

BICENTENNIAL SERIES

A history of Thompson Twp. & Village of Thompson

Mrs. Hasell Osterhout

THOMPSON—Among our earliest war veterans was Abraham Brown who spoke with pride when he told of shaking hands with Abraham Lincoln while recuperating in a Civil War hospital.

David Hursh also a Civil War veteran and one of Thompson's earliest settlers, homesteaded at Barque Point and later moved to US-2, one mile west of Thompson where the farm is still in the Hursh family. Other Civil War veterans were Alec Daniels and John Venhaus.

We had one Spanish American war veteran, Henry Hursh.

World War I called William Tufnell, August Long, John Larson and John Matson. Larson is proud of placing his hand on the table where the WWI peace treaty was signed.

World War II found seven Erickson brothers from Thompson all in the service of their country at one time. They included Sgt. Gunnar, Army; PFC Elmer, Marine Corps; Pvt. Sigfred, Army; Cpl. Ellis, Army; Cpl. Ivan, Army; Cpl. Wilfred,

Army and Seaman Leonard, Navy. Other WWII veterans included: D. Wilson, Norm Conners, Hursh, L. E. Erickson, and Percy Tuffnell.

Along with these honored men, we also have a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from Thompson, Albert Smith, Jr. He was a Marine Guard at the main gate of the Pensacola Naval Air Station on February 11, 1921 when a Navy Seaplane which was being warmed up on the bay by mechanics, suddenly took flight. The plane fluttered briefly overhead and then plunged to the ground exploding 25 feet from his guard post.

Even though the gasoline covered wreckage was burning fiercely, Smith plunged into the flames and pulled out one of the crewmen who later died and rescued the second who was lying in the path of the flames. Smith was in the hospital for several weeks bed ridden from severe burns received about his head, face and

Erickson Brothers



Sgt. Gunnar



Pfc. Elmer



Pvt. Sigfred



Cpl. Ellis



Cpl. Ivan



Cpl. Wilfred



Smn. Leonard

both hands.

Raised on a farm across from the cemetery on 149, Smith attributed his fan to the strict rural upbringing of his far parents who guided him through his childhood. He pointed out that on the farm you learn to do your job, and you do it. Stating that he did nothing more the



Smith meets President Kennedy

anyone else would do under the circum stances, the Navy thought different and awarded Smith the highest award in the military. He received the Congressional Medal the next year while serving with the First Air Squadron of the Marine Corps in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He died on March 27, 1973.

P.S. If I have missed any veterans from Thompson, would you please call 341-6600 and I will add these names in my future articles.

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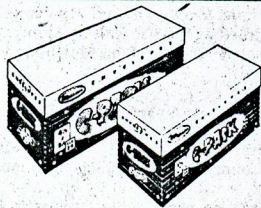
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Albert Smith