

★★ **THE BUGLE** ★★

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Newsletter of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

December 1996

One Hundred Degrees in the Shade—But No Shade: The Mexican Border Affair

by Richard H. Zeitlin

After nearly thirty years of peace—the longest in its history as an independent nation—Mexico erupted into revolutionary upheaval in 1913.

The aging dictator fled, the new President was assassinated, and the fate of more than one billion dollars of American investments remained undecided as a series of rival Mexican regional leaders battled for national power. Violence became widespread and sometimes spilled across the border into the United States.

President Woodrow Wilson attempted to influence the course of events in Mexico by urging the major combatants to negotiate and by intervening militarily in local crises. Mexicans responded by becoming resentful towards the United States. Yet, arms and munitions flowed across the Rio Grande to supply numerous warlike Mexican factions. Some observers believed that President Wilson's policies were by no means clear.

Francisco "Pancho" Villa, one of Mexico's most important revolutionary chieftains, believed that Wilson had promised to support

Mexico, burning the town and killing other Americans. President Wilson dispatched regular troops under General John J. "Black Jack"

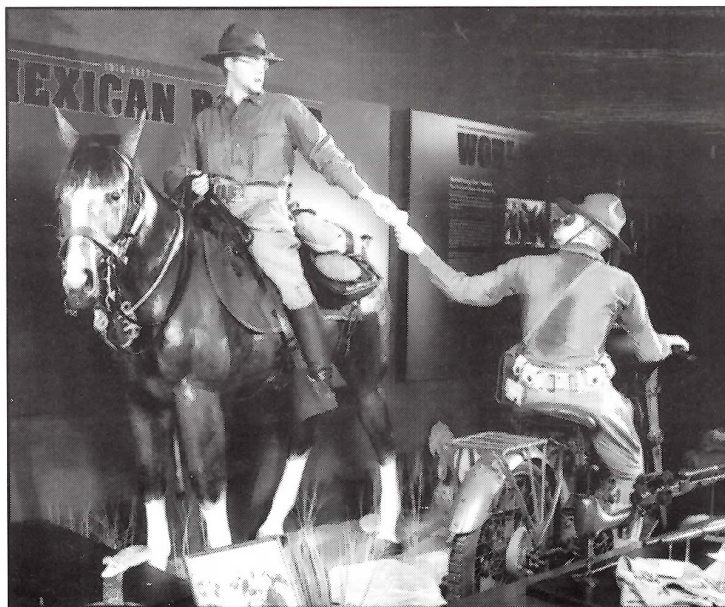
Pershing to the border and authorized U.S. forces to follow Villa into Mexico.

The Punitive Expedition, as it was called, could not capture or destroy Villa, but it did generate military confrontations with Mexican regulars. While Pershing's command was deep in Mexico, in the meantime, Villa attacked a community in Texas. Wilson mobilized the National Guard of forty-seven states and sent them to protect the border.

Army leaders recognized Wisconsin's National Guard as among the best in the country.

They praised the Wisconsin troops and suggested that other states model their guard organizations after that of Wisconsin. Wisconsin infantry, cavalry, and artillery units were equipped with modern weapons and well trained in their use.

Continued on page 2



The Mexican Border Campaign exhibit at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

him. When Wilson recognized a Villa rival as president of Mexico, Pancho Villa decided to demonstrate his discontent with the United States. In early 1916, Villa troops held up a train in Mexico and murdered sixteen Americans. Villa then attacked Columbus, New

Curator's Chronicles

by William Brewster

Welcome to another addition to the *Curator's Chronicles*. Tourists from all over the world visit the Veterans Museum, and this year, out-of-state travelers made two interesting donations to the museum.

Lloyd L. Stevens came all the way from Leslieville in Alberta, Canada to present the museum with the sword and compass used by 2nd Lieutenant Clayton Stevens of Company F, 27th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Mr. Stevens learned of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum through the family's genealogist, Mrs. James Gardner of Parma, Ohio. Mrs. Gardner contacted both Mr. Stevens and the Veterans Museum while researching family members, including Civil War veteran Lieutenant Clayton Stevens. On August 27, Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Gardner met at the museum to formally donate Lt. Clayton Stevens' sword and compass. Mr. Stevens felt that the best place to preserve these objects is in a museum dedicated to Wisconsin military history. We couldn't agree more! Thank you to Mr. Stevens, and Mrs. Gardner whose research and interest made this donation possible.

Jon and Bobbie Hanson of Groveport, Ohio donated a snare drum with sticks and a Springfield rifle and bayonet. While visiting family in Monroe early this September, the

Hansons inquired of the museum's interest in these items belonging to their Civil War relative. They were used by Ulra Delos Wood who served with the 50th New York Engineers. Normally, we would refer the Hansons to the New York State Museum, but this case was differ-



Mr. Lloyd L. Stevens presents Lt. Clayton Stevens' sword to Curator William Brewster.

ent. The Wood family moved to Wisconsin during the 1850s. However, with the outbreak of the Civil War, Ulra and his father returned to their home state to serve in New York regiments. Following the conflict both returned to Wisconsin. This information makes for a truly unusual history. Now, all pieces reside

in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. It is donors like the Hansons and Mr. Stevens that make the growth and development of the museum possible.

I would like to say a word about my father, William N. Brewster, who died on July 29. During World War II, Dad was classified 4-F because of childhood polio. This did not stop him from trying to enlist, and upon rejection, he wrote a letter to the Secretary of War requesting service. In response, it was suggested that he could be more valuable working to support the war effort. To do his part, my father volunteered as an air raid warden and spent two years at Badger Ordnance. It was through his encouragement that I developed my interest in military history and museums. Thanks Dad, keep the ammunition coming.

In 1997, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will install a temporary exhibit that pays tribute to some of the "non-combatants" who have served this country during times of war. The exhibit will examine organizations that have worked directly with the armed forces to provide support and services when they were most needed. Look for an announcement about this new exhibit in an upcoming edition of the Bugle. Until next time....

The Mexican Border Affair *from page 1*

Wisconsin Guard members pledged their loyalty to the Federal government as well as to the state in the first episode of federalization of the national guard to defend the United States. Wisconsin guard members were dispatched to the area near San Antonio. Heat caused the first casualties. The heavy wool uniforms issued in Wisconsin were inappropriate for service along the Mexican border where temperatures rose to over 100 degrees. Two cases of acute appendicitis caused the only

other casualties. No Wisconsin soldier, nor any of the guard members from other states, fired a weapon at a Villa trooper. The Mexican Border Campaign ended in 1917, with Villa no closer to being apprehended than he had been at the outset. Circumstances changed after the United States declared war upon Germany and the focus of military affairs became concentrated on Europe.

Interestingly, Wisconsin's participants in the Mexican Border Campaign achieved veterans' status in

1963 for the purpose of receiving state benefits. The work of Mexican border participants such as Gill Stordock convinced legislators to award the status of veterans to those who served. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum display on the border campaign highlights the introduction of motor vehicles into military operations, which first took place during the Mexican border affair; the joint federal/state control of the military forces of Wisconsin; and environmental aspects of the event.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation supports the exhibits and educational programs of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. The Foundation would like to thank the following for their generous contributions. Such contributions allow the museum to carry out programs that would not otherwise be possible. Again, thank you for supporting the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Alan and Sharon Abraham
 Shirley Abrahamson
 Gasper and Josephine Altomare
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 535, Eagle, WI
 American Legion Post no. 242, Lavalley, WI
 AMVETS, Milwaukee District no. 2
 Bank One Milwaukee Mildred Beltmann
 J.E. and David Bjerklien
 Dennis Boyer
 Noelle Chesley
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 DAV Chapter 40, Lancaster, WI
 DAV Chapter 44, Sturgeon Bay, WI
 DAV Chapter 53, New London, WI
 DAV Chapter 30, Stevens Point, WI

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 Mukwonago Area School District
 Muskego High School
 Kathleen O'Hara
 Oregon School District
 James Jr., Roger, and Hilda Poole in memory of James, Sr.

Louis and Lucille Pospishil
 Prairie Oak Press
 Robert and Agnes Radtke
 Leona Rathka in memory of Melvin
 The Retired Officers Association, Southern WI Chapter
 Paula and George Roncaglia
 Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association
 Sons of Confederate Veterans, Wisconsin Division
 Agnes Sowle
 St. Hubert School
 Marcia Staton
 James and Mercedes Stewart
 Barbara Stuvengen
 U.S. Submarine Veterans World War II, S.E. WI Chapter
 Ray and Viola Tappa

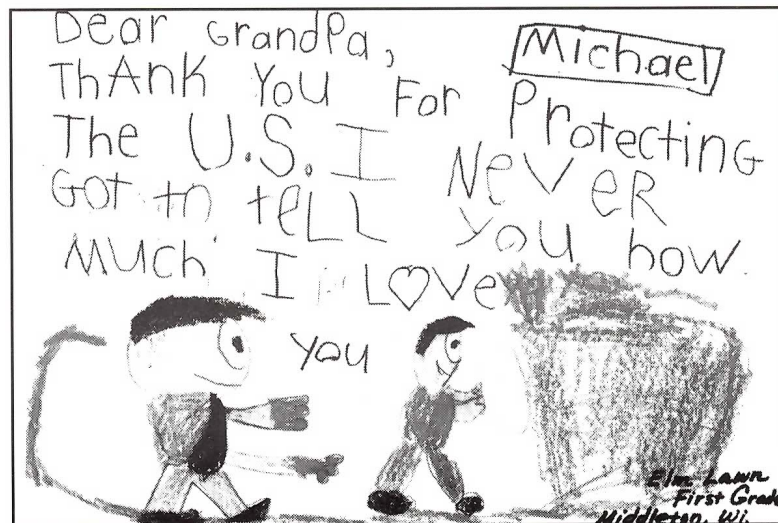
VFW Auxiliary Dept. of Wisconsin
 VFW Auxiliary Post 7591, Madison, WI
 VFW Post 10662, Redgranite, WI
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walther
 Walworth County Genealogical Society
 William and Dorothy Washburn
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 WAVES National Badger Unit no. 39
 Walter and Mary Webber
 Westlund Bus Lines, Inc.
 Wisconsin Family Court Commissioners Association
 Wisconsin 4-H Retirees
 Santos and Joan Zingale
 Zor Pipes and Drums



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 Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

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Drawings and letters were on display at the Veterans Museum during November as part of the "Thank a Veteran" program. This example is from an Elm Lawn first grader of Middleton.

ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

by Mark D. Van Ells

When the Wisconsin Veterans Museum moved to its present location in 1991, we expected that the new facility would provide ample space for years to come. Nobody imagined that the museum collections would grow as rapidly as they have, particularly in the museum's archives and library, which have doubled in size in just five years. To accommodate this growth, we have added new archives and library storage units in the museum's multi-purpose room. The new units will allow us to preserve additional military and veterans' historical books and manuscripts.

The museum has received several significant manuscript collections over the past few months, and I thank all who have parted with materials in the interests of history. Buster and Jeanne Newman of Waupaca donated a remarkable collection of photographs and papers from Frederick Hanson, an Army recruiter in the years between the

Spanish-American War and World War I. Ms. Lillian Taylor of Piedmont, West Virginia donated the World War II diary of her father, James Cole of Beloit. Cole served in the 1451st Engineer Dump Truck Company, a segregated transporta-

tion unit. Additional thanks for this donation go to Mr. LaVerne Pittman of Frostburg, Maryland, a friend of and occasional researcher at the WVM, who put us in contact with Ms. Taylor.

Finally, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's place on the Information Superhighway has grown significantly over the summer and fall of 1996. Since August, we have been adding several "historical features" to our World Wide Web Internet site, to supplement the general information about the museum. These new features are:

- Historical sketches of Wisconsin Civil War military units;
- An essay on the history and evolution of Wisconsin's Civil War regimental rosters;
- A list of Wisconsin's Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) posts;
- A roster of Wisconsin Medal of Honor recipients, along with information about the decoration;
- *Wisconsin's Role in World War II*, a booklet for school-age children funded in part by the WVM Foundation and the WAVES National Badger Unit no. 39;
- A three-part history of Wisconsin's County Veterans Service Officers.

In addition, we have vastly expanded our links to other Internet sites, and we have collected what we believe to be the most comprehensive list of Wisconsin museum web sites available. More changes to our Internet site are forthcoming, including a new, shorter address, which we hope to have developed by the end of the year. You can access our present web site at: <http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva/museum/wvmmain.html>

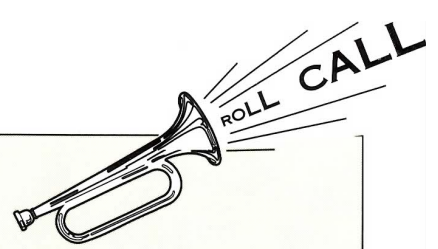
Wisconsin Veterans Museum



Wisconsin Veterans Museum



Photographs from the Frederick Hanson collection.



ONE WAY to evaluate how the community uses a museum is to review visitor remarks from the guest register. Self-evaluation helps museums to identify who their visitors are and to find out whether exhibits and programs are working the way they were designed. In doing this assessment, I came across innumerable comments, some emotional, many uplifting, and a few heartwrenching, which I wish to share.

"This museum was put together with *much* love and care. I find it very informative, very interesting and at the same time very depressing. This museum *makes* you take the time to consider the men & women who gave their lives in the name of peace. God bless them." Pennsylvania

"This visit is in memory of my grandfather, Herbert John H...." Madison, WI

"I was 'Rosie the Riveter' & lost a brother. Glad we're remembered!" Milwaukee, WI

"Battle of Bulge scene much like my memories of it." Green Bay, WI

"The kids really enjoyed the museum. The realistic images & info. Sparked a lot of interest & raised many questions! Thanks!" Marquette Elem. School, Madison, WI

"Museum gave me more insight as to what my father went through in Korea. Very good." Beloit, WI

"Thanks so *much*. Great volunteers!!" West De Pere, WI

"Wonderful—extremely accurate

displays! This is one history buff & Civil War/WWII reenactor who left here extremely satisfied!!" Hebron, IL

"Emotional—female veterans represented well." Crest Hill, IL

"Thank *you* for *our* freedom!!!!" Visitors from Europe.

"Never, never war again" German Visitors

"Without doubt the finest museum I've visited in my global travels. Thanks." Kentucky

"Big thanks to all vets who made our world safe. This is without word—the best of our trip. Impressive!!" Superior, WI

"My son always wants to return—no problem. This is a place to respect." Milwaukee, WI

"Third time in Madison. I always see your museum." Czech Republic

"A wonderful display that helps me to have a better picture of U.S. Armed Forces." P.R. China

"Moving tribute to veterans of all wars...Nha Trang '68." Pennsylvania

"Wonderful—appreciate the attention to 'Cold War' vets! *Great!*" Madison, WI

"This is perhaps the most clearly presented exhibit I've ever seen." Madison, WI

"Great collection, tremendous sense of realism." Belgium

"VFW Post 1866 thinks it is great." Marshfield, WI

"Vietnam vet—welcomed home." Madison, WI

"Wonderful place for old 'GIs' to visit." Racine, WI

"Words cannot express my feelings—Korea & Nam vet." Madison, WI

"Wonderful museum. Thank you for sending your young men to our side of the world to defend us against the Japanese." Hilma, Australia

"I'm all choked up! Outstanding!" Saukville, WI

Lynette Wolfe

**THE WISCONSIN
VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION
NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!**



Help keep the history of Wisconsin's veterans alive by contributing to the educational exhibits and programs of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

\$10 \$25 \$50 Other

Send your name, address, and contribution to:
Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation,
30 West Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703



Gary Van
Kauwenbergh of the
Second Wisconsin
Association presents
Curator William
Brewster with a
\$600.00 contribution
to conserve Sgt.
Philander Wright's
hat. Sgt. Wright served
with the Second
Wisconsin Volunteer
Infantry Regiment
during the Civil War.



The Wisconsin Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans contributed \$1,800.00 to conserve the First Tennessee battleflag. For the flag's unveiling ceremony at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Confederate re-enactors form a color guard.

From the Gift Shop

The gift shop has great gift ideas for the holidays. Please stop in to see our extensive selection of books, commemorative items, and clothing as well as stocking stuffers and other Christmas items.

TO ORDER, write to us at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 West Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703, or call 608-267-1799.

Display your Wisconsin Veterans Museum pride with a beautifully embroidered 100% cotton pique polo shirt. Available in navy. Adult sizes M, L, XL. \$28.00.



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