

Sculpture honoring veterans unveiled

By **Hanna Disch**

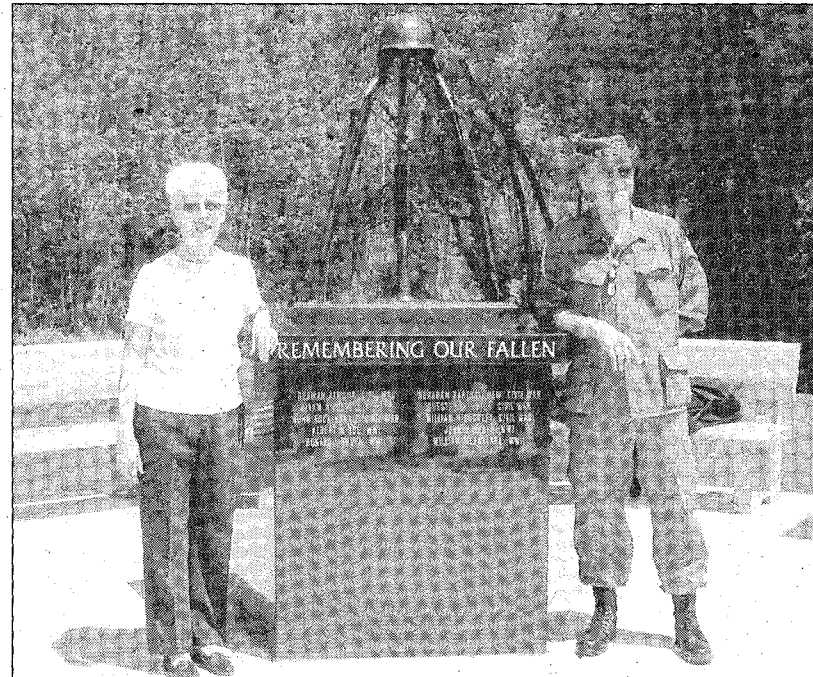
Observer correspondent

What did you do this past Memorial Day? Perhaps you had a picnic or a family barbecue or watched a parade. Hopefully you took a moment to remember and honor the brave men and women who have perished in service to our country. Oregon resident Ken Anderson found a way to commemorate their sacrifice that will last much longer than a day.

On Monday, May 26, a sculpture honoring veterans was unveiled at the Veterans Memorial Park in DeForest. As the artist responsible for the sculpture, and as a Vietnam war veteran, Anderson was present at the unveiling, wearing his old uniform which "still fit after 40 years."

The sculpture shows three rifles in a tripod formation with a helmet on top. The three rifles depicted are a 1902 Springfield that was used in WWI, an M-1 that was used in WWII and Korea, and an M-16 that was used in Vietnam and is still being used by the military today. The three rifles demonstrate the bond between all veterans, and the helmet atop the rifles traditionally is used to signify a fallen soldier.

The life-sized sculpture sits atop a base that lists names of veterans from the DeForest area who were killed in the Civil War, WWII, Korea and



Ken and Judi Anderson at the unveiling of Ken's sculpture at Veterans Memorial Park in DeForest.

Todd Huseth photo

Operation Iraqi Freedom. Besides Anderson, there were veterans who fought in Desert Storm, WWII and Korea present at the unveiling.

Anderson created the original sculpture out of clay, working in his spare time over the last few years. He says, "After I made this I wasn't sure what I was going to do with it, but

then there was an article in the paper about this park in DeForest. They were starting this Veterans Park and so I sent pictures of [the sculpture] and I said that I would donate that if they wanted to have it cast in bronze."

Park officials liked what they saw, and sent the pictures to a foundry (the

Large Art Company in Baltimore), which in turn bought Anderson's copyright to the sculpture so that they could cast it in bronze and sell copies of it. From that they produced the sculpture that was unveiled on Memorial Day.

The procedure used to cast a clay sculpture in bronze is called the lost-wax process and is quite complicated. First the foundry takes the clay model, paints it with rubber compound and lets it harden. Then they cut the rubber, peel it off, put it back together and fill it up with wax. The wax is then peeled off and covered with a ceramic material. Once that's hardened, it's fired in a kiln, and the wax melts and runs out the bottom, leaving a hollow shell, which can then be filled with bronze.

Anderson, a self-taught artist who has been working with clay for about five years, would like to eventually take commissions from people who want sculptures, which he would create in clay and then have cast in bronze. Anderson is a graduate of UW Platteville, and his past jobs include positions at Meriter Hospital and CUNA. He currently works part time at the Oregon Post Office as a clerk, but is hoping to be able to make a career as an artist and a writer. With a recently published book and his newly unveiled sculpture, he looks to be off to a good start.

Senior Menu

June 9-13

- Monday**
Meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, Italian green beans, applesauce, bread, banana bars
- Tuesday**
Baked chicken, baked potato with sour cream, tossed salad, pears, bread
- Wednesday**
Crab salad on a Kaiser roll with lettuce, marinated tomatoes, peaches, ice cream cup
- Thursday**
Hot dog on bun, macaroni and cheese, beets, sliced melon
- Friday**
Sliced ham, sweet potato, creamed corn, fruit cocktail, bread, cookie

Senior Calendar

- Monday**
A.M. Reflexology
9:00 CLUB
11:45 Dinner
1:00 Get Fit!
1:30 Bridge
- Tuesday**
11:45 Dinner
12:30 Shopping
1:00 Movie Matinee
- Wednesday**
A.M. Footcare
9:00 CLUB
10:00 "Communicating With Your Doctor"
11:45 Dinner
1:00 Get Fit!
- Thursday**
9:00 COA
9:00 Pool
11:45 Dinner
12:30 Shopping
1:00 Creative Crafters
1:00 Cribbage
- Friday**
9:00 CLUB
9:00 Wii Bowling
9:30 Blood Pressure
11:45 Dinner
1:00 VA Representative

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