

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

By Dave Kusel

Last week we featured another Manning Veteran who gave his life for our country and helped free the world from the Nazi Socialists and the Japanese Imperialists. This week we begin with another Manning Veteran who died during his service after flying on many bombing missions over the Kuril Islands near Japan.

Fifteen Manning men paid the ultimate price during WWII, nine during WWI, and one in Korea.

Respect for the US flag

The US flag and National Anthem are what our Manning Veterans fought for - the symbols that stand for our Freedoms and sadly some people today, just like has happened in the past, show disrespect toward these symbols and to the millions of men and women who fought and served to defend those very people who miss-use their rights to protest for a cause they have.

Now we continue with more of the Veterans' whose last names start with S.

#523 Lyle Gene Strathman (many pictures, 10 newspaper articles, lots of memorabilia, some military information)



Temporary burial site of Gene Strathman in Alaska with a small US flag over his buried body.

I don't want anyone to get the impression that I think Gene's service is more important than any other Veteran, but from time to time I feature some Veterans in more detail who I have a "ton" of pictures and information. My hope is that by showing this detailed information, it will encourage others to come forward with what they have for the Veterans in their families - EVEN if they don't have very much...which probably will be more than what I have which many times is absolutely nothing.

Up until about a year ago, I only had a few military pictures and some basic information about Gene's service. I had just about given up all hope - then Gene's niece, who lives in California, brought me the pictures she had for the Strathman family and other connections to Manning.

We had been in contact since 2007, but it took nearly eight years to where I was able to reassure her that I would take good care of those pictures and information and that I would return them after I scanned them.

TRUST is one of the struggles I have with people...that they need to know I'll take care of their precious historical items and more importantly that I'll return them.

Another challenge I have is being able to explain to hundreds of families that if they do not get their pictures and information to me of the Veterans in their family, that their information and pictures they have will eventually be lost to time. It may sound blunt but having worked on preserving Manning history for over 40 years I have seen one family after another lose those old historical family pictures and information...generally after a parent or grandparent passes away.

Sometimes I use those examples of where family members did not talk to the Veterans in their family, so when those Veterans pass away - little if any information will be available for use in the Manning Veterans' book.

This tactic has been misinterpreted by a some people as a criticism of them or their deceased Veteran family members.

I only state these examples to show other family members whose Veterans are still living that NOW is the time to ask... don't wait until it is too late.

Finding pictures and information for the over 1000 Manning Veterans has been my biggest challenge in preserving Manning's history. For some Veterans I may only have a name listed in the Veterans' database. For others there may be a name, picture, and very brief information. For others, such as Gene Strathman, there will be a lot of pictures and information in the Manning Veterans' book as I can find room.

This is NOT showing favoritism over other Veterans. If I get more pictures and information for those Veterans who I have little or nothing about, I will use more of that information too, BUT family members and relatives have to come forward.

I write about these situations, NOT to make it about me, but to let everyone know that my only goal is to preserve Manning's history and if they want the service of the Veterans in their family to be preserved in the Manning Veterans' history book and Manning historical database, then they need to come forward and contact me.

CONNECTIONS: we are all connected in more ways than most of us realize. In the next column I'll explain...



Awards Day May 23, 1941 Last day of School. Gene Strathman, Virginia Greteman (laying down) and Dorothy Ehrichs

The picture in the prior column came from my mother, Dorothy (Ehrichs) Kusel's school scrapbook. She was a classmate and friend of Gene Strathman. Virginia Greteman would later be one of mother's bridesmaids. More connections continue as Virginia's mother, Alma (Hansen) Greteman was my dad's, Amos Kusel, first cousin.

History is so much more interesting when you know how we all connect. Gene, Virginia, and my mother graduated with the class of 1941. Another one of their classmates died while serving during WWII - Daryl Mohr. Many of the other classmates also served during WWII: Dale Bingham, Frank Bliefert, Lyle Eich, Leonard Frahm, Betty Greleck, Virtus Hargens, Lyle Hoffmann, Robert Kuhse, Elmer Meyers, Alice Musfeldt, Harold Neal, Warren Petersen, Robert Ramsey, Robert Rostermundt, Norman Rothfolk, Burdette Schroeder, Roy Struve, and Keith Wunder.

For several of the Veterans listed above I have very little information and military pictures. I have no pictures for Harold Neal. So if anyone reading this article can help with any of these Veterans, please come forward.

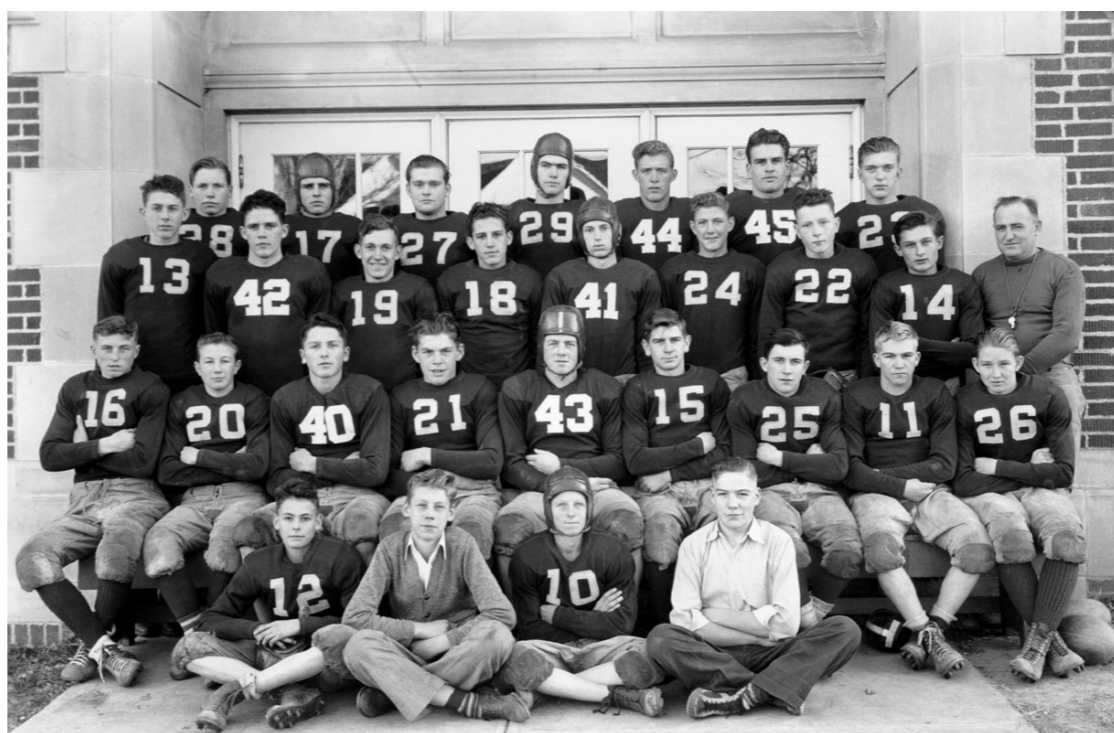
I asked my mother to help me remember who was still living from her class of 1941...these are the students we know for sure who are living: Pauline (Cramer) Graves, Dorothy (Ehrichs) Kusel, Marge (Kuhn) Kusel, Rozora (Kuhn) Schroeder, Delores (Kuhse) Luetje, and Robert Rostermundt.

For one classmate, Keith Wunder, my mother was not sure about so I decided to do a quick search on the Internet and I found his obituary, which was sadly not sent back to Manning so we did not know about his death until just now while working on this military article.

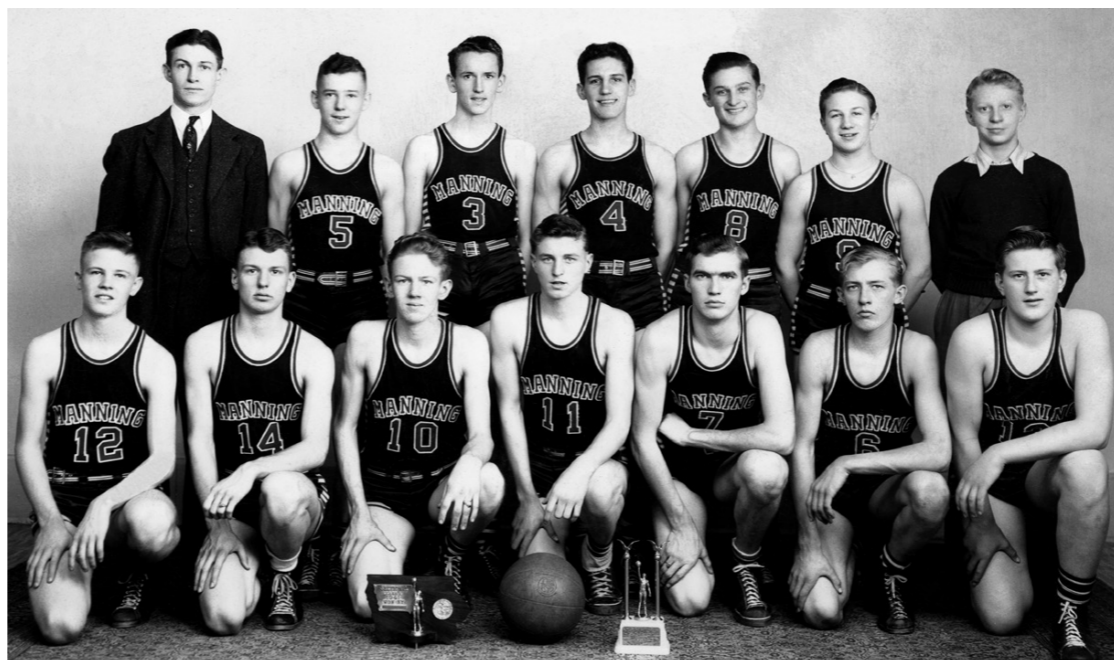
Gene Strathman and Daryl Mohr who were killed while serving during WWII can be found in this 1929 First Grade picture - also Keith Wunder who recently passed away.



Back: Milo Voss, Orlo Nissen, Gene Strathman, Wayne Witt, Warren Petersen; Third: Daryl Mohr, Betty Greleck, ??, Lyle Hoffmann, ??, Norma Dietz; Second: Dale Bingham, Wayne Barnes, Donavieve Anderson, ??, Louise Kuhl, Viola Rostermundt, Dorothy Dethlefs, Ruth Schellendorf; Front: Keith Wunder, Bob Rostermundt, Anetha Graves, Lorraine Kuhl, Mary Jane Fritz, Patricia Lawbaugh, Joyce Hunter, Jim Rowedder



1939-40 school year - Back: Warren Petersen, Melvin Kusel, Gale Moore, Frank Bliefert, Harold Nickum, Richard Ohm, Burdette Schroeder; Third: Wallace Kruse, Francis Zerwas, Elvin McConnell, Jimmy Rowedder, Wayne Schrum, Lawrence "Bud" Nickum, Dick Morrell, Amos "Skip" Lohmeier, Coach Jack Hall; Second: Gene Strathman, Bobby Kuhl, Robert Kruse, Ivan Opperman, Lyle Arp, Labert Stahl, 25 Jack Ramsey, Don Ramsey, Carl Carlson; Front: Harold Christie, Robert Rostermundt, Ludwig Hammer, Robert Ramsey



1940-41 school year - Back: Coach Bill Steneker, Gene Shipp, Lyle "Junior" Schrum, Jim Rowedder, Amos "Skip" Lohmeier, Robert Kuhl, Leonard Frahm; Front: Jim Ansorge, Lyle Hoffmann, Daryl Mohr, Gene Strathman, Frank Bliefert, Robert Kuhse, Frank Miller
It is almost ironic that Daryl and Gene (who were killed during WWII) are side by side in this picture

March 13, 1941 SPOTLITE - BULLDOGS WIN SECTIONAL FINAL Class A First Round Manning 44, Scranton 29. Semi-final Round Manning 27, Manilla 26. Final Round Manning 42, Coon Rapids 35.

A fighting, determined Bulldog quint played a five-man game to capture the class A sectional crown at Carroll Saturday night, outplaying and out scoring a fast Coon Rapids quint 42 to 35.

In winning the championship, Coach Bill Steneker's crew turned in one of their better performances. The starting five went all the way until Strathman went out on fouls in the last minute.

It was distinctly a team victory with five determined players, hitting their stride in all departments. From the time Rowedder sank the opening tip off until the final gun it looked like Manning all the way. Daryl Mohr, Bulldog center, turned in the best game of his career in the final, piling up ten points as well as controlling the ball at either basket. Rowedder played his stellar game at guard, piling up 13 points and turning in a stellar floor game. Hoffmann, left-hand pivot shot, expert, high man in the preceding two victories made 8 points and played a bang-up floor game. Kuhse found the net for 7 points and was outstanding in following the ball. Strathman played his usual aggressive game in the back court and in addition tallied 4 points.

It was the second tournament final over Coon Rapids this season, the Bulldogs having won the county championship on the same floor from Coon Rapids, 43 to 23. Schrum went in for Strathman in the last seconds and played a fine game for the only sub on the Bulldog team. Fans, officials and coaches were lavish in their praise for the Bulldog five in their final victory, a far cry from their single point win over Manilla the night previous.

Johnson, Coon Rapids' ace, tallied 15 points, most of them from far out in the court. The losers were given few short shots and rebounds were almost always taken off by the Bulldog net players.

Manning took 69 shots for the evening and made 19. Coon took 46 and made 14 Manning made 4 and missed 5 free throws, Coon made 7 and missed 7.

The victory gave Manning two successive sectional winners having claimed the crown at Harlan in 1940.

Defeat Scranton

Lead by Lyle Hoffmann who dumped in 18 points, Manning routed Scranton 44 to 29 in the opening round. He was ably assisted by his team and the winners lead 32 to 138, and coasted on to win handily.

Scranton was without the services of Moore for the most part who went out on fouls early in the tilt, getting 8 the first 6 minutes.

Manning 27, Manilla 26 In one of the closest games of the meet, Manning nosed out a stubborn Manilla quint 27 to 26 in an overtime. The score was 24-24 at the end of the regular playing period. Manilla tallied on two free throws, to take the overtime lead. Strathman's free throw was good and Rowedder's long basket gave the Bulldogs the victory. Manning was exceptionally cold, making only 11 of 72 attempts. Kuhse and Mohr were both lost on fouls and injuries. It was Manning's third win over Manilla. Hoffmann was again high man with 8 points.

DISTRICT MEET AT SHELBY Manning High will play Walnut in the first round of the District cage meet at Shelby on Friday night, March 14, at 8:40 p.m.

MANNING-SCRANTON Gene Strathman 4 FG, 2 FT, 4 fouls, 10 points; MANNING-MANILLA Gene Strathman 0 FG, 3 FT, 2 fouls, 3 points.

October 3, 1940 SPOTLITE BULLDOGS TROUNCE WALNUT 19-7 Manning High's Bulldog reddens rolled over Walnut at Walnut last Friday afternoon to bring home a 19 to 7 victory.

Coach Bill Steneker's lads did an about face in Friday's game and put on a real offensive show for the fans. His pony backs ran, lateralled and passed the pigskin all over the field and had it not been for costly penalties deep in scoring territory, would have doubled the score.

Both teams played offensive ball and neither team's defense stood out particularly.

Manning scored shortly after the opening whistle. The Bulldogs kicked off and held Walnut for two downs. On third down, Walnut punted to Rowedder in the safety position and Jimmy proceeded to scamper through the entire opposition, 70 yards for a touchdown. Manning scored again in the second period when Rowedder tossed a short pass to Bobby Kuhl who rambled over for the marker. At half, Manning led 13 to 0.

Walnut scored in the third quarter when one of the backs found the going to his liking and dashed 45 yards for their only marker. Manning controlled the ball almost entirely the last quarter with Rowedder skirting end for the final marker. As the game ended, Manning intercepted a Walnut pass.

Schroeder was a bulwark in the line and Lohmeier looked good in his first turn at end. The backs with Rowedder setting the pace did some nice ball handling. Mohr replaced Lohmeier at guard for the only change in the Manning lineup.

Lake City's powerful conference eleven will play the Bulldogs on the home field under the lights on Friday night in what game followers predict to be one of the better games. The visitors have a veteran lineup and boast a good record so far this season. Coach Steneker now has a fair squad out with the addition of several new men recently. The squad now consists of Burdette Schroeder, Warren Petersen, Ivan Opperman, Amos Lohmeier, Gene Strathman, Frank Bliefert, Carl Carlson, Robert Ramsey, Robert Kuhl, Elvin McConnell, Jim Rowedder, Daryl Mohr, Wade Mohr, Lyle "Junior" Schrum, Eugene Shipp, Dick Morrell, Merle Wood, Harold Christie, Robert Ramsey, Donald Neal, LeRoy Joens, Lawrence Nickum. Leonard Frahm and Robert Rostermundt are student managers.



Gene Strathman & Delores Kuhse

Gene Strathman continued on page two.