

Poppy Day is time to aid those who served

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Sixty-three years ago, a young Canadian soldier, Col. John McCrae, fighting a war to "make the world safe for democracy," wrote a simple poem. "In Flanders Field the poppies blow, between the crosses row on row..." he began, inspired by the wild red pop-

pies pushing through the soil of spring near a World War I battlefield. The bright red blossoms were a message of continued life amid death as they opened among the stark white crosses and the Stars of David that marked graves of thousands of young men killed in the second Battle of Ypres in Belgium.

It was April 1915 when the battle-weary soldier wrote those lines. Before the war ended, he died in action. But the poppies lived. "To you from failing hands we throw the torch," the poem reads. "Be yours to hold it high." The torch was taken up and by the early 1920s, the first artificial poppies were being sold by the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in this country. Today they are sold by a number of

veteran's organizations including the Legion, VFW, the Disabled American Veterans, Catholic War Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, the Polish Legion of American Veterans and others.

EARLY ON they were sold to benefit French war orphans, but they have evolved through the years as the flower one buys to remember war veterans. Proceeds from the sales, no matter which organization does the selling, go to hospitalized veterans in

VA hospitals all over the country. Service is always extended to every veteran regardless of race or creed or which war he or she fought in. No matter which organizational tag is attached to the red paper flower, the purchaser can be assured that he is buying service for veterans, and that the poem was made by hand by a disabled veteran.

Proceeds of the sales make possible entertainment, bingo games, gifts, holiday parties and personal service that the veteran's groups and auxiliaries sponsor at VA hospitals. In this area, most veteran's groups, service the Allen Park facility, the Ann Arbor Veteran's Hospital and Battle Creek.



Poppy Day sales are for the aid of veterans who spend many of their years in this nation's veteran's hospitals.

Kids fish derby set for June 3

Several hundred young fishermen from western Wayne and Oakland counties will be competing for fun and prizes in the 16th annual Tom Sawyer—Becky Thatcher Fishing Derby on Newburgh Lake. Fishing starts at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 3 and will last until noon. Anglers ages 6-16, inclusive, may enter. They must register in advance and provide their own natural bait and equipment.

Largest bullhead—a Schwinn light and speedometer from Reliable Bicycle Shop, Livonia. ALL WHO catch their legal limits of 25 panfish will be eligible for a non-lottery drawing to determine the winners of a unicycle, rotary barbecue grill, model cars, model planes and fishing lures.

SPONSORS ARE the Western Wayne County Conservation Association and the parks and recreation departments of the cities of Livonia, Garden City, Plymouth, Westland, Northville, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Dearborn Heights. Grand prize for the largest sportfish will be a Shakespeare depth and fish finder provided by Livonia Tackle Co. No "rough" fish (such as carp, bullhead or sucker) will be eligible for the grand prize.

Another feature will be the Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher look-alike contest. Prizes for the costume contest, as well as for other fish, will be announced later. Contestants can avoid the registration line the day of the contest by registering in advance. There is no fee. Send a post card with your name, age, address and phone number to: Fishing Derby, 19345 Brentwood, Livonia, Mich. 48152.

Contest Chairman Hank Chrusciel of the conservation club announced some of the prizes: Largest bluegill—a backpack from Gell's Sporting Goods, Livonia. Largest catfish (crappie)—Zebco rod and reel from Northwest Gun Shop in Redford Township and a set of Eppinger lures from the manufacturer. Largest golden carp (goldfish)—a three-piece camp set including an ice chest, water jug and vacuum jug from the conservation club. Largest channel catfish—propane lantern from the conservation club. Largest northern pike—a single-burner propane stove from the conservation club.

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