibition was witnessed by several hundred eager spectators, from Diboll, Nacogdoches and Lufkin.

Having recently won the county championship over the Huntington team and now having won the district championship over Nacogdoches high, this invincible organization is now better prepared than ever for whatever other contest the rules may call for before entering the lists at the State meet in Austin, the slogan of the winning team having been adopted at the beginning of the season "On to Austin," which has stimulated the players in every contest they have entered up to the present time, and which spirit will continue to prevail until finally their ambition is realized by journeying to the State capital.

The News has been furnished with the schedule of games played during the season, which shows that Diboll has not yet suffered defeat, and

is herewith given, which may be preserved by the members of the team:

Diboll 28; Groveton 20.  
 Diboll 28; Huntington 20.  
 Diboll 56; Ball Hill 7.  
 Diboll 18; Livingston 15.  
 Diboll 37; Wells 13.  
 Diboll 16; Garrison 15.  
 Diboll 31; Manning 28.  
 Diboll 16; Manning 11.  
 Diboll 28; Huntington 19.  
 Diboll 14; Nacogdoches 8.

The members of the team are: Ernest McCarty, J. D. Green, Franklin Farrington, Carl Fairchild, Ed Burris, George Wilmoth, Wyatt Cross, Clyde Ritchie, Herbert Stegall, and R. O. Davis, coach.

From Superintendent H. B. Stegall, of the Diboll High School, the News learns that the student enrollment is 400 pupils and that ten teachers are employed in the class rooms, also, that under the superintendency of Mr. Stegall, the school has been raised from second to first-class classification, which speaks well for Diboll, the splendid little city only ten miles from Lufkin. This school has just applied for more merited units of credit, and has recently passed mid-term examinations under straight tests. All school work is making uniform progress, and from an educational standpoint Diboll has just cause to be proud of literary advancements achieved, while both the student body, and the citizens generally can not but enthuse over the past record of the excellent basket ball team mentioned and its bright prospects for attaining still further honors when grand finals are to be played.

Lufkin Daily News clipping from February 18, 1922.

Bea Nogle was the first woman elected to Diboll city council in 1971. She takes the oath of office in April 1971 with Mayor Clyde Thompson to her left and councilman Calvin Lawrence to her right. City attorney George Chandler, far left, administers the oath of office.



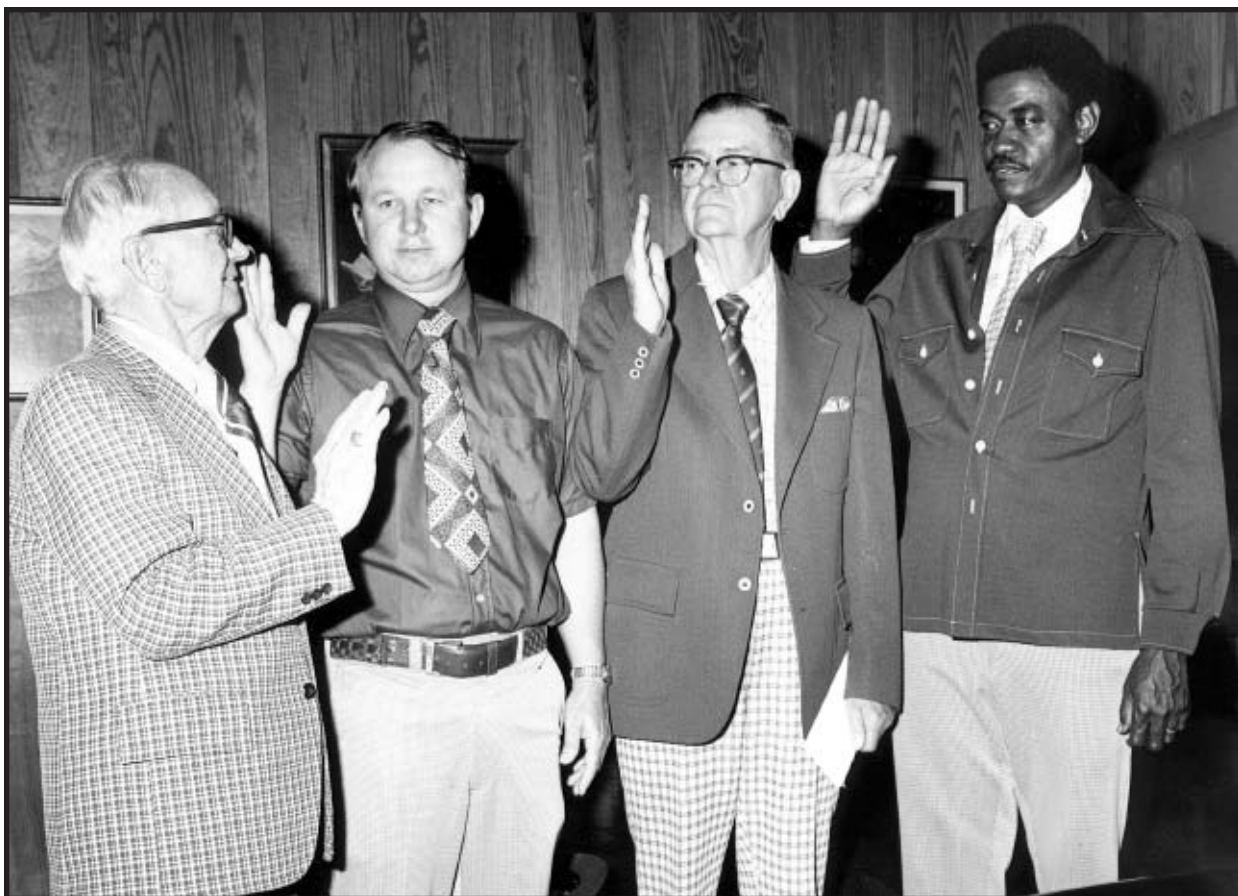




KSPL (SPL for Southern Pine Lumber) first aired in Diboll on Sunday morning, June 2, 1957, owned and operated by Arthur Temple. Here, from the left, announcer Don Wier (formerly of KWRD-Radio in Henderson), secretary Delores Camp (native Dibollian), and manager Tommy Lanyon (formerly of KTRE-TV in Lufkin) pose in front of the newly completed station just south of town in 1957.



The Denman family of Diboll review nuclear fallout shelter plans with the O'Quinn family of Lufkin, from the Free Press issue of September 13, 1961. According to the newspaper, the Denman family shelter then under construction was believed to be the first in Angelina County. The O'Quinn family was considering constructing their own shelter at their home in Lufkin. Left to right are Lisa, Beth, Trey, and Joe Denman, and Bill and Flora O'Quinn.



Sam Coleman was the first African American elected to Diboll city council in April 1975. Here, he takes the oath of office in April 1977, after being reelected for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. To his right are council members Calvin Lawrence, Dr. Woody Ingram, and Mayor Clyde Thompson.



Screen shot of The History Center's new website at [www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com](http://www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com).

**WEBSITE:** Our new website ([www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com](http://www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com)) went online to the public in early August 2005. A free stat counter service recorded at least 10,472 page loads and at least 1,427 unique visitors during the first month of online operations. The site is now averaging about 860 unique visitors and 5,800 page loads per month.

#### EXHIBITS:

- "Angelina County at War: A World War II Exhibit" opened on October 25. Consisting of 22 panels and 5 exhibit cases displaying more than 220 images and many small artifacts, it is our largest single exhibit to date.
- Plans remain underway to develop physical exhibits (audio and visual) in the outdoor caboose. The intention is to better interpret our railroad history and train display.
- A new 6-panel off-site physical exhibit on the Texas State Railroad was prepared in late spring and was featured in May at the Palestine History Forum attended by more than 200 persons.
- The new website, in addition to including a sampling of our physical exhibits, includes a virtual online exhibit section which now highlights our American Lumberman Photographic Collection featuring 13 Diboll-area images between 1903 and 1907. The online exhibit includes a brief introduction to the complete American Lumberman collection of photographs as well as descriptions for each image featured. A second virtual exhibit, Selections from Our Railroad Image Collection, is nearing completion.

**TOURS:** A number of age-appropriate guided tours of The History Center included staff-guided interpretations of both indoor and outdoor exhibits, as well as introductions to archival conservation and historical research methodology, which often included walkthrough

tours of the reading room, archives vault, and processing areas. Each complete tour (generally ranging between 30 and 60 minutes in length) includes all aspects of The History Center's mission (collecting, preserving, interpreting, and providing research access), specifically tailored to the groups' age, educational background, and interests—from first graders to senior citizens.

**PRESENTATIONS:** At least ten off-site PowerPoint presentations were prepared and delivered during the past year. Cities visited included Lufkin, Nacogdoches, Beaumont, Rusk, Palestine, and Carthage. Groups addressed included various civic organizations, regional genealogical and historical societies, and public school classrooms. Subjects included The History Center, East Texas railroads, forest history research opportunities in East Texas, archives and photographic conservation, and the Texas State Railroad. One of the more rewarding presentations was made to two fourth grade classes of Nacogdoches I.S.D. Charter School students. This presentation featured the historical significance of railroads to the East Texas area, using photographs, maps, timetables, and vintage audio recordings of Angelina County steam logging locomotives in action during the late 1950s and early 1960s, tailored specifically to educators' requests.

**ON-SITE VISITORS:** At least 6,040 persons visited The History Center during the past year. Recorded statistics continue to show that about half of all visitors reside outside of Angelina County; about 10% of all visitors reside outside of Texas.

**RESEARCHERS:** The History Center served at least 648 researchers during the year (181 on-site and 467 others mostly through traditional mail). Still many others were served by e-mail for which accurate statistics were not kept. In addition, countless other contacts were made by staff answering various reference questions not necessarily deemed to be purely of a research nature.

**ACCESSIONS:** By the end of the year we will have made well more than 130 new accessions of archival material. Highlights include items from the World War II era; county school records and photographs; forest maps, including 6 bound volumes of Houston Oil Company timber cruise maps from the 1910s, covering several East Texas counties; and railroad artifacts for the caboose exhibit.

**PROCESSING:** During the year Emily developed and implemented a processing plan for our growing map collection, continued to process various small manuscript and photo collections, and began developing and implementing a processing plan for the informally titled "Commissary Papers." This group of records was cleaned and re-boxed by Louis last year, appraised and inventoried by Emily early this year, and is presently being re-folded by Patsy. Patsy also continues to update our periodical and vertical file collections on a monthly basis and processes other collections as needed. Emily also worked with the recently accessioned county school superintendents' records, researching their creation. Louis began compiling



# NOTICES

## NEWS & NOTICES

the weekly press clippings and photo contributions to the Free Press last year and continued to do so throughout this year. He also continues to assist in processing duties as needed. Sue Terry processed our Judge John Hannah Collection and also cataloged our library collection. Brandi Clark now continues this latter task and also indexes various subject lists by data base and assists in many other duties as needed.

**OTHER STAFF NEWS:** After serving 20 months as part-time research librarian, Sue Terry left us early this summer to pursue her M.A. degree in history more vigorously. Angel Moore, who served for 29 months as a Saturday research assistant, also left in early November for employment that better suits her college class and study schedule. We continue to miss them and wish both of them well.

**OTHER PROJECTS:** Being the repository of the Angelina County Historical Commission's collection of Angelina County School Superintendent's Records, The History Center is working with the Commission to more fully collect historical information concerning county schools during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and making The History Center home for such new data and materials, such as photographs and oral histories. Also, The History Center may help (through staff participation) in publishing a possible photographic history of Angelina County schools, to be published by the Angelina County Historical Commission.



Gloria Hodge and her mother Louise Hardin, both of Houston (great niece and niece, respectively, of engineer Henry Titus Mooney), stand in the cab of Engine 13, where Mooney spent much of his railroading career for Southern Pine Lumber Company and Texas South-Eastern Railroad. The two ladies visited us earlier this year.



Regular visitors since the Center's opening in May 2003, young Ty Hodges gets a boost from his grandfather Wayne Hodges as he blows Engine 13's whistle earlier this year. This photo is featured in color on our new website.



Earlier this year Franklin Weeks of Lufkin donated to The History Center his Diboll High School class ring from 1932, as shown here. Made of 10 karat gold, it features an image of a sawmill surrounded by the text, "Diboll High School 1932." On the sides are images of a Longhorn. The ring predates the Lumberjack mascot by ten years or more, and Mr. Weeks believes that a Demon may have been the school mascot at the time.

## Logging Train Gets Credit for First Deer Of Season at Lufkin

Special to The News.

LUFKIN, Texas, Nov. 17.—A new and unusual nimrod entered the deer scene here Friday to claim the first kill of the season: so hold up some honor, you Texas hunters.

At the break of dawn Thursday, 5.30 a.m. to be exact, engine No. 13, pulling a Southern Pine Lumber Company log train, from Diboll to Fastril, made the kill. A seven-point buck crashed into the mass of mobile steel and fell dead at the side of the track, seventeen miles from Diboll, where it was found by Section Foreman Bonnie Brown.

Brown dressed the buck and notified Fireman J. T. Martin and Engineer H. T. Mooney of engine No. 13. On their return trip they stopped by to get their kill.

Dallas Morning News, November 18, 1939

Brandi Clark recently found this item in a Dallas Morning News issue of November 18, 1939. It tells of a deer killed by H.T. Mooney and fireman J.T. Martin while heading Engine 13 north toward Fastril about seventeen miles north of Diboll, which would have been near Neff in what is now known as Temple-Inland's North Boggy Slough area



Also related to engineer H.T. Mooney, Gil Jacobson of Houston (who appeared in the December 2004 issue of the Pine Bough) recently donated this photo. It shows engineer Titus and wife Sudie Mooney with Pearl Hardin (Gil's mother and a niece of the Mooneys) and the Mooney dog "Buster" posing with Texas South-Eastern Railroad Engine 10. (For a humorous Titus and Sudie Mooney story, see page 21 of the September 2000 issue of The Pine Bough).



Lufkin's Dunbar Elementary Pace first graders visited in May and posed with Engine 13, the famous deer slayer (see clipping above).



Brandi Clark enjoys researching online at any time, but especially during a rainy November Saturday morning.



# NOTICES

## NEWS & NOTICES



Diboll's Adult Even Start Program visited us in May.



Members of Diboll's local Cub Scouts visited us in October.



Patsy researches an interesting aspect of Angelina County's history.

Good friend and regular visitor Jay Morrison (left) brought Willard Cherry to the Center this fall. The two retired railroaders worked together for Angelina & Neches River Railroad. During the steam era, Morrison worked as an engineer and Cherry was his fireman.

The History Center  
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