

WWII Veterans continued with the "S" letter of the alphabet

By Dave Kusel

In 1999, when I started the Manning Quasqui history book project that would be published in 2006, I approached Ronald Colling at the Monitor about providing space in the newspaper - which ended up being on page 3. Since 2000 I have been writing promotional articles for various history book projects.

We worked out an agreement where I would provide the historical pictures and information in edited form and Ron would provide page 3 without a charge or buying ads in the Monitor.

It was a good partnership all of these years but now I have moved on and no longer write articles for the Monitor.

I will continue to use my web pages and expand the Veteran promotion on The Manning Exchange online website. I will lay the information out in column form, just like any newspaper and will post those PDF files on The Manning Exchange.

A goal will be to eventually print these articles in news format for the Manning community but a lot of water will have to go under the bridge before I would get to that stage.

So for now I will continue from where the WWII alphabetical listing ended on page 3 in the Monitor on September 1, 2016.

Each week I'll post a new page of WWII information on The Manning Exchange. I hope more people will come forward.

The reason why I have been posting the name of each Veteran and what, if any information I have for them starting with the War of 1812 and now up to WWII, is because I'm hoping relatives will contact me and provide me with more pictures and information.

This Manning Veterans' history book will be a one-of-a-kind book of a community.

Search online and try to find a web page that lists nearly all of the Veterans of their community...

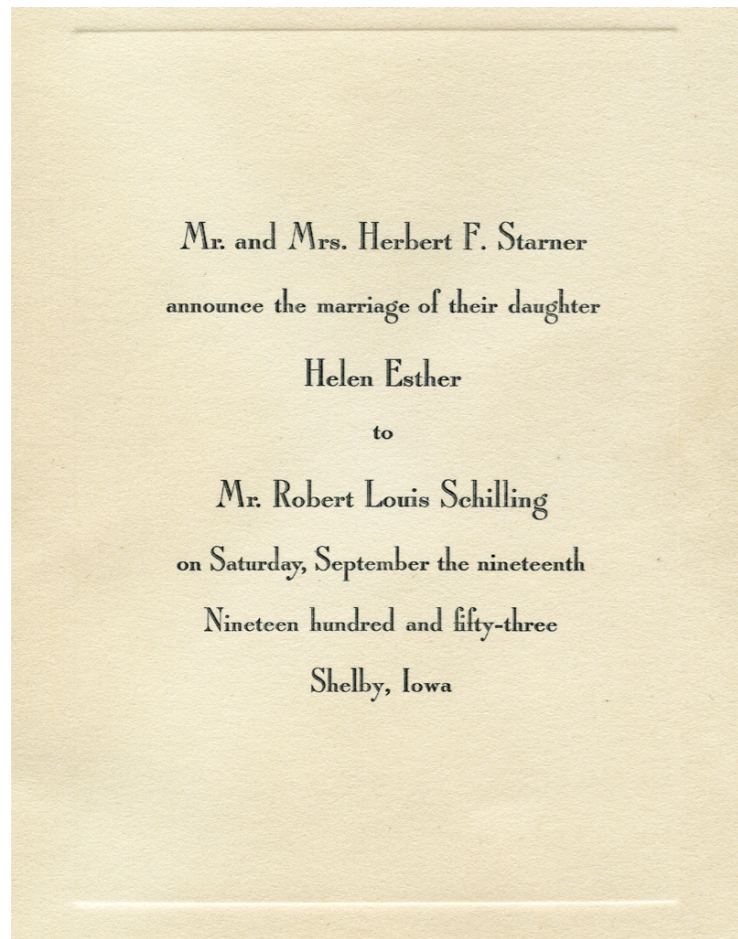
<http://www.davidkusel.com/veteran/welcome.htm>

I doubt you will find one.

#516 Harold Starner (no pictures, no information)

Unfortunately Harold is another WWII Veteran whose name I have no idea what source it came from.

All I could find on Harold is that he was one of Robert Schilling's pallbearers. Robert married Helen Starner. A sister of Helen, Ruth Starner, married Roy Soll. Ruth's obituary states that Harold was one of her brothers...so this is the sum-total of information I have on the Starner family.



Wedding invitation: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Starner announce the wedding of their daughter, Helen Esther to Mr. Robert Schilling.

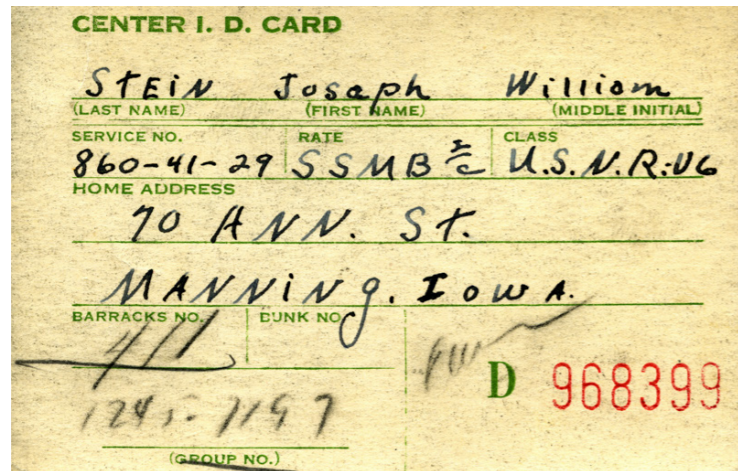
#517 Joseph W. Stein (several pictures, 6 Monitor articles, no formal write-up at this point)

Joseph W. Stein, 860-41-29 USNR-A T-5/44, served in the United States Navy as a barber, rated petty officer second class. He served from May 1944 until he was honorably discharged from the USN Personnel Separation Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on December 24, 1945. He was stationed in Guam and Saipan. He returned to his wife Zita and two sons, William and Robert, to Manning to continue his barbering career.

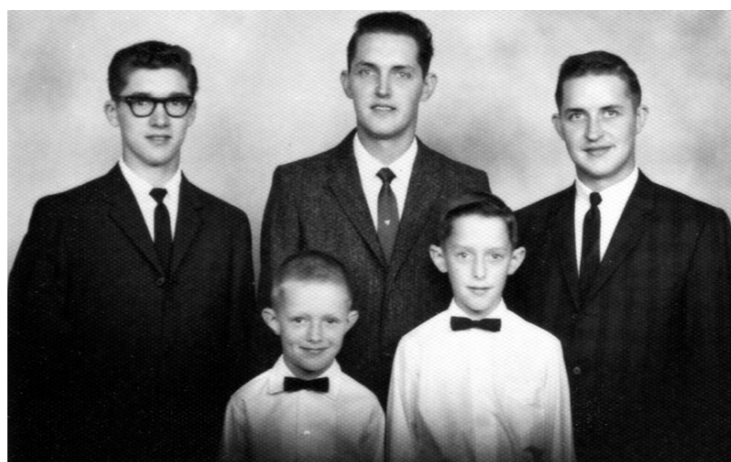
I have a lot of military pictures and documents for Joe, including his discharge papers but sadly, since Joe is deceased, there is no way to get any of his personal memories and experiences to add to his history.

This keeps bringing me back to the topic that those living Veterans should work with their families and contact me so we can get more information about their service.

There has to be a way to get more than just the "name, rank, and serial number" and a few pictures to remember these Veterans...to document and archive their service in the broader historical scheme of things - like the Manning Veterans' history book.



Zita & Joseph Stein



Stein brothers September 1963 - Back: Jon 16, Bob 21, Bill 25; Front: Lee 7, Lynn 9



Joe Stein (right) giving a haircut somewhere probably overseas based on the June 1945 calendar on the wall. Unfortunately his discharge papers don't state when he was overseas or how much time he spent overseas...only that he was discharged December 24, 1945, in Minneapolis. Note the homemade barber chairs. The rim of a truck tire was used as a base on the left chair.



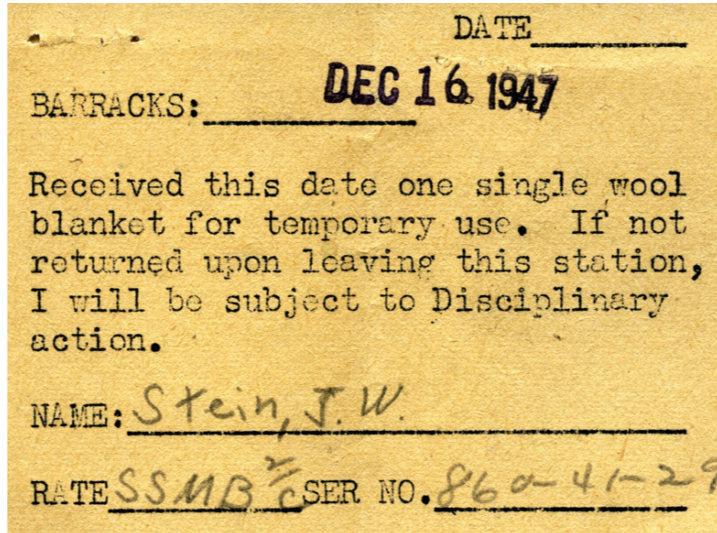
Again, the assumption is this picture was probably taken over seas in Guam or Saipan. Joe is in the back row, 2nd from the left. The old saying that a "picture is worth a thousand words" is so untrue in this situation.

When was it taken, where was it taken, other than we know which one is Joe - who are the other men, what type of work detail was this...so many questions and now we'll never be able to find out - so the picture is nearly useless from a historical perspective...and why living Veterans need to start writing down information about their pictures right now.



My guess is that Joe Stein took this picture because the sign has the name "Joe" on it.

I assume the message was for American soldiers to slow down and drive safely while they were on whatever island this sign was posted. The catchy wording "Here lies Reckless Joe McSnip, he drove too fast - and missed his ship!"



Now here is a mystery. Joe's discharge papers state he left the Navy in 1945. So either the year is wrong on this document or Joe continued to be on inactive duty and was called up for a short time in 1947.



Joseph Stein - VFW commander 1965



Merle West, Joe Horbach, Joe Stein, Everett Dau in the city park

A letter from one of Joe's Navy buddies:

Farragut, Idaho March 2, 1946

Dear Friend Joe,

I hope that by this time you are one of us full fledged civilians. I would like to hear from you as to your movements since I saw you last on good old Saipan.

I don't feel that I should apologize for not getting the pictures to you sooner since it was due to an unforeseen happening.

I got my discharge in Bremerton on the 7 December. The Mrs. was there to greet me when I got out and, as you probably know by now, it was OK.

We got home on the 10th and two days later my Mother-in-law who had been here with the family since July, had a stroke and passed away the 31 Dec. in Coeur d'Alene. The body was to be buried in Kansas City and we had to buy an auto of some kind real quick. We did. We got a 1939 Plymouth Coach and they stuck us plenty for it. It did get us to K.C. but before we were to start back, the motor went to pieces and I had to get a new motor and put it in myself since mechanics are pretty scarce. It is doing a pretty good job now tho. It should, it has set me back \$1130.

We have decided to stay in this part of the country, we like it. I am working in civil service here on the station temporarily. The job and housing situation is rough here the same as it is everywhere else but not quite as bad. Spokane is in line to really go places. Swift & Co. bought out a packer there and, as you know, Kaiser has leased the aluminum plants. The Columbia River project is the big talk of the country.

I have had letters from Lutz and Fogel and they are about the only ones so I don't know much about the whereabouts of the boys.

We are having another big snow today after several real nice days. I guess winter isn't over yet. How is your weather?

I'll be glad to hear from you whenever you have the time.

As ever

Chad

Back home in Manning here you see Joe Stein and Bobby Johnson in the barber shop at 307 1/2 Main. Bobby was a Korean War Veteran.



1956 Larry Genzen in left chair and not sure in right chair. Joe Stein left and Bobbie Johnson right - barbers.

This badly damaged/cracked picture of members of the Manning VFW is a sign of things to come. Pictures being thrown away or lost and not cared for properly will continue to devastate the military historical record and someday there will be little left - unless it gets added to the Manning historical database I'm building.

Except for Ivan Opperman, all of the other Veterans are deceased. I only have a detailed write-up for one of them (Bob Wegner), and the others I have very little information and pictures about their service.

So unless more Veterans and family members of deceased Veterans come forward, this deterioration and loss of history will continue - even speed up.

PLEASE contact Dave Kusel to start working on your military history and pictures.



Back: Milford Wiese, George Pfofner, Robert Wegner, Lyle Hansen, Ivan Opperman; Front: Ron Hiatt, John Miller, Joe Stein

#518 Glenn Howard Steinke (1 picture, 6 Monitor articles, brief write-up at this point)

Glenn was inducted into the Army on March 5, 1942 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His military occupation was Meat Inspector 120, serving in the Pacific Theater. TEC5 Steinke received the Asiatic Pacific, WWII Victory and Good Conduct Medals. Glenn was discharged at Fort Logan, Colorado, on November 28, 1945.

Taken from one of Glenn's letters he sent home, Glenn was in Tonga, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, the next information was censored, and then finally landed in Auckland, New Zealand. He liked this place very much but it was "heck" driving on the left side of the road. They were headed for Japan when they got the news that the war was over.

"Oh Boy!, we're going home, boys, we're going home, and I got home in time for Thanksgiving".

WWII - continued next week on September 12, 2016