

## CHAT ROOM



M. Stern & J. Scott

## Hills veterans renew kinship over rescue

It was over in New Guinea that we had been sent after spending some time on Goodenough Island - we being U.S. Army Company B 127, 32nd Division, Red Arrow.

When we disembarked off the coast near Pinchaven, we were taken up the coast close to Buna or Aitape. We set up in a camp that had been used before. The tents were riddled with bullet holes, but we patched them up to make them livable.

We were there for a few weeks waiting to be assigned to different squads as replacements. The ones before us had come over the Owen Stanley Mountains and were pretty badly shot up and wounded. Some also suffered from malaria.

Our group was from Ft. McLellan, Ala., and managed to stay together. Later, we would be divided and sent to our separate units. Morris Stern and I and a few of the others were from Detroit.

### Expedition turns dangerous

When we had some free time, Morris and I would go down to the beach and look for the beautiful cat eye stones. One day, I was knee deep in water and Morris was watching me from a ledge about 3 feet above. The waves were around my knees as I

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## Remembering veterans

### Stars & Stripes gala honors those seniors who served

■ The Costick Activities Center was transformed into a USO Canteen to honor military veterans who served with honor.

BY MARY RODRIGUE  
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Nearly 100 veterans of World War II and the Korean War stood to be recognized at the second annual "Stars & Stripes Portent" salute Friday at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

The center was transformed into a USO Canteen, complete with live Big Band music, American flags and banners, balloon and flower centerpieces and an extensive poster display of World War II battles. The event was co-sponsored by the senior center and American House retirement residence of Farmington Hills.

Looking at the posters, Arnold J. Weingart, 78, of Livonia was transported back to another era. Weingart, a former U.S. Marine who served from 1942-46, recalled in vivid detail various aspects of his tour of duty.

"I drove an amphibious truck, transporting ammo, food and medical supplies," he said. "We'd also bring the wounded back to the hospital ship. I was mostly in Guam and Okinawa."

Weingart recalled how the Japanese would shoot the amphibious vehicles out of the water.

"If the pumps don't work, you're dead."

Livonia residents Ken Bussler and his wife, Dolores, also enjoyed the display of posters from the National Archives.

"I was in the Navy in 1945-46, on an aircraft carrier," Ken said.

### Look at that

The poster collection was courtesy of active local World War II Navy veteran



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Dancers: Betty Weingarten and Leroy Papineau enjoy the gala.

Jack Curd.

"I started my personal collection for the 50th anniversary commemoration

of World War II," Curd said.

"The Defense Department sent some of them. I went to Washington and

they gave me a lot. Some I received as gifts and others I purchased from the National Archives."

The display was mounted on a stars and stripes background by senior activities program director Nora Dolan, who dreamed up the idea for the grand scale Veterans Day salute last year. It has now become an official annual event.

Mayors of Farmington Hills and Farmington, Aldo Vagnozzi and Mary Bush respectively, addressed the crowd. Some 325 tickets were sold.

"After last year's program I heard from many veterans that this program was the first time they were thanked for their role in World War II," said Vagnozzi, who served as an interpreter during the war. "All of our veterans deserve our undying gratitude."

Mayor Mary Bush encouraged everyone present to "give a veteran a hug today."

Sgt. Mike Cannon, commander of the American Legion U.S. Air Force ROTC program at Churchill High School, presented a color guard of four cadets to carry the U.S. and Air Force flags and lead the "Pledge of Allegiance." Cannon said that the average age of the veteran who gave his life in battle for his country was 19 years old.

May Arvo, active in the Farmington Musicals, sang "God Bless America."

John and Ann Whitworth of Farmington Hills enjoyed the Stars and Stripes program last year so much that they brought along friends: Bob and Betty Andersen of Garden City this time.

John, a native of England, served in the Royal Air Force as a gunner on B-24s from 1943-46. Ann, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, was drafted into the British Women's Army and served 1942-46.

"I was a plottor plotting enemy aircraft from occupied France using radar, which was brand new then and highly

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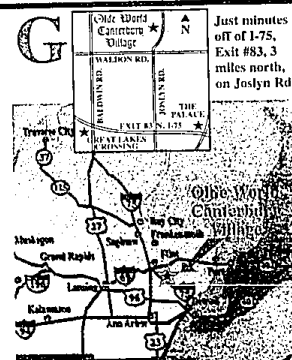
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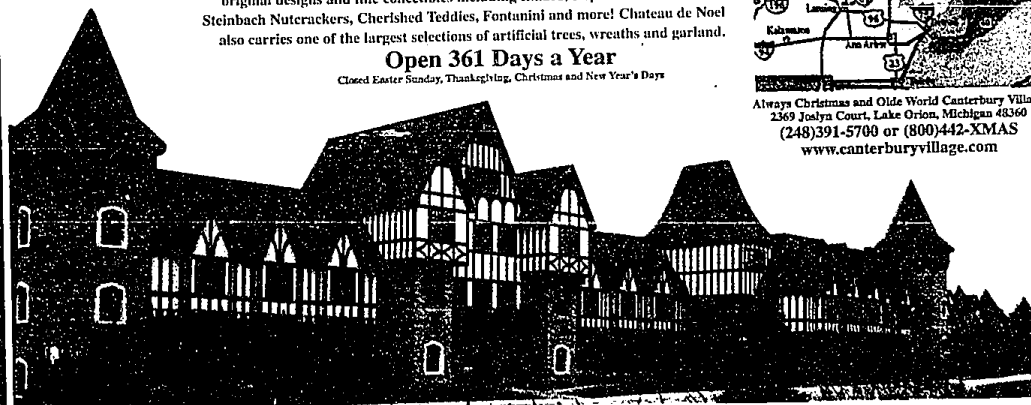
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