

Pre-Korean War Veterans

Before we begin listing the Manning Veterans who served during the Korean War, I have fifteen Veterans listed in my database who served after WWII but before the Korean War began...so I'll feature those names first.

In 2016, Greg Schurer sent me this information below about a Joens/Jones who lived in Manning and served during both WWII and in the Korean War. As you'll read, he was a prisoner of war during WWII and then was KIA during the Korean War.

This man really paid the ultimate price for defending our freedoms!

I do not have his name in my database and sure would like to get pictures and information about him to include in the Manning Veterans' history book.

It would be inexcusable to not honor him in Manning's book.

Don, Edna & Keith Joens/Jones

I've been wondering if you have anything in your database about a Don Jones (or Joens) that only lived in Manning for a short time in 1949? He and his wife (I think it was Edna) were partners with my parents in running the Sportsman's Club at the Great Western Lake in that year. Don had been a P.O.W. in Germany in WWII but at the time of North Korea invading South Korea in 1950, he immediately got back in the Army (I think it was Army). It wasn't very long until he was K.I.A. His wife then moved to Des Moines if they didn't move before he went back in the service. They had a little boy by the name of Keith. Thanks, Greg Schurer

There was a Keith Joens who graduated from Manning in 1968, but he would not fit in the time-frame mentioned above where apparently the Joens/Jones family left Manning sometime during or shortly after the Korean War.

So if anyone can help, please e-mail me.

manningveterans@davidkusel.com

Now we begin listing the pre-Korean War Veterans

#1 Wayne Alwill (no military pictures, very little information)

Wayne was my dad, Amos Kusel's first cousin...their mothers were sisters. Wayne was an only child and sadly lived a reclusive life. When he died, he left it up to his lawyer to dispense his things and this is when a lot of the old family pictures and history that his mother had kept all those years were thrown away or sold off in various junk boxes during the estate sale.

Over the years, some of those items have found their way back to Manning...one box that ended up in an antique shop in Walnut, and fortunately some of the Alwill side of the family has reached out to me and shared some of the pictures they have.

But unfortunately at this point in time I have no military pictures or information about Wayne - maybe someday something will show up.

I go into these details to show how quickly and easily our history is lost. I refuse to give up - even if/when some people do their best to discard or prevent me from finding information and pictures for the citizens of our Manning history.



Mary Ann & Deloris Rothfolk, Willadson?sp boy, Wayne Alwill lower right. Photo from the Alwill side of the family.

The sad thing with people not sharing their old pictures and history with me is that they will have more than just their family pictures and history in their possession, but extended history of the Manning area that I don't have...below is a perfect example of a picture shared by others that shows just some of the Manning area people Wayne interacted with during his life.



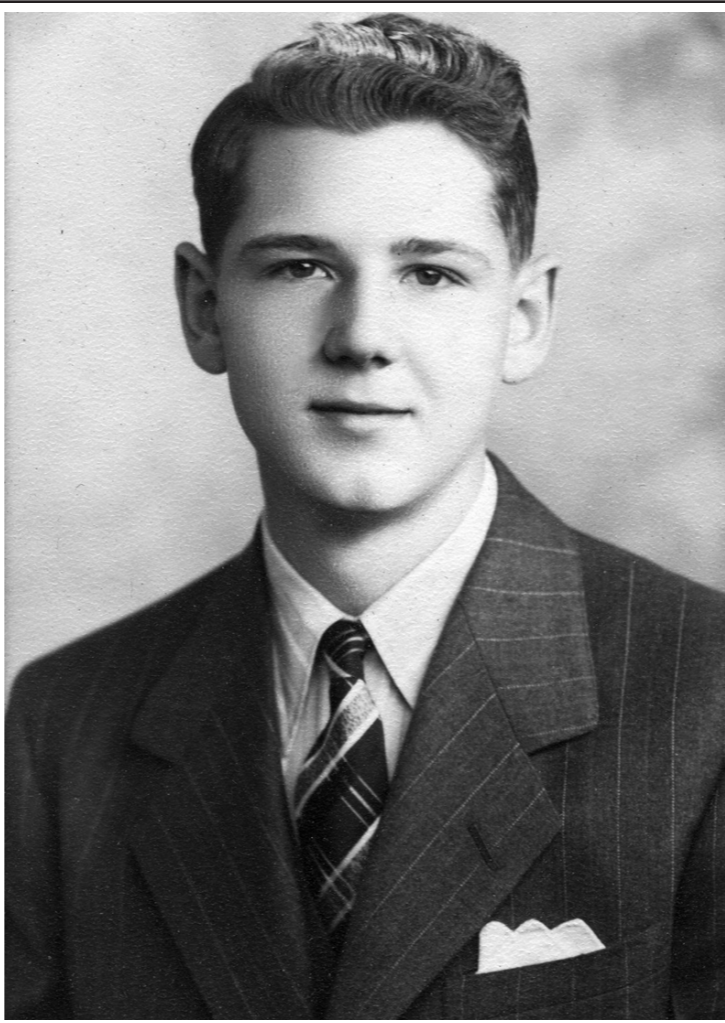
Back: Orrin Kuhn, Wayne Alwill, Opal Weems, Hazel Doyel?, Ruby Borkowski?, George Doyel; Front: Janet Borkowski, LaRae Weems

Wayne, the son of Elmer and Laura (Grau) Alwill, was born September 1, 1930, at Wyatt Hospital in Manning. He attended Jefferson No. 6 rural school and then attended Manning High School where he graduated with honors in the Class of 1948. While in high school he was a member of the National Honor Society and the Quill and Scroll Honor Society. In 1947 he was selected to attend Boys State at Camp Dodge as a delegate from the American Legion of Manning.

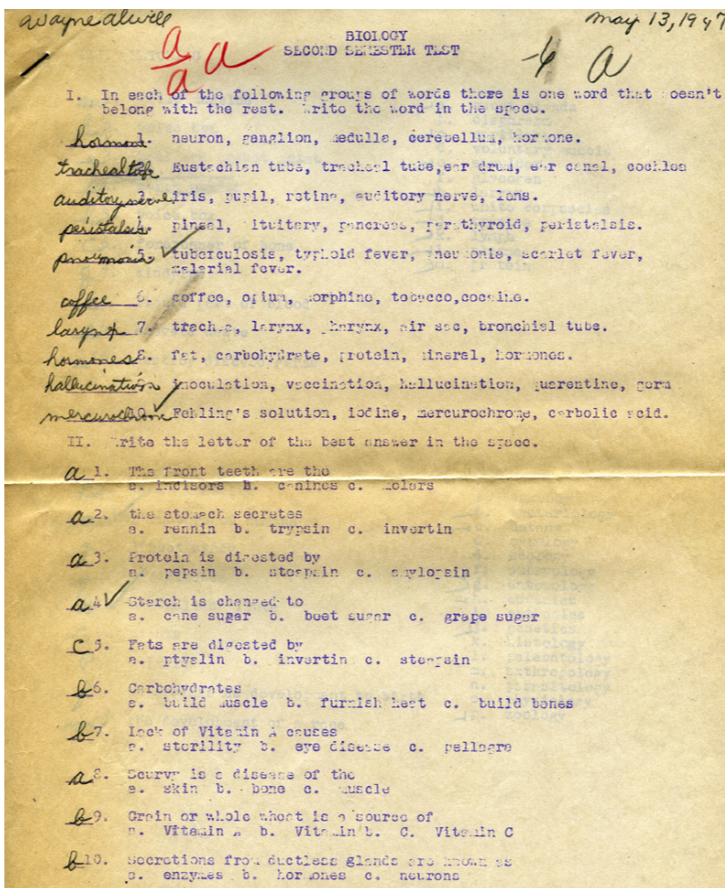
Wayne farmed in partnership with his father until entering the Armed Forces in February of 1952 and served his county for two years. Wayne spent a year and a half overseas with the Medical Company of the 350th Infantry Regiment at Camp Roeder near Salzburg, Austria. Following his honorable discharge in February of 1954, Wayne returned to farming with his father.

Wayne was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Zion Lutheran Church in Manning, Iowa, where he was a life-long member.

Wayne continued to farm on the home place until 1984. Later he moved to Manning, however he made frequent visits to his farms southwest of Manning.



Wayne graduated from Manning in 1948 Below is Wayne's Second Semester test - an A on May 13, 1947



These pictures and biology test of Wayne have nothing to do with his military history and will not be used in the book, other than I may use his senior picture if I do not find any military pictures of him. I show them to help others realize how important it is to save at least something for the various ancestors in their families.

#2 Delmar Hansen (no pictures, 1 Monitor article)

Delmar probably should be included in the WWII database but all I have to go on is just this one newspaper clipping. It states he was with the occupational troops that were heading for the Pacific. More than likely they were headed to Japan to be a part of the occupation forces in that country after WWII.

Without anymore information it is difficult to place him in the Veterans' book.

So, if anyone can help me with this Hansen family please come forward soon.

According to my mother, who knew this Hansen family when they lived in Aspinwall, William's wife was Elsie. They later moved to Manila.

Manning Monitor 1945 Pacific Bound: Pvt. Delmar Hansen writes his parents Mr. and Mrs. William Hansen, that his company left Fort Ord, California, August 24 with occupational troops Pacific bound.

Because of the clues that my mother told me about this family I looked in the Manila Centennial book and there I found a family history.

This is why it is imperative that people contact me who read these articles and can help me with family connections, even if they don't have pictures or documents about the family. I would have never thought of looking in the Manila book without my mother's information.

Unfortunately there were no more details about Delmar's service but I see several of his brothers also served.

I also checked the Veterans' section in the Manila book but none of the Hansen brothers were featured.

At this point in time I think I'll include Delmar and his brothers in the Manning Veterans' book and the brief information from the Manila book about his brothers who served.

I generally don't want to overlap surrounding town's Veteran history but since this Hansen family originated in Aspinwall and some of them married Manning citizens there are quite a few connections to Manning.

Abbreviated version from the Manila Centennial book.

Bill Hansen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Hansen of Aspinwall, and Elsie Vehrs of Aspinwall were married March 8, 1922, in Crawford County.

Elsie and Bill lived in Aspinwall and Defiance before moving to Manila about 1940. Bill was a mechanic most of his life. He worked at Ehrichs' Garage in Aspinwall. When they moved to Manila, he worked for Torp McMahan and at that time built one of the first bluegrass strippers in this area. He also constructed the first telephone booth in Manila for John Paul Jones. They had 11 children.

Ralph, born September 17, 1922, was the oldest. He enlisted in the Marines in 1942. He was a member of Carlson's Raider Battalion and fought in the South Pacific. Ralph received the Bronze star. He married Betty Brannon of Bayard. Ralph worked for Rasmussen Lumber Co. most of his life. He passed away August 9, 1969. Ralph and Betty had two children, Dennis and Denise.

Glen, born March 20, 1942, was the second oldest. He joined a CCC camp for eight months and later drove a truck for E.H. Ramsey. Glen was killed in a truck accident when he was 18.

Delmar was born December 1, 1926. While he was in high school, he worked for Abe Meyer in the grocery store. Delmar was in the Army and later attended college. He received a doctoral degree in Speech and Dramatics and has been teaching at Moorhead State College for the past 24 years. Delmar married Rhoda Godown of Panama who is also a teacher.

Marlin was born July 18, 1928. He drove a truck for Floyd Grage before he entered the Army in 1951. He married Donna

Jensen of Manning in 1950. After the service, he returned to work for Grage and works for the State of Iowa D.O.T.

Roger was born October 7, 1931. He enlisted in the Marines after high school and then attended college. He coached football at Newell and West Branch before moving to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he is a teacher.

Larry was born August 24, 1933. He enlisted in the Marines after high school and then attended college at Northwest Missouri State. Since then he has worked at Farmland Foods in Denison. He married Sandra Gehlsen of Westside.

#3 Charles Henderson (several pictures, basic write-up)



Charles Henderson enlisted in the United States Air Force on February 2, 1948. The Air Force was only three months old and was operated by U.S. Army Officers and NCOs who followed Army regulations and directives. In effect, Charles received U.S. Army "Basic Training" which was a total of thirteen weeks. After Basic Training, he was sent to the 59th Air Depot Wing Griffis AFB in Rome, New York. In July he was deployed to Burtonwood AFB, Warrington, England along with the entire 59th Air Depot Wing.

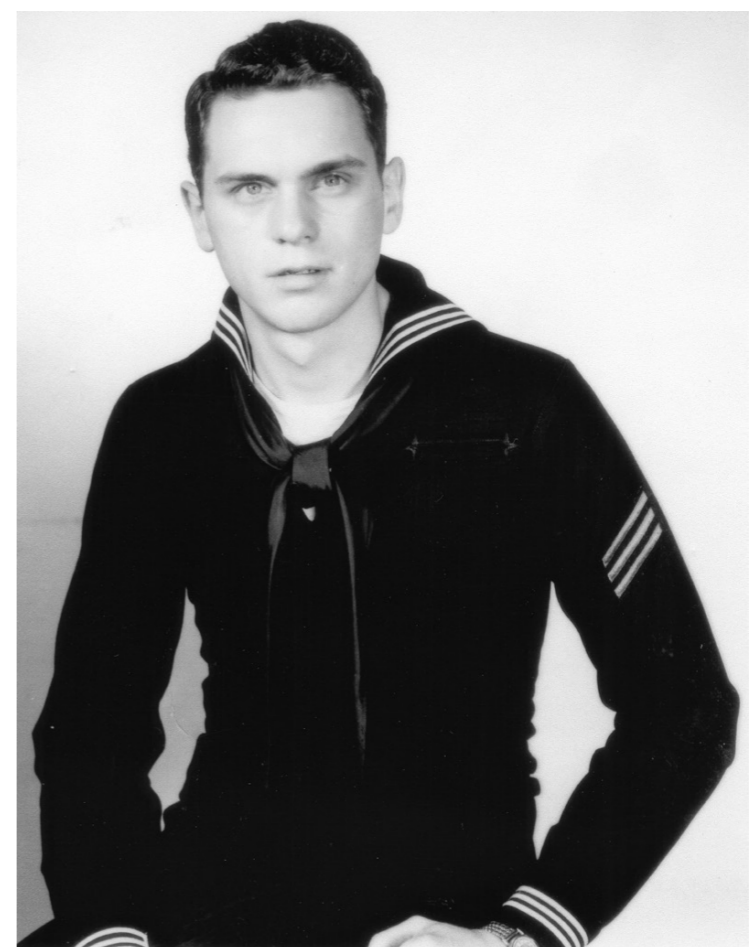
During his Air Force career, Charles served in the "Berlin Air Lift," also known as "The Berlin Blockade" and "Operation Vittles" from 1948 to 1949. He also served from 1953 to 1954 in Korea at K-9 Air Force Base near Pusan. Charles retired from the USAF in April 1968 with the rank of Technical Sergeant.

During his 20 year career he received the following decorations and service ribbons: National Defense Service Ribbon, AF Good Conduct Medal, AF Longevity Ribbon, Medal for Humane Action with BAD, United Nations Service Ribbon, Korean Service Ribbon, Air Force Commendation Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.



C54 landing during the Berlin Airlift

#4 Donn Kelsey (several pictures, formal write-up)



Donn Kelsey - Fireman 1st Class in Washington DC 1950

Donn is the son of Raymond and Florence (Meyers) Kelsey. Dr. Raymond Kelsey served in WWI, WWII, and the Korean War.

Donn Kelsey, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF, retired, served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Donn joined the Navy Reserves in the spring of 1947 and in June of 1948 went on active duty with Willis "Whitey" Lohmeier, Jim Farrell, Charles "Tuffy" Schumann, and Glenn & Alvin Kuhse. Probably one of the largest groups to enter the service from Manning at one time. All volunteered for submarine duty and went through sub school together in New London, Connecticut.

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