



# Three Rivers News



<http://news.trcmaine.org/>

SPONSORED AND PUBLISHED BY THREE RIVERS KIWANIS CLUB AND THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
TO PROMOTE AND SERVE THE TOWNS OF BROWNVILLE, MILO, LAGRANGE, MEDFORD, AND ORNEVILLE

LIVE SIMPLY-LOVE GENEROUSLY CARE DEEPLY-SPEAK KINDLY  
Tuesday, April 14, 2009 Volume 8 Number 24

Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8, Milo Rec. will be sponsoring a movie night at the Milo Town Hall, featuring the "Tale of Despereaux" (PG-13): runtime 93 min., free admission. Snacks including water/ popcorn/ candy will be on sale- Adult supervision is required for children.

Please visit <http://blogs.trcmaine.org/recreation/> for the most up-to-date information and contacts for Milo Rec. Events



Walter and Nancy Oakes Jr. will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Walter Oakes Jr. and Nancy Dube were married on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1959 in Old Town, ME at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Walter and Nancy moved to Milo in 1962, where they raised their four children: Janet Smith lives in Industry, ME with her husband Jim and their two children, Jay and Shane. Donald Oakes lives in Falmouth, ME with his wife Valarie and their three children, Mathew, Casey and Christina. Karen Thurston lives in Rumford, ME with her husband Glen and their three children, Logan, Ethan and Lauren. Joanna Deejen lives in Newport, ME with her husband John. Nancy and Walter still live in Milo, and enjoy summers at their camp on Schoodic Lake.

ALSO..Walter "Eddie" Oakes has announced his retirement at the end of this, his 50th year of teaching. His family has asked that former students who read this consider contacting him via email at [wokes@msad41.us](mailto:wokes@msad41.us) to share a favorite memory or story. There have to be lots of memories over a 50 year career and he'd enjoy hearing from former students and friends. Congratulations Mr. Oakes!

*The Milo Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on April 14. Meet at the Town Hall at 12:30 PM (note time) for dessert and meeting. Bring a container for inside or outside planting for our program "Hands on Planting at Field of Dreams" with Hazel Durant.*

#### STATEMENT OF POLICY

Three River News is published weekly by Three Rivers Kiwanis. It is available Mondays at the General Store and More, Milo Farmer's Union, The Station Market, Graves' Service Station, Robinson's Fuel Mart, Reuben's Farmer's Market, The Restaurant, Milo Exxon, Rite Aid, Valerie Jean's, Milo True Value, Elaine's Café and online at [WWW.NEWS.TRCMAINE.ORG](http://WWW.NEWS.TRCMAINE.ORG). Donations can be mailed to Valerie Robertson, PO Box 81, Milo, Maine 04463.

All items for the paper are sent to us; we are not reporters, and we rely on the public for our articles.

Letters to the editor, social news, school news, items of interest, or coming social events may be submitted NO LATER THAN FRIDAY NOON to the following addresses:

Valerie Robertson, PO Box 81, Milo, Maine 04463 or e-mailed to, [val04463@verizon.net](mailto:val04463@verizon.net) or call 943-2324.

Nancy Willinski, 10 Belmont St. Milo, Maine 04463, e-mailed to [nancy2310@roadrunner.com](mailto:nancy2310@roadrunner.com) or call 943-5809.

Please drop suggestions and comments into a donation box or contact one of us. We welcome your ideas. Opinions are not necessarily those of the editors unless otherwise stated. The paper is written, printed, and distributed by unpaid volunteers. Donations are used to cover the expense of printing, paper and materials.

Valerie Robertson Nancy Willinski Virgil Valente Kirby  
Robertson

To learn more about Three Rivers Kiwanis go to:  
<http://www.threeriverskiwanis.org/>

#### BINGO...BINGO... BINGO!!!

THE MILO AMERICAN LEGION POST 41 HAS  
BINGO EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT. A MEAL IS  
SERVED FROM 5:00PM UNTIL 6:15 PM.



BINGO STARTS AT 6:15 AND ENDS AT 9:30.

SEE YOU THERE!

**Penquis Valley High School Class of 1999**  
**Mark your calendar for our 10-year reunion!**  
**August 8, 2009 - 6:00 PM**  
**Wildwoods Lodge, Brownville, Maine**

#### AREA SCHOOL NEWS

The Milo Head Start preschool, a program of Penquis Child Development, is accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year.

Head Start is a developmentally appropriate preschool program for children age 3 to 5. Children are accepted based on income and there is no cost to families. Families are responsible for transporting their child or carpooling with other parents. Children need to be age 3 or 4

before October 15th, 2010. If you would like an application, contact Milo Head Start at 943-2111 before May 8<sup>th</sup>, or Penquis Child Development at 973-3567 anytime. We fill up quickly, so don't delay.

**The Penquis Valley High School first graduating Class of 1969 will be holding their 40th Class Reunion. The gala celebration will be held August 1<sup>st</sup>, but they need addresses. If anyone knows the addresses of 1969 alumni please call 965-8021, 965-9871, or 943-2473.**

**Anyone interested in working on this reunion is welcome and should come to the meeting on Wed., April 29th, 5.p.m., at the Milo Elementary School.**

Dakota Knowlton of Lagrange was recently selected as one of one hundred students in the state to have his art work selected to be part of the University of Maine traveling Art exhibit. Congratulations to Dakota and his art teacher Mrs. Chapman.



#### Cook School News

Makayla Peirce, Jordan Prendergast, and Cassidy Parker were honored as Terrific Kids at our April 10<sup>th</sup> assembly.

Mrs. Nott: Makayla is my terrific kid this week. Makayla is a wonderful student who always follows the classroom rules. She is a good friend and loves to be a helper to me. She is quickly becoming a math whiz and is working very hard in reading and writing. Keep up the great work, Makayla!

Mrs. Johnston: Jordan can be T Kid every week. She is a hard worker, a dedicated student, and a polite and respectful

member of our class. She almost always has her planner signed, she stays on task no matter how busy the rest of the room gets, and is a great reader. Her book group recently finished a book about Helen Keller, which she really enjoyed.



Miss K.: Cassidy is my Terrific Kid this week. She is an outstanding student who keeps me on my toes at all times. Cassidy does her best to exceed the standards in all academic areas. She is a great help in the classroom during recess. Cassidy does all of her homework and gets her planner signed each night. Keep up the fantastic work, Cassidy.

Bus Awards: Mackayla Hamm, Jacob Baker, Dylan Rozelle Civil Rights Team Award: To Courtney Webb for helping others. Birthdays: Bridgette 10, Sonny P. 6, Courtney 6, Move and Improve: 13 students and staff members completed the 4th week of our Move and Improve program. Jump Ropes were awarded to Cassidy, Sha-Lynn, Harmony, Jordan P. Caught Being Good Prize Winners: Haley M., Michael N., Kyle, Sonny H., Justin Congratulations to all of our Terrific Kids and adults.



Bill Sawtell with Alex Smith, Chris Morton, Reid Worster, Caleb Russell

Our local historian, Bill Sawtell, has begun his 27th year helping Brownville Elementary students in grades three and four learn about local history. He tells them stories about the

businesses, people, and events which helped create our local history. He invites speakers to share their stories, and takes students on short field trips in the area. Brownville Elementary School is very fortunate to have Bill!

## Milo Elementary News

Mrs. Carey - "Spring Has Sprung" in Kindergarten and even though we haven't had many warm and sunny days YET, our classroom is usually full of bright CHEER because our Terrific Kid this week is a DEAR! We are proud of her improvements in listening, journal writing, and drawing. We are very thankful to have Olivia Goodine in our kindergarten family.

Mrs. Walker - We are pleased to honor this Terrific Easter Kid this week because his class thinks he is Terrific everyday. His writing this week in his journal is terrific. He writes to the bottom of the page with great details. He is becoming a terrific reader and wants to read whenever he can. He loves to karate count by 5's to 100. Finally he is a terrific eater at lunchtime, too. Mr. Eastman says he is Terrific singing the school song each week. CONGRATS, TK CHRISTIAN LYFORD.

Mrs. Hayes - If this little girl could be a bunny she would be the softest, kindest, cutest, friendliest, cuddliest and wiggliest bunny at Milo Elementary School. She is not a bunny, but a very special little girl and we love her wonderful attitude and the hard work she does each day! We are so happy with special Shelby Jennings! Thank you for being so nice, Shelby.

Mrs. Barden - This week's terrific kid has come in every day with a big smile. She has become a math whiz with our number problems. She is working hard with Mrs. Hudak in reading. She is very excited to see her mom this weekend. I'll bet she has guessed! Latoya Lemon is our super terrific kid this week.

Mrs Tardiff & Mrs. Hussey - This girl is a breath of spring. She works hard and has beautiful penmanship. She is a great friend and always follows the "I Care" rules of our class. Congratulations to Katie Black!

We would like to honor our new student. He is becoming more comfortable in our classroom and has adjusted well to his schedule. He enjoys story time. He always leaves with a cheerful goodbye to his classmates. Great job, Shawn Stewart.

Mrs. Dunham - The terrific kid in our room this week has made



tremendous growth in his writing. He is willing to do his jobs and always has his morning work done on time. He works very hard to stay on task. He contributes to our class discussions and usually has a funny story to tell. Our terrific kid is Mitchell Carey.

Mrs. Mills - Our terrific kid is a quiet, hard working kid. She asks for help when she does not understand an assignment. She is helpful in the class to both adults and classmates. I really enjoy seeing her smiling face each day. Way to go, Selena Sibert.

Ms. Patton - Ms. Patton's Terrific Kid this week is Natasha Emery. Natasha has been trying really hard to be Terrific, and she has succeeded. Her attitude and behaviors have been wonderful and she's trying to do her best with her schoolwork and stay on task, which is not always easy to do! Congratulations to Natasha Emery!!

Mrs. Knowlton - This week's TK is a very quiet young man. He is responsible, he gets his planner signed, he stays on task and gets his work done, he sets goals for himself and works to meet them. He is kind and inclusive to all of the students in our room and he is respectful of both students and teachers. I am proud of our TK, Austin Dow.

Mrs. Gillis- Caring Kara is a loyal friend in class and band, Sharing Kara is willing to lend a helping hand, Daring Kara takes healthy risks in Outing Club, Raring-to-go Kara is showing effort and getting her work done. Congratulations, Kara Pariseau!

Mrs. Clukey - It has been a while since 6C named a terrific kid because we've been off on two very successful field trips for the past two Fridays. So it would stand to reason our TK this week would be someone who was on their very best behavior on these trips. Actually this student has had nothing but great behavior and academic success all year long. I am pleased to say Lil Costello is our terrific kid this week.

Ms. Dixon-Wallace - I had very difficult time choosing a Terrific Kid this week. Many of the students in DW 6 could be TK this week. I needed some help so I asked for input from the entire class. After reviewing their recommendations I have chosen Luke Storey as this week's Terrific Kid in DW6. Luke has been very responsible for all of his class work, his behavior in class has been first rate, and he has been very helpful in assisting classmates who need help with math and other subjects. I am very proud of Luke and all of the positive choices he has made this year. Great job, Luke.

### TRC Community Calendar

Visit <http://www.trcmaine.org/calendar/> for a full listing.

Tuesday, April 14

9:00a Womancare Outreach

1:00p Milo Garden Club

3:00p MSAD #41 Technology Committee

5:00p Milo Water District

6:00p Lake View Assessors

6:30p Post #92 Bingo

6:30p Milo Selectmen

7:00p Sebec Historical Society Meeting

Wednesday, April 15

6:30a Three Rivers Kiwanis

9:00a Milo : Career Center

10:00a Church Thrift Shop

6:00p Sons of Post #41

6:00p Wednesday Night Quilters

6:30p Boy Scout Troop #115

7:00p Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, April 16

11:45a Meals for ME

4:30p Tae Kwon Do Class

6:00p Boy Scout Troop #112

6:00p Brownville Snowmobile Club

6:30p BJHS Card Party

6:30p Brownville Selectmen

7:00p Milo Historical Society Meeting

Friday, April 17

9:00a Milo : Career Center

11:45a Meals for ME

12:00p Three Rivers Senior Citizens

6:15p Post #41 Bingo

Saturday, April 18

No Events Today.

Sunday, April 19

2:30p Tiny Tigers Tae Kwon Do

6:00p Alcoholics Anonymous

6:00p Scrapbooking

7:30p Alcoholics Anonymous

## Rabies Clinic

A rabies clinic Will be Held at the Milo Town Hall on Saturday, April 25, 2009 From 10AM-11 AM. Rabies only for \$8. Sponsored by the Town of Milo and Foxcroft Veterinary Services. CASH ONLY!! No checks!

### THE NOW and THEN FANTASTIC FRIDAY NIGHT VARIETY SHOW

FRIDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>

MILO TOWN HALL ART CENTER

7 P.M.

Many Acts..Lots of  
Talent..Loads of Fun!!

**REFRESHMENTS**

**ADMISSION: \$6/ADULTS  
\$4 CHILDREN 12 AND  
UNDER ( \$20 MAXIMUM  
PER FAMILY)**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO  
BENEFIT CHILDREN'S  
READING PROGRAMS  
SPONSORED BY:**

**THREE RIVERS KIWANIS  
CLUB MILO/BROWNVILLE**

## Lightning Safety Submitted by Ricky Bradeen

You're grilling hamburgers on the backyard patio. As you flip them over, you notice that the sky is getting dark. Pretty soon you see a flash of lightning. Then you hear a clap of thunder. What should you do? What precautions should you take? Thunder and lightning storms are a fairly common occurrence. But it's important to realize just how dangerous lightning can be and the damage it can do.

From 2002 to 2005, the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association says that U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 31,400 fires started by lightning per year. The fires caused an estimated average of 12 deaths, 57 injuries and \$213 million in property damage per year. The National Weather Service reported that lightning strikes caused 47 deaths in 2006. Most of the victims were outside when lightning struck.

To keep everyone safe, NFPA and Milo Fire Department recommend that you follow these safety guidelines:

- Unplug appliances and other electrical items, such as computers, and turn off air conditioners. If you are unable to unplug them, turn them off.
- Follow the 30-30 rule: When you see lightning, count 30 seconds until you hear thunder. If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within six miles and is dangerous. Seek shelter immediately. The threat of lightning continues longer than most people think. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Seek shelter immediately.
- Stop outdoor activities at the first clap of thunder and get inside a house, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle.
- When inside, stay off corded phones, computers, and other electronic equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. Avoid washing your hands, showering, bathing, doing laundry, or washing dishes.
- If you are in open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.
- If you feel your hair stand on end, indicating that lightning is about to strike, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible to minimize your contact with the ground. Do not lie flat on the ground. This is a last resort when a building or hard-topped vehicle is not available.
- If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and get medical care immediately. Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge; attend to them immediately. Check the person's breathing, heartbeat and pulse.

These simple precautions during a lightning storm can save lives and decrease the chances of injury and damage.

## Milo Free Public Library News

By Judith D. Macdougall

One of our staff members has been to Florida these last 6 weeks, but she has returned now bubbling about warm weather, sunshine and beaches. Audrey Chadwick, a substitute, has spent a wonderful six weeks away, but she is back now and anxious to get to work at the library again. We are glad to have her back, too, as Pam, our assistant, is preparing to take her vacation in London soon.

Valerie Robertson was in to see me the other day. She asked if the library would be interested in teaming up with

the Milo Historical Society to work on a Maine Community Heritage Project (MCHP) grant. As it sounded like a good project and nothing was required from us financially except to be part of the team, we filled out the questionnaire pertaining to the library. We answered questions about goals, expectations and what resources we can bring to the project. The historical society plans to acquire a scanner and hard drive if they receive the grant. With this equipment and the knowledge of how to use it, they plan to scan on line all the issues of the Town Crier, a local newspaper published for many years by Joanne and Michael Brigham. This little paper reported local town news and events, school information and club news complete with pictures. Having every copy on line will be an invaluable aid to folks researching town events, and other pieces of Milo history. It will be also be fun to look back at past issues. The Milo Historical Society has a complete set of the Town Crier and hopes to be able to scan the pages to be able to share the newspaper in this way with everyone who is interested in Milo history or would just like to look at past issues.

I've spent the last week climbing mountains with George Leigh Mallory, a mountaineer who died in 1924. I read Paths of Glory by Jeffrey Archer and found it extremely exciting. I've enjoyed other books by Jeffrey Archer, but when I read that this book was historical fiction based on a real person, I wondered if I'd care for it at all. Jeffrey Archer has done a great job of presenting George Mallory as a person. I can't imagine why anyone would want to climb mountains, but Jeffrey Archer has shown us how a man with a dream follows it through. The quest to climb Mt Everest (Chomolungma-the name as it is known to the Sherpas) is described in detail but is never boring. Of course, this is historical fiction so the author has taken liberties with the character, and although we get actual dates and letters, George Mallory is only fleshed out into the character he might have been. British snobbery and mountain climbing lore are both woven well throughout the story. George Mallory wrote a letter to his wife every day that he was away, so there must have been much information detailing his trips for the author to use. For us the readers it is also much easier to climb mountains by way of a book rather than by doing the actual physical act. I like to learn something new from every book I read, if possible, and this book was filled with interesting facts, along with being a first rate story. I hate to have a good book end as one never knows when they'll find another as good, and I was sorry when this book ended.

We received two donations recently of knitting books. Socks\*Socks\*Socks has pictures and instructions for 70 winning socks that were featured in the Knitters' Magazine contest. These are not ordinary socks and are divided into such categories and chapters as Simple socks, Color, Textures, Lace, Whimsical, Icelandic and even a few Christmas stockings. The illustrations are in full color with many details shown.

The other book donated is Folk Knitting in Estonia by Nancy Bush. It features symbolism, tradition and technique and many folk patterns from Estonian knitting. We don't know who donated these books, as they were dropped into our book drop but we certainly thank them for these fine craft books.

**The Library Will Be Closed On**

**MONDAY, APRIL 20 In Observance Of PATRIOT'S DAY**

**Library Winter Hours**

**Mon.-Weds.-Fri.---2:00-8:00 Saturday 2:00-4:00**

**Telephone 943-2612**



**Hey, Everyone! Buddy would like your help!!  
When spring cleaning, Don't forget the Critters at  
PAWS!!!**

We have many projects going on at the Shelter and we would love to have any leftover sheets of paneling or good lengths of lumber. We are trying to get a few rooms finished and we can use any paneling that is washable. We also would like any sections of chain-link fencing. We are hoping to put in an outdoor run: any solid fencing would be appreciated!!

The Penquis Valley High Class of 2011 is having a fun drawing. For one \$10 Ticket you will have a chance to win a prize every day in the month of May!! Multiple wins are possible as your ticket will be returned to the ticket pool.

<b>May</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Penquis Valley High School Sophomore Class of 2011 Calendar Raffle</b>					1 <u>Movie Night @ Home Bundle</u> Sponsored by: Melvin Ames Jr.	2 <u>Pizza Lover's Basket</u> By: Shiretown Pizza, Milo IGA
3 <u>For You &amp; Your Best Friend</u> *\$20 Smiths Grocery & Lunch Gift Card, **Dog Lover's basket By: *Smiths Grocery & Lunch **Three Rivers Feed	4 <u>Shine &amp; Dine</u> *2 Haircuts **Pats Pizza Gift Card By: *Lorraine's Barber Shop, **Pat's Pizza	5 <u>Girls Night Out!</u> \$25 Center Theatre Gift Certificate By: Center Theatre	6 <u>Giddy Up!</u> 1 Horseback Riding Lesson Sponsored by: Stone Ridge Stables	7 <u>Show and Eat</u> *5 Six-inch Meal Deal Cards, **2 Movie Rentals By: *Subway (Dover), **PVHS Key Club	8 <u>MaryKay TimeWise Collection</u> Sponsored by: Jen Baker	9 <u>Work On Your Tan Basket</u> 5 Tanning Sessions 1 Bottle of Rollergirl Bronzing Lotion By: Split Ends
10 <u>Shopping Spree</u> \$25 Wal-Mart Gift Card Sponsored by: PVHS Student Council	11 <u>Family Pizza Night</u> \$30 Gift Card to Milo House of Pizza Sponsored by: Milo House of Pizza	12 <u>Gamer's Night Out Basket</u> *\$10 Gift Card to Sandee's Restaurant, **5 Video Game Rentals By: *Sandees Restaurant, **Small Town Video	13 <u>Little Bit of Everything</u> \$55 C&J's Gift Card Sponsored by: JSI Store Fixtures	14 <u>Chocolate Basket</u> Lots of Chocolate Sponsored by: The Zambrano Family	15 <u>65 Piece Drill/Drive Set</u> Sponsored by: Bailey Lumber	16 <u>Deli Surprise</u> * \$20 Deli Gift Card, **5 Video Game Rentals By: *C&J's Variety, **Small Town Video
17 <u>Fitness Basket</u> Sponsored by: Someone Who Cares	18 <u>Pamper Yourself</u> 3 Cut & Shampoo Combo Sponsored by: Visual Changes	19 <u>Glow for Prom!</u> 1 Airbrush Tanning Session Sponsored by: Split Ends	20 <u>Snuggle Up Basket</u> *\$10 Mr. Paperback's Gift Card, **Mugs & Tea By: *Mr. Paperback, **PVHS Key Club	21 <u>Dinner for 2</u>  By: Wildwoods Restaurant	22 <u>On The Road Basket</u> \$20 Gas Card Travel Mug & Coffee By: Just Teasin'	23 <u>Toiletries Basket</u> Sponsored by: Lyford Trucking
24 <u>Drive for Free</u> \$50.00 Gas Card By: McKusick's Petroleum	25 <u>Evening for Two</u> 2 Oriental Jade Buffet Cards 2 Movies Passes By: Class of 2011	26 <u>Groceries On Us</u> \$25 Shaw's Gift Card Sponsored by: Shaw's	27 <u>Lunch Out Basket</u> *5 Six-inch Meal Deal Cards, **2 Movie Rentals By: *Subway(Dover), **PVHS Key Club	28 <u>Garden Basket</u> Sponsored by: Patten Farm	29 <u>Saddle UP!</u> 1 Horseback Riding Lesson Sponsored by: East Ridge Stable	30 <u>Massage</u> 1 Hour massage Sponsored by: Lisa Knight
31 <u>Handmade Quilt</u> Sponsored by: Betty Ames	<b>How to Win!</b> *There are 31 drawings – 1 per day for the entire month! *Ticket Price \$10 each – Multiple Wins Possible, winning tickets are returned to drawing for remainder of the month.					<b>2009</b>

**Rick Bradeen Landscaping**  
 LAWN MOWING WEED TRIMMING  
 TREE & BRUSH REMOVAL GRASS PLANTING  
 GROUND WORK, LIGHT GRADING  
 FERTILIZER SPREADING LEAF / DEBRIS REMOVAL  
 ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 5+ YEARS EXPERIENCE  
 RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL 943-2615

### A Bit of Veteran's History

By Richard L. Graves, Sr.

#### Merle F. Philbrook of Milo, Maine

Merle has been a member of Joseph P. Chaisson Post 41 for sixty years and shares some of his memories of World War II involving the Japanese Theater. In 1943, age 19 and married, Merle was drafted into the United States Army Air Corp. Basic training started at Fort Devens, MA, after which he moved on to Fort Bend in Alabama, where he trained as a combat engineer and heavy equipment operator and was assigned to the 836<sup>th</sup> Engineer Aviation Battalion-Replacement.

Boarding an Italian liner they sailed around Australia to the Maffin Bay on the north side of New Guinea. The overall mission of the 41<sup>st</sup> Division under General MacArthur was to capture and rebuild airfields on the islands as the Allied forces cleared and advanced toward Japan.

The 163<sup>rd</sup> RCT (Regimental Combat Team) was assigned to take Wake Island and Sarmi airfield. Merle's unit entered the bay with Japanese 93 mm cannons firing at the ships. They loaded their equipment and men on LSDs and came ashore in daylight after the infantry secured the landing on Wake Island. It was not known how many of the Japanese Eighteenth Army were on the island. The Engineer officers were called "Ninety-day wonders" having little leadership training and most including the men had little combat experience. "The second lieutenant told us to stack our arms together and we formed a circle around a fire to have tea". A mortar landed in the center of the group but was a dud! "That was the first of several close calls during my tour of duty". They all quickly learned that it was not a tea party. Even threats of friendly fire became a serious problem when they would be caught between friendly fire from ships and aircraft shooting at the enemy.

It took two days of nasty squad-size fighting by the infantry to pry almost 800 Japanese defenders from spider holes, coconut log bunkers and coral caves. The large 6 ton trucks were parked in a row like they were trained to do during training. Merle's unit lost all of their trucks, paperwork and clothing stored in the trucks on the second day. "Everything was burned up". After the infantry cleared up the island, there were 759 Japanese corpses, 4 prisoners of war and 40 American soldiers killed. Merle's unit continued to move through the Moluccas Islands and Philippines working on airfields and eventually ended up in a large staging area in northern Japan.

After the Japanese surrendered, Merle came back to the United States in a Liberty Ship to Seattle, WA and was discharged from Fort Devens, MA.

### American Legion News

State Of Maine Department Commander John Doyle was in Milo Wednesday night to present 14th District Commander Willard Lee Leeman with a jacket, Commander's pin and Meritorious Service Award for his outstanding accomplishments in membership. The 14th District (Piscataquis County) was the first district in the State to make 100% membership by the national deadline.



Also as membership chairman for Joseph P Chaisson Post 41, Lee oversaw a rise in membership of 103 % or eight more than last year for a total of 265 members.

Photo and story by Richard L Graves Sr. Adjutant

**GRAMMIE McCLEARY'S WEATHER APRIL 1979**

14-M cloudy-50° at 12. 15-Snow flurries L rain in evening-54° at 2 pm. 16-Sunny-33° at 6:30 am. 17-M cloudy rain showers-30° at 10 pm. 18-M sunny breezy-22° at 5:30 am. 19-Rain snow covered ground am Fair pm-46° at 4 pm. 20-Sunny windy- 55 °at 12.

*The Monday Morning Quilters* are busy making quilts for our wounded veterans in hospitals nationwide. We send these quilts to the Quilts Of Valor Foundation which distributes them to our veteran hospitals to comfort our wounded.



Left to right: Amy Nichols, Barbara Campbell, Gwen Bradeen, Marie McSwine, June Marsh and Joline Frazier.

**Lend a hand & have  
some fun**

CACOP\* is sponsoring a night out for you and your family! May 2nd, 5:30 at Brownville Elementary, join us for a pot luck dinner and then stay for a true "**Variety Show**". It has been a long winter and we hope to usher in spring with a evening of food, fun and friends! No cost to join us.....

*Students..... we would love to feature your work on the cover of our Programs..... Create an 8 1/2 x 11 drawing of "**What Community Means to Me**" and we will print it! Please put your name and grade or age on the bottom so we can recognize our community artists! Or if we have aspiring poets and writers - it would be great to have you share your writing on "**What Community Means to Me**" .... come and read it for us on May 2 at the Variety Show.*

*questions.... contact Suzette East 965-8679*

**We still have time slots to feature your talent in the show.... call 965-8679.**