

Carroll Yesteryears
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New Exhibit Shows Toll World War II Took on Taneytown
By David Buie

On April 7th of this year the Taneytown Historical Museum opened its season with the exhibit “WW II Impacts Hometown: The Far-reaching Effects WW II Had on Taneytown.” The large collection of memorabilia does a fantastic job of providing a clear understanding of the strain put on a small community and its resilience in overcoming the fears and losses placed upon it.

Entering the Second World War the population of Taneytown was 1,028 according to the U.S. Census of 1940. By the conclusion of the war, the town and surrounding area had sent 292 men and women to participate in the war effort both at home and overseas, leaving the population significantly reduced. By the end of the war, the area would experience the pain of losing a total of ten men.

After six hard years of fighting in Europe and Asia (1939-1945), the defeat of the Axis powers was official and their alliances dissolved. By Memorial Day 1946 Taneytown’s service members had returned, the families whose members had paid the ultimate sacrifice had been notified, and the town was ready to celebrate. According to an article published in the Hanover, PA, *Evening Sun*, that year’s Memorial Day observance featured a huge parade consisting of many units which formed at the War Monument in the eastern part of town. The line of march was west along Baltimore Street to the cemetery behind the Reformed Church on West Baltimore Street where a ceremony took place.

The parade, led by members of the Maryland State Police, included marshals on horseback, the Mayor and City Council members, Gold Star mothers, pastors of Taneytown’s churches, color bearers and a color guard, Taneytown’s service organizations, several bands, and representatives from many other groups. At the cemetery patriotic songs were played, an invocation was read by Rev. Glenn L. Stahl, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, and a “Thank You” was given to the families of the veterans. Brigadier General D. John Marky of Walkersville read a memorial address. The Commander of the Hesson-Snider American Legion Post No. 120 read a solemn roll call of World War I and II casualties: from World War I – John Alexander, Howard Frock, William D. Hess, Raymond L. Hesson, Verle C. Snider, and William Fox; from World War II – Paul Copenhaver, Kenneth Crumbacker, Elwood Fream, Richard Hull, Bruce Keeney, Lacey Phillips, George Lemmon, Richard Sell, Frank Unger, and Arthur Neal. Following the roll call, a Gold Star certificate was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Fream whose son Elwood never returned after he was reported missing over Germany.

Altogether, an estimate of those who came to participate in the day’s observance numbered several thousand. The streets were reported to be lined with people and every front porch along the parade route was crowded.

Memorial Day parades in Taneytown have long since disappeared, but it is possible to catch a glimpse of what life in the town would have been like between 1939 and 1945 by visiting the Taneytown Historical Museum during open hours Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Guest columnist David Buie is a Taneytown resident who has a passion for Carroll County and its place in history.



VETERANS OF WAR II NOW EMPLOYED AT TANEYTOWN

Back row, Left to right:—Raymond Reynolds, Ralph Weant, Charles Bowers, William Weidner, Elwood Airing, Harman Albaugh, David Bowers, Kenneth McKinney, Glen U. Dayhoff, Dewey Simpson, Fred Shank, George Hemler, Daniel Lind, Harry Baker. Third row: William Foreman, Olin Strine, Carroll Foreman, Herman Shook, Guy Long, Chester Wetzel, William Airing, Walter Yealey, Howard Welty, Melvin

Werdebaugh, Raymond Mikesell, Norman Sheeley, Allen Knott, Charles Baker, Charles Lockner, Thurston Smith. Seated: Robert Orner, Raymond Clabaugh, Neal Powell, Seymour Carbaugh, William Fissette, Samuel West. Front row: Kenneth Baer, Wilbur Fritz, Kenneth Shelton, Thomas Mason, Joseph Myers, Charles Bell, John Hilbert, Ralph Bollinger, Walter Sheeley, Robert Lambert, Roy Saylor.

Photo credit: Cambridge Rubber Company

Photo caption: WWII veterans employed by the Cambridge Rubber Company in Taneytown pose in front of a WW II Honor Roll Memorial which can be seen in the background. The photo appeared in the company's newspaper, The Tattler. Date of the photo is not known.