

WINGS



News

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W. O. W. In Service To Our Veterans.

It was in mid' April that Mark Neudorff president of the Canoga Park, West Hills Chamber of Commerce came to speak at Wings Over Wendy's.

He had the best of news, that our "Fearless Leader" was to be the Grand Marshal of the May 25th Memorial Day parade. What an honor! We had to step up to the plate and do it right.

Mark was excited and had big plans that carried through to the membership, thirty nine of our personnel signed up the next Monday morning.

We needed a second truck, more hay bales to sit on and two more banners. Everyone came through with their part to make the parade a stunning success.

Marion Lovelace led the way to Galpin Ford and secured a free heavy duty lift gate truck that made it all possible. Together with Bob and Jane Jacobi driving their company truck, we had fifty two flag waving veterans following Grand Marshal Sherman down Sherman Way. We were at our best and it was a remarkable day.

Art rode in a fully restored WWII "Jeep" one of over 600,000 Ford and Willis Co, completely interchangeable four wheel drive vehicles.

L.A.P.D. motor officers cleared the way, Bagpipes played, our flags waved on high and off we went following Captain Sherman's lead.

When it was over we carefully unloaded the trucks and cleaned them, then it's off to the American Legion. Ken Mayer, Bucky, and Larry of Post 826 provided a wonderful after parade get together and Bar B Q lunch, always the best in town.

A Short List.

Captain Arthur Sherman, "Fearless Leader" He was in both news papers, in color.

Marion Lovelace, she secured a lift gate heavy duty truck.

Fred Kaplan, Ring leader, Neil Baliber, Boom box marching music.

Boyd Davis, 12 new bales of hay, to sit on, over 100 dollars. Mike LaVere, Dapper Dan the Air force Man. Howard Swerdlick, phone calls. Alice Stone, Navigator. Bob and Jane Jacobi for the parade truck. Chip Stevens, elder helper. And last but not least, all the members and guests that decorated and rode with us on Memorial Day.

Thank you so very much. Fred R. Kaplan, editor.

Editors Notes

It's personal, I told Alice. At our age we should make every day a good one, something of value. Not that were sick or anything but somebody's always down or passing, just don't need to hear "he was here last Monday so where is he now."

The Memorial Day parade was just outstanding, from Art to everyone who helped me put the parade together and all our patriotic veterans that participated, Thank you!

IT was elder chaos, putting fifty two vets and their aides on two flat beds then finding our place at the front of the line and decorating the trucks.

The payoff for me was driving that stake body 16 foot diesel with more than a dozen senior disabled veterans that could have never been up on a truck and in a parade.

KILROY WAS HERE!

He is engraved in stone in the National War Memorial in Washington, DC,

Back in a small alcove where very few people have seen it for the WWII generation, this will bring back memories. For you younger folks, it's a bit of trivia that is a part of our American history. Anyone born in 1913 to about 1950 is familiar with Kilroy. No one knew why he was so well known, but everybody seemed to get into it.

So who was Kilroy?

In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the real Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove him to be the genuine article. Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts, had evidence of his identity.

'Kilroy' was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the War who worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet. He would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark. Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then He realized what had been going on. The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his check mark on each job he inspected, but added 'KILROY WAS HERE', in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually, added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering, over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message.

Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks. Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With the war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of Servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced.

His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific.

Before war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, And everywhere on the long hauls to Berlin and Tokyo. To the troops outbound in those ships, however, He was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that someone named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, U.S. Servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived. Kilroy became the U.S. Super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of the Arc de Triumph, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon. As the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition Teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held Islands in the Pacific to map the terrain

for coming invasions by U.S. Troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing Enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo!

In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. It's first occupant was Stalin, who emerged and Asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?" To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy yard in Halifax, Massachusetts. And The Tradition Continues..

EVEN Outside Osama Bin Laden's House!!!

July Birthdays

W. Bob Turner - July 3

Chuck Slezak - July 4

Al Gorenbein - July 5, 1924

Dave Steinbacher - July 6, 1937

Gary Lapook - July 8, 1947

John Kennedy - July 9, 1926

John Kuzma - July 9, 1939

Louis Kridelbauh - July 14, 1944

Warren Phelps - July 16, 1936

Anita Green - July 17, 1938

Sip Madsen - July 17

Chuck Helm - July 21, 1945

Ken Sobel - July 21, 1944

Joe Goldfarb - July 22, 1926

Clint White - July 23, 1922

Jack Taube - July 23, 1927

Donna Brend - July 26, 1941

Jan Begg - July 26, 1924

Keith Patri - July 26, 1960

Elmo Maiden - July 27, 1919

Steve Green - July 28, 1961

Art Sherman - July 29, 1921

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