

LOCAL NEWS

Westford man records local WWII veterans' stories for posterity

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let go of ropes leading to landing crafts and jump to their deaths before the invasion.

But Buckingham, 79, still chokes up recounting his assignment as a signalman to put out the word that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was dead.

John A. Healy Jr., 84, of Westford, served on Air Force bases in England during World War II and considers himself one of the lucky ones. One of his biggest complaints was British food — fish heads and beet sandwiches.

Healy survived a fractured skull from a Jeep accident and a bout with spinal meningitis, and considers it a privilege to have backed up those in combat, Healy said.

Despite the lack of danger

in his job managing payroll for the Air Force, Healy carries no idealistic torch as a veteran.

"They aren't fighting for the flag. They are fighting to survive," he said.

From the insistent — such as Buckingham, who enlisted even though he was exempt because two of his family members had recently died — to the draftees, from the heroes to the backups, Connell wants to hear the stories.

He taped an interview with Westford's Manford Doucette, who declined to talk with reporters about his service in the Army Air Corps and his survival of the Bataan Death March.

"I'd just as soon forget it," Doucette told *The Sun*. He said he agreed to an interview with Connell because he is a trusted neighbor. "I've



Westford's John Healy Jr., left, at horse races in England's Newmarket while stationed nearby during World War II.

COURTESY PHOTO

Meehan to speak at VFW tonight

LOWELL — U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan will speak to members of Lowell's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 662 tonight, starting at 7:30.

Meehan will speak about issues affecting veterans, including a proposal to close in-patient services at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Bedford, quality health care and increased access to VA hospitals and facilities.

known Bill all his life."

When World War II broke out, Connell was 11. The most populated neighborhoods in Westford were Forge Village and Graniteville.

Many men were laborers making less than 30 cents a day who saw the military as a good alternative despite the risks.

"Nobody had anything," Connell said. "These people grew up in the Depression and gave three, four years of their lives if they survived."

He chose World War II veterans for interviews partly because members of that generation are dying at an alarming rate, and partly because he sees something unique about that generation of soldiers.

"They got nothing. And when they got back, they didn't ask for anything," Connell said.

From a young age, Connell was collecting veterans' stories. As a boy, he would correspond with soldiers who were away at war, such as former Westford resident Peter Denisevich, who agreed to be interviewed by Connell.

Connell served during the

Korean War, stationed in Greenland. He feels especially indebted to combat veterans, but they are all heroes to him. He proposed naming a school after all Westford veterans.

"There are an awful lot of heroes in this town, for a small town," Connell said.

The proposal became a resolution passed by Town Meeting last week to name the 125-acre Stony Brook complex the "Veterans Memorial Complex."

Rebecca Lipchitz's e-mail address is rlipchitz@lowell-sun.com.

Chelmsford honors veterans today

CHELMSFORD — Chelmsford will observe Veterans Day at 11 a.m. today at the Veterans Memorial Park next to the McCarthy Middle School. All are welcome.

A ceremony will also be held at 9:30 a.m., at the corner of Church and Mount Pleasant streets, to honor the five Fantozzi brothers, all from North Chelmsford, who served in World War II.

Man charged in sex assault not suspected in string of attacks

CHELMSFORD — A Lowell man was arrested yesterday on charges of sexually assaulting a woman near a Dunkin' Donuts on Sunday.

The assault allegedly took place Sunday morning at or near the Dunkin' Donuts on Drum Hill. Police arrested Rafael Jusino, 25, of 137 Salem St., Lowell, yesterday at 1 p.m.

Lt. Scott Ubele declined to say what led police to arrest Jusino or whether Jusino and the victim know each other.

Ubele said Jusino is not a suspect in several other attacks on women that have taken place in Chelmsford over the past few months. Ubele said that because of the ongoing investigation into those assaults, he did not want to say why Jusino is not considered a suspect.

— DANA WILLHOIT

Restaurant on notice after drink mix-up

TYNGSBORO/From Page 9

agreed with Miceli's recommended punishment, said attorney Tom Murphy, who represented the restaurant.

The violation was the first against the restaurant, which has operated in Tyngsboro for five years.

"They apologize to the board and to the town," Murphy said of his clients. "This was an accident. It was a mistake."

Selectman Kevin O'Connor praised the restaurant for admitting to the mistake but criticized Manager Tom Ercoline for taking five months to get the town paperwork certifying that the waitress had been trained to serve alcohol.

The waitress was trained, and Selectman Richard Lemoine said he is impressed with the restaurant's training program. Nevertheless, he too criticized the delay, which Ercoline said was due to corporate bureaucracy.

Ercoline said he tried to get the paperwork as quickly as possible but had

difficulty obtaining the documents from the restaurant's corporate office in Dallas.

Selectman Jacqueline Schnackertz asked Ercoline what the restaurant is doing to make sure this doesn't happen again.

He said all bartenders have been retrained to serve alcohol and that he has made an increased effort to stress the importance of following procedures.

Selectman Peter Nicosia suggested the restaurant change the name of alcoholic drinks so they do not resemble the names of drinks with liquor in them.

Town Counsel Charles Zaroulis suggested revising town bylaws to make differentiating between such drinks a law for all establishments.

"We really don't want to see this happen again," O'Connor said.

Robert Mills' e-mail address is rmills@lowell-sun.com.

What's open, closed on Veterans Day

Retail Stores/Supermarkets: Open in Mass. and N.H.

Liquor stores: Open in Mass. and N.H.

Convenience Stores: Open.

Restaurants/Taverns: Open.

Pharmacies: Open.

Banks: Closed in Mass. and N.H.

Post Office: No delivery.

Schools: Closed.

Libraries: Closed.

Registry of Motor Vehicles: Closed in Mass. and N.H.

State/County/Municipal Offices: Closed in Mass. and N.H.

Stock Market: Open.

MBTA Service: All buses, subway, trackless trolleys and commuter rail and boats on regular weekday schedule.

Lowell Regional Transit Authority: No bus service.

Trash/Recycling Pickup: Delayed one day from Tuesday through Friday.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES CITY OF LOWELL

ISSUANCE OF STREET
OPENING PERMITS WILL CEASE AS OF
NOVEMBER 15, 2003

Street excavation will not be allowed from
December 1, 2003 through April 1, 2004

Exceptions will be made for emergency situations only.
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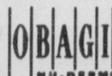
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