

naturalization cases which are to
come before him.

10/22/43

Soldier Memorial Planned for Lawn

The American Legion, with the cooperation of the community and the county commissioners, is planning a bronz honor roll memorial for the court house square. Architect Walker, who designed the court house, will be called in to plan the new project in keeping with the other building.

A bronz plaque will be installed of sufficient size to hold the name of all men and women from the county who are in the armed service during this war. This will require space for some two to three thousand names. The project will call for an initial expenditure of approximately \$1000.

Jess Benson, commander of the local Legion post, circulated a subscription list this week, raising \$700. He has another \$100 in sight and feels sure that there will be no difficulty encountered in raising the entire amount needed. The memorial will probably be erected on the south west corner of the square.

Memorial to Lea County Veterans

10/29/43

Jess Benson is putting in most of his time promoting the memorial to be erected on the Lea county court house lawn in honor of Lea county boys in the armed service. Every day the subscription to this fund is mounting and it is only a question of seeing all the people to having an ample fund to erect a fitting memorial.

Several years ago an organization was formed known as the American Womans Volunteer service. That organization has not been functioning for some time, and last week the members met and donated \$20.46 that was in the treasury to the memorial to be erected.

This is a good cause and everyone will want to help a little in putting it across. See Jess Benson or any member of the American Legion and put your money on the barrel head.

11-5-43

Soldier Memorial Is Now Assured

The memorial to be erected on the court house lawn bearing the name of every one from Lea county in the armed forces is now assured.

Jess Benson should have most of the credit and glory for making this memorial a reality, since he has worked early and late to get funds raised for this purpose. Benson reported Monday afternoon that \$1600 had been raised and since he had yet to hear from many places in the county there was little doubt that when all reports are in the \$2100 necessary to erect the memorial of bronzite will be available.

When the work is finished all of the casualties from Lea county will be listed. This memorial is so arranged that names can be transferred from one list to another, so that in the final arrangement every name will appear in the proper place and this will stand as a lasting monument to the Lea county boys who fought that freedom should not perish from the earth.

If you haven't helped in providing this fine memorial to our boys, see Benson or any member of the American Legion and put some money on the barrel head. This memorial is being erected by Lea county people to Lea county boys, and every citizen of Lea county should have a small financial interest in the erection of a fitting tribute to our boys.

dry for DEC. 3, 1943

MRS. PAYNE SENDS MEMORIAL CHECK

The Leader is in receipt of a letter from Mrs. R. E. Payne of Arlington, Va., inclosing a check for \$5 to be turned to the memorial fund.

Mrs. Payne writes that she has three boys in the armed forces and wants to help in erecting the memorial. Her sons are Grayford C., Francis Milas and Seth. Mrs. Payne will be remembered as a resident of both Tatum and Lovington. She says her donation is not much but will help some.

That's the kind of donations that are really big ones. It is the parents of boys in service that will make this a real memorial.

11/19/43 LL

Hobbs Organizes To Aid Memoiral

At a meeting of the various civic clubs of Hobbs last week, an agreement was reached to cooperate in raising funds for the Lea county memorial to our soldier boys to be erected on the court house lawn.

Committeemen selected to put on a drive at Hobbs were Jimmy Day, representing the American Legion and Lions club; Tom Mason, 20-30 club; Lyle Garner, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Dr. Allen P. Terrell and P. H. Golden, Rotary club.

This committee will work in conjunction with committees at Lovington, Jal, Eunice, Monument, Tatum and all of Lea county to finance, select and erect the honor roll memorial.

Jess Benson, who was the prime mover in getting this memorial under way, reported Monday of this week that \$1800 had been pledged. It is planned to raise \$3000, if possible so that the memorial will be fully paid for when completed. A list of all men and women from Lea county who served in the armed forces will be maintained on the memorial, the list of casualties specially designated and the lettering so arranged that it can be shifted when needed.

The American Legion of Lovington, which sponsored the memorial proposition, welcomes the help of the rest of Lea county and feels that with all cooperating in this move, a fitting tribute to those who serve can be erected. With organizations at Hobbs becoming actively interested, the memorial will soon be under construction, and all of Lea county can feel proud of this testimonial, just the same as they feel proud of those who are in the army, navy, air corps and marines.

A meeting of all American Legion posts in Lea county to further plans for erection of the memorial has been called to be held in the Lovington Legion hall this Friday evening.

The Lovington Legion auxiliary will serve refreshments and all members of the auxiliary are urged to be present.

A large attendance from over the county is anticipated.

Memorial Drive Is County Wide

The meeting held at the American Legion hall in Lovington last Friday evening for the purpose of organizing the Lea county war memorial was well attended and resulted in formation of an organization that will keep busy until all funds necessary for erection of a fitting memorial to the boys and girls who serve the colors of our country has been secured and the memorial is completed.

Jess Benson, as original booster and solicitor for the memorial, was fittingly made chairman of the organization, with Cliff Yearwood designated as treasurer. Committees were selected to attend to solicitation of funds in each community as follows:

Lovington, Benson, Yearwood and Sol Henry; Tatum, W. O. Dunlap and Lon Beadle; Hobbs, James Days, Dr. A. P. Terrell and Mr. Gholson; Monument, Tom Musick and Mr. Wagner; Eunice, R. C. Curry and Ray Garrison. Jal was not represented at the meeting but sent word it would line up 100 per cent and a proper committee will be selected later.

It was an enthusiastic meeting and all were optimistic in regard to the kind of memorial that should be erected. Benson reported that \$2100 had been secured and pledged for the memorial and practically all of it from Lovington and north. Dr. Terrell said that if a part of the county could raise \$2100 it should certainly be easy to push the fund to \$5000 with the rest of the county taking a hand. He made it a motion that \$5000 at the least should be secured for the memorial and immediately met with a second and a unanimous vote.

With Terrell and Jimmy Day looking after solicitations at Hobbs and with live wire committeemen all over the county, raising of the \$5000 can be counted as already accomplished, for it is but a matter of seeing the people.

A representative of a company that is erecting memorials was present at the meeting and gave information relative to cost, material used and what other communities were doing.

If you have not contributed to this fund, don't wait for the committee to look you up. You look up the committee. Almost every family in Lea county will have the name of some loved one on this memorial.

brought together.

12/17/43
62

War Memorial Fund Growing

Jimmie Day and Phil Golden of Hobbs got busy last week and collected \$1111.50 for the Lea county war memorial and they say that more will follow from Hobbs. That's not a bad start, but with these men on the job, determined to go over the top, more can be expected, in fact, it might be said that it is already in the bag.

The Hobbs contribution brought the fund within \$1400 of the minimum amount that will be needed to provide the memorial desired.

It is estimated that there will be 3000 names from Lea county to go on the memorial by the close of the war. Including construction costs, it is estimated that the memorial will cost \$1.50 per name, or \$4500, and there will be some added expense, no doubt, so \$4600 will be the least amount to get the job finished as it should be.

If you have not contributed to this memorial, see some member of the American Legion and make your donation, or see Cliff Yearwood, who is treasurer of the fund, and don't be

(Continued on page 4)

WAR MEMORIAL FUND GROWING

(Continued from page 1)

afraid of giving too much, for this is one thing, you will be glad you donated to when the memorial is completed and you can stand at attention and look over the names of all from Lea county who served.

There is another way you can help. It will not be hard to get the names of all who were drafted from Lea county as that is a matter of public record, but the names of those who volunteered will have to be turned in by relatives or friends. The county clerk has been designated as the official one to make a report on volunteers, and the list is already being made up. If you have any relatives or friends from Lea county who volunteered for service, report their names to Eva Tatum as soon as possible. It won't be long until everything will be arranged and work will start on the memorial. Put in some part of the cost and get the names of those you know have served to Miss Tatum.

More Funds Needed For War Memorial

A letter from Jess Benson regarding the Lea county war memorial appearing elsewhere in this issue should be read by everyone and all those who have not subscribed to the war memorial fund should see Mr. Benson or Cliff Yearwood at Lovington, Jimmy Day or Phil Golden at Hobbs or members of the American Legion at other places in the county and put some money on the barrelhead to help complete the memorial.

This memorial will be the biggest thing in Lea county in years to come. There will be approximately 3000 names on the memorial at close of the war, the name of every Lea county boy or girl who helped win the war for freedom being placed on the memorial.

It will be a shrine for all to visit in the future, and Johnny and Mary can point with pride to the memorial and say: "That's my daddy's name."

There is no question but that the memorial will be erected. As Benson says, it is just a question of getting the rest of the money and paying the bill so that there will be no balance to raise when it is completed.

No parent of a boy or girl in the service will fail to help make this memorial a reality.

War Memorial

To the people of Lea county:

To you fathers and mothers of boys who make up our armed forces:

The Lea county war memorial is now being constructed at the factory. We have the money to pay for this, and we have the money for construction when it is set up on the court house lawn, but we do not have the money to have the boys names made that are going on this memorial, so please let's finish the job.

A memorial without the names inside don't spell much to our boys. If you have not helped, please send in your donation at once. We must raise \$1400 so these names can be made and placed in the memorial. A one dollar bill from all the parents of boys in the service from Lea county will finish the job.

We have a contract to have this money ready to be paid on the date the memorial is completed. With \$3200 in the fund surely we can raise the rest of this money in the next 30 days. If you send check, make it to Lea county memorial. See your committeeman in your town or give it to your American Legion post commander or send your remittance to the county clerk at Lovington. It is also urgent that people of Lea county get names of boys and girls who have volunteered in the service of our country to the county clerk's office at Lovington. Register in person, or by mail or phone, but please get these names in so we can send them in with the names of men who have been inducted, as these can be gotten at the local draft office.

People, there has been some hard work done on this job and it is getting to the place where it is all the people's business from here out. The committee which has worked so hard to building this memorial is not griping, but it does want your help to finish the job, and the job cannot be done from here out without your help.

We are here making an appeal for the names of volunteers of Lea county boys and boys in the service, and also an appeal for donations to get the money to have these names manufactured and placed on the Lea county war memorial, that will stand on the court house lawn as a special tribute to our boys who are doing

such a wonderful job of trying to get it over so they can be at home once more. Their names will live on in this memorial after the war is won. We will all be proud that we have done this much for them—a little bit of history for the men of Lea county who served in world war No. 2.

Jeas A. Benson, Chairman,
Lea County War Memorial

Committee of Lovington Ministers Selects Inscription for Memorial

A committee composed of Rev. Arthur Shaw, Rev. Dean Brookshire, Rev. Emmett Galloway and Rev. W. M. Beauchamp Wednesday morning selected as an inscription to go on the Lea county war memorial along with the roster of those who died in service the shortest and simplest inscription submitted: In grateful acknowledgement of those who gave their lives that Freedom might endure.

Eleven inscriptions were submitted, among them a quotation from Flanders Field and another one from the immortal Gettysburg address of Lincoln. Any one of the 11 submitted would have been appropriate, but the text as selected is appropriate and concise and states the case.

Jess Benson reports that more than \$500 has been added to list of contributions since his letter asking for more donations to complete the memorial was published last week. In this issue another letter from Mr. Benson appears and the public is urged to get back of the project in the final drive to finish raising the necessary funds. It will be the best donation one ever made as in years to come when one looks over the names of those who fought the world's war of freedom they will be more than glad they helped make the memorial possible. See someone of the solicitors for funds during the coming week and contribute to this worthy cause.

Gene O. Benson, board of Ryote, Tex.

Money Coming In for War Memorial

Those who have members of their families from Lea county who have volunteered for service in the armed service of the United States are turning in names of the volunteers at once to the county clerk, who is making up the list of names to be placed on the Lea county war memorial.

The names of those who have been drafted can be secured from the selective service board, but if they volunteered for service the names will have to be turned in by relatives as there is no local record. Many have turned in names of volunteers and the list is growing. It is thought there will be 3000 names on this list when completed.

Funds are still coming into the war memorial organization. Jai will make a report by the last of the week, and from all accounts it will be a good one. Money is coming in from every section of the county to bring the fund to sufficient to pay every dollar of the memorial cost. If you have not contributed do so at once. Every family in Lea county should be represented in helping build this memorial.

Memorial Funds Nearly all Raised

Jess Benson reported Tuesday evening that \$4138 had been collected for the war memorial with only \$400 to go to put the drive over the top and care for everything, including 3000 names.

So far, only 2300 names have been listed, but those unreported and future drafts in the county will put the list at 3000 or more before the war is over.

Money is still coming in with every mail and it is planned to have the war memorial drive concluded within a few days.

Beyond doubt there are a number of people in Lea county who have planned to have their name on the list of those who made the memorial possible by donations. The time is getting short and if you don't hurry the drive will be concluded without you being listed as a contributor. See Mr. Benson, Cliff Yearwood or Eva Tatum at Lovington, Jimmy Day or Phil Golden at Hobbs, and elsewhere in the county contact the American Legion post, but definitely hurry if you don't want to be left out.

Names Sent in For Memorial

2/4/49
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Jess Benson reports that enough funds have been collected to make sure that the Lea county war memorial will be erected.

County Clerk Eva Tatum this week is sending in the list of Lea county men and women in the service so far compiled and work of making the plates will start at once. In the list sent in there were 1545 names turned in by the draft board. At the time this is written the number of names of volunteers had not been counted, but it is urged that if any one knows of any volunteers to report the names to Miss Tatum so they can be included in the list. This point should be remembered: If anyone knows of any soldier, sailor, marine or others who have lost their life since enlistment, they should report the names as casualties. The list of casualties turned in will be checked carefully so that there will be no errors.

It is planned to send in additional names that are reported about once each month so that the list on the memorial will be kept up to date.

Erection of the memorial will be started as soon as materials are available.

4-27-44 CC

WAR MEMORIAL HAS ARRIVED

Jess Benson reported as we were going to press that the Lea county war memorial had arrived and that the work of erection would start Monday.

Names of Lea county people who are in the armed service continue to be turned in to the county clerk, and if there are any who have not reported names of those who volunteer it would be well to do so at once so that the names may be placed on plates before the memorial is completed.

Names can be added from time to time, but it would be fine if all the names could be in place when the formal dedication takes place.

The memorial will be placed on the southwest corner of the court house square.

close school May 12

4/22/44 u

WORK ON MEMORIAL NOW PROGRESSING

Workmen have made progress this week on erection of the Lea county war memorial being erected on the southwest corner of the court house. The framework has been placed and things made ready for the memorial.

Jess Benson reports this week securing a 65 foot flexible steel flagpole that will be place just back of the memorial. This gives sufficient height for the flag to be above the trees and visible from most points in Lovington.

5/19/44 LL

No. 1

Dedication Date For Lea County War Memorial is Memorial Day, May 30th

After checking progress in erection of the Lea county war memorial on the southwest corner of the court house square, Jess Benson asks the Leader to announce that the unveiling will take place Tuesday, May 30. That is Memorial day and is a fitting time to unveil this memorial of all time to the men and women of Lea county in the armed forces.

It is planned to have a program in which citizens from every section of Lea county will take part. Attorney J. A. Atwood of Roswell will be asked to deliver the address, and that in itself should bring most of the people of Lea county to the unveiling, for Mr. Atwood is a silver tongued orator and an ex-service man and his address will be worth going many miles to hear.

All ex-service men in the county will have special invitations through the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars to be present in person. Ex-service men from every sec-

tion of the county will be included in the program.

As the unveiling will occur on Memorial day, it is also planned to observe the day by all stores closing, and with exercises at the cemetery as well. This should make a day filled with events and one long to be remembered.

On the memorial will appear the names of all service men and women from Lea county who have been turned in by the draft board, and also of volunteers whose names have been handed in to the county clerk. As more persons are called to the armed forces, names will be added to the roster on the memorial. If there is a member of your family in the armed forces you have an interest in this memorial, and that means almost every family in the county.

It will be your day and your memorial, so be there for a day that will be long remembered.

LOVINGTON, N. M., MAY 26, 1944

Unveiling of Lea County War Memorial Will Be Big Event of the Coming Week

The Lea county war memorial will be unveiled here next Tuesday. That being Memorial day, it is planned to have soldiers graves in the Lovington cemetery decorated, and that probably will be done during the morning hours, the Legion auxiliary of Lovington being in charge of that part of the ceremonies.

The program for the unveiling will come during the afternoon, starting probably about 1:30. It is impossible at this time to give the program exactly as it will be rendered because there may be changes made until the last moment, but J. A. Atwood of Roswell, one of the orators of the southwest, has agreed to deliver the address of the day, and that should be cause for many to attend the unveiling. The HAAF band has been invited to participate in the afternoon and indications Tuesday were that the band would accept and furnish music for the occasion. The HAAF band is a good one and its music will be a treat for all present.

Jimmy Day of Hobbs will make the

presentation of the memorial to Lea county and it will be accepted by the county commissioners. Col. J. P. Bailey, commander at HAAF, has been asked to appear on the program. He has not stated positively whether he would be present, but he is expected to be represented by some other officer if he cannot attend.

Rev. Emmett Galolway, pastor of the Lovington Presbyterian church, will lead the singing of familiar patriotic songs, interspersed through program.

George S. Harris of Hobbs will act as master of ceremonies during the memorial dedication.

It is planned to have the various American Legion posts of the county represented on the program.

Most of the afternoon will be devoted to the unveiling program and all of Lea county is asked to attend and do honor to our armed forces.

There are more than 2000 names already placed on the memorial and it will reach 3000 eventually.

Large Crowd Attends Dedication of Lea County War Memorial Tuesday

A crowd estimated at 1500 to 2000 people was present for the unveiling of the Lea county war memorial here Tuesday. There were fully 1000 or more persons standing on the courthouse lawn and many were seated in cars around the square so the estimate of 1500 is thought to be an understatement of the attendance.

Dan Bodie of Hobbs had been slated as master of ceremonies when George Harris was called to Albuquerque on business. At the last moment pressing business prevented Mr. Bodie from attending, and Jimmy Day was pressed into service. Mr. Day is an ex-service man and he did a good job as master of ceremonies.

Rev. Emmett Galloway led in the singing of America and Onward Christian Soldiers. An enthusiastic crowd followed his lead and put pep in the singing. The invocation was given by W. M. Beauchamp, and commanders of the various American Legion posts in the county were introduced by the master of ceremonies.

Mr. Day then introduced the speaker of the day, Col. J. D. Atwood of Roswell, who held the audience at close attention. Mr. Atwood is a veteran of world war No. 1 and is active in the work of the Legion. He said among other things that our duty to the dead is remembrance, and to see that the widows and orphans of our soldiers and sailors are cared for, but that we owe a greater duty to the living, and especially to those who served in the armed forces and that is to see that the country they fought to keep free is the same country they left when they entered the armed forces and has the same high ideal; that they are fighting to preserve the right to criticize as well as for our churches, our schools, our institutions and the right to earn a living, and that when they come home they will do some post war planning of their own and there is little plan-

ning we can do ere their return except to see that they have a job and are cared for. He drew applause many times during his remarks. He said our main duty here at home was to keep up morale and help win the war.

Chaplain Nelson C. Munson of HAAF was present representing Col. Bailey and made a splendid short address, his subject of discourse being that men should be more regarded than material things, and that America, being a cosmopolitan mixture of nationalities, should do away with bigotry, with racial and class hatreds, declaring that this country has a heritage of religious background that has helped make its past and would safeguard its future.

As Chaplain Munson was concluding his remarks peals of thunder apprised the audience that it could rain in New Mexico, and Mr. Day called Commissioner Paul Brown to the microphone and in a few words presented the memorial to Lea county. Mr. Brown in just as few words accepted the memorial and pledged present and future commissioners to keep it in good repair.

The meeting then adjourned and a fairly good shower of rain and hail descended. The shower was of a local nature, but the best moisture so far this season for the immediate vicinity of Lovington.

Those citizens of Lea county who have not inspected the memorial should do so at their earliest convenience. It will be here for some time to come.

The people of Lea county owe a debt of thanks to Jess Benson, who started the memorial idea and who kept at it until it became a fact.

The program was broadcast over station KWEW at Hobbs, and many people in the county who could not attend heard the program over their radio.

A black and white photograph showing a large, dark evergreen tree in the foreground. Behind the tree is a building with a memorial structure in front of it. The memorial has several panels and a sign that reads "HONOR ROLL - LOVINGTON N. MEX". The building in the background has a sign that says "LEA COUNTY N.M. W.O." and another that says "ANSWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL".

HONOR ROLL - LOVINGTON N. MEX

World War One Veterans Honored On War Memorial

Names of more than 150 war vets who served their country in time of war are to be added to the ever growing list of Lea Countians at the courthouse memorial.

Jess Benson, chairman of the American Legion Memorial said 167 names of those who served from this area in World War II are to be added to the list of names on display.

These are names which Benson has traced down as having gone from what is now Lea County in 1917 and '18. The Chairman said these persons will be listed in less than 30 days. He also urges anyone whose name should be on the marker but is not to contact him at the courthouse. People who have relatives passed away but whose name does not appear should also contact Benson.

This Memorial was erected through efforts of Benson and the Legion in 1942 by public subscription. At dedication ceremonies the Legion deeded the marked over to the County and its is taken care of through county funds.

