

Korean war from page C6

white hotels. As the Korean War started and dead soldiers were coming back, I volunteered to be on the Honor Guard. After we fired a salvo in salute of the soldier that died. We also look turns carrying the casket, holding the flag and going to the services for the black and white soldiers.

I made up my mind to be a career soldier. When my enlistment was up at Selfridge AFB, nine days later I was at Fort Dix, N.J. It was supposed to be one of the best training camps for combat infantry soldier-light weapons. By joining the Army, I lost my Corporal rating and \$90 re-enlistment pay, a lot of money back then. This was the rule when you transferred from one branch to another. My training was for combat infantry.

After eight weeks training, I was asked to go to administrative school because of my prior service, which I refused because I wanted to finish my 16 weeks training and have the chance to go to Korea. We got on a troop ship, the USNS General M.S. Stewart, for the 28-day trip from New York to Japan.

Heading for Hawaii, we hit an outbreak of a typhoon. The ship took waves above the bow for six days, continuing to roll and blunder plowing through the horrible storm. Most of the servicemen were sick and stayed in their bunks. Eighty percent of the soldiers were lying in their bunks too sick to eat for over a week. I was one of the lucky ones who never felt seasickness.

After training as a spare parts specialist, I was sent to Pusan,

Korea, the 652nd Engineering Depot that was the main supply area for all of Korea. In my section, as Tech Sgt. I had six GIs and 30 Koreans working for me.

I decided to take up judo. One day, my instructor said he could teach me no more and I had to get my black belt from a doctor who was champion of Korea. Here, I learned sword fighting and judo at a much higher level. I didn't receive my black belt.

Overrun three times

I was transferred again to Seoul at Kimpoo Air Force Base that was overrun by the North Koreans three times. While in Korea, I took over 400 slide pictures which I still have.

On base we lived in an eight-man tent. Later we moved into Quonset huts. These metal huts were especially cold when the oil burner stoves went out. We had to pull our own guard duty night after night. My tour was over so I left Seoul and went to Inchon to board a ship called the U.S. Navy Phoenix, which took me to San Francisco, a very long ocean trip.

My new assignment was 51st Engineer Headquarters Company, Ft. Lewis, Washington. My commanding officer was a captain from West Point and while in Korea, I served with two second lieutenants from West Point.



Vasille Croitoro, then and now

It's not often one has the chance to serve with a West Point officer, let alone three, who were the elite of the Army. My job was now in supplies, not in spare parts.

My last six months of service I married my girlfriend, Nancy Adams, from school and she lived with me off base in Olympia, Washington. Being married changed my mind about the service and when my time was up, I went back to Michigan and put all my medals, patches and pins from both branches in a glass box to pass on to my children. I took a job as a toolmaker apprentice and later worked with General Motors air transport section.

I would like to thank every man and woman who served in the military. To those who never made it back, God bless you all and may you rest in peace. You helped to protect this great country of ours. Please never lose sight of our Constitution and our freedom.

Vasille Croitoro, father of four, is retired and lives in Farmington with his wife of 46 years, Nancy.

Cantors to perform May 1 cabaret

The Sisterhood of Adat Shalom will feature Cantors Perry Fine and Nancy Ginsberg in a Spring Sensation cabaret for men and women at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday May 1.

Cantor Fine has been singing Jewish music since his days as a boy soprano soloist in his synagogue choir in Baltimore. He has appeared around the country in concerts of classical and Jewish music and more recently cabaret. He serves as cantor of Congregation Beth El in South Orange, N.J., and also sits on the faculties of the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Academy for Jewish Religion in New York.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and JTS, he is past president of the seminary's Can-



Kenneth Gould



Nancy Ginsberg



Perry Fine

He'll be joined by Cantor Nancy Ginsberg of Har Sinai Temple in Baltimore. In addition to Cantor Ginsberg's cantorial and operatic background, she is a marathon runner and has sung the national anthem at numerous professional sporting events. She has served on the board of the American Conference of Cantors and has been featured on Dateline NBC as "the cabaret cantor."

Singer, actor, pianist and vocal coach Kenneth Gould will provide keyboard accompaniment for the program. Gould has been musical director of shows ranging from *Camelot* and *Guys and Dolls* to *South Pacific* and *My Fair Lady*. He has performed

with stars ranging from Gene Kelly, John Raitt, Rich Little, Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in voice and piano and is pursuing cantorial studies at the Academy of Jewish Religion in New York City.

Sisterhood president Carol Weintraub Fogel says that the Spring Sensation event replaces the traditional Donor Day, in response to requests from members for more evening programming. Norma Dorman is event chair. Reservations are required. There is a minimum donation of \$54 per person. For details, call the Adat Shalom office at 851-5100.

FAC art sale, exhibit April 29

The Farmington Artists Club spring exhibit and sale will be Sunday, April 29, through Sunday, May 6, in conjunction with the Festival of the Arts.

The event will be in the Coatick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Hours: noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and both Sundays; Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Richard Fairfield will serve as juror for the show. A professor of art at Eastern Michigan University, he's taught many drawing classes overseas.

Fairfield has been exhibiting his works since 1964 and has won many awards.

THE LARRY STEPHENSON BAND

Friday, April 6, 2001

Oakland Community College presents the headliners on the bluegrass circuits top festivals, The Larry Stephenson Band. This top-notch performer and his trio present music with a punch! Curtain time is 8:00 p.m.

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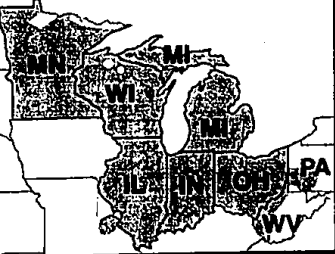
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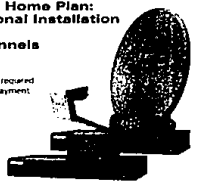
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