

Citizen from page A1

of persuasion - facts that would serve him well later - to get a slot on a supply ship in safer waters, where he was paymaster and beer-supplier.

"Officers and sailors would try to slip him an extra \$50 - a lot of money in those days - for more beer, but Curd said no. 'The only thing they couldn't buy was my integrity,' says Curd today, 'and they still can't.'"

When the man shortage hit the Navy and it began recruiting African-Americans - "Jim Crow laws were still in effect back then," recalled Curd - he became an Navy instructor giving them a crash-course in storekeeping.

"They gave me respect and I gave them respect," he said of the experience.

Because they were in "a white man's navy," said Curd, "I think they were more scared of that" and more concerned about how they'd be accepted "than they were of the war."

"We got along fabulously. They could ask me anything." That openness also would serve him.

Some 50 years later, after a successful Detroit-area real estate sales career and helping wife Barney rear four children, Curd was approached by Holly Owen of Colonial Car Wash Inc. on Nine Mile.

Owen was trying to help the FHS Band get to France as Michigan's sole representative in the Normandy celebration and Curd was bored with retirement.

"I guess I was ripe when Holly

asked me," said Curd who, like a lot of veterans, also was being stirred by 50-year-old war memories.

Besides, it was the war that had gotten him out of the gritty farm-life he hated.

Down to business

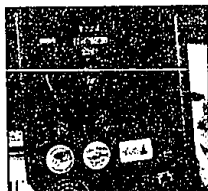
So he got to work, "wined and dined" a Department of Defense senior master sergeant who gave him a special World War II commemorative flag and told Curd of a Detroit-area flag distributor. Curd swung a sharp deal with the company for more flags, which he then sold to fellow veterans and their offspring, raising the money the Falcon band needed.

"The band adopted me as honorary grandfather," said Curd in explaining how "Uncle Jack" became "Grandpa Jack."

"I even went to band camp. I'm probably the oldest grandfather who ever went to camp."

That led Curd to push Farmington and the Hills into an 18-month commemoration of the war, followed by the creation of "Flag 101."

The course, which Fouchey helped create and which is taught in classrooms, teaches youngsters about the American flag, the pledge of allegiance and appreciation for what they represent. It features presentations on growing up by Curd, Farmington Mayor Mary L. Bush and fellow World War II veteran Wally Christensen, among others and



His honors: Curd's war service was decorated.

includes demonstrations in flag etiquette by high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets.

The program, he tells the kids, commemorates the war "so people won't forget it," but in no way does Grandpa Jack want to glorify war.

"I love kids," said Curd of his reaching out to them, particularly those in single-parent households. "I'm a grandpa, I know kids."

And the feeling is mutual. They confide in him and he's had them hanging from his legs and asking for his autograph.

"If they're receptive" to what he teaches and tells about his life experiences, "it touches me."

"I expect to keep doing it until I have to hang it up."

Borrowing an old quote, Curd said he believes a hundred years from now the only important thing is that the world may be a little better because an adult was important in the eyes of a child.

Hit-run from page A1

Ford emblem and an electric outside rearview mirror, which could indicate the vehicle was an LX model Escort, police said.

It was raining and there were no skidmarks on the road, they said.

Police also sent Rogers' clothing for paint samples. "We're giving it the full Monty," Green said.

As of Friday afternoon, the department had not gotten much response from the pub-

lic in its appeal for help, he said.

Rogers, who lives on Nine Mile not far from where he was struck, had apparently parked his car on the north shoulder of Nine Mile, but was found on the south side, 12 feet from the road, by a newspaper delivery truck driver around 4:50 a.m., police said.

Family members told them he was on his way home from work at the time.

Lighthouse talk set

Charles K. Hyde, professor of History at Wayne State University, will speak at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Farmington Branch Library, 23500 Liberty Street.

Hyde will discuss the history, design and legends of Great Lakes lighthouses as well as the lifestyle of lighthouse keepers and their families.

Following his presentation, he will autograph copies of his book "The Northern Lights: Lighthouses of the Upper Great Lakes."

Call 474-7770 to register for this free program.

It's 9:31 am on Wall Street.



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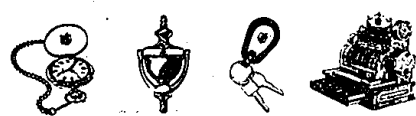
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