

Being soldier's wife led to new experiences

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pilots to learn gunnery, Rauscher said, and she sold her refrigerator to join her husband in Florida. In Tampa, she said, she went door-to-door looking for a place to stay.

In the first house where she stayed, Rauscher said, a woman came to the door looking for a room. The woman of the house told her there was no room available, Rauscher said, when she knew another tenant had just moved out.

She asked the woman why she had done that, Rauscher said, and the woman said it was because the prospective tenant was Jewish. She was shocked, Rauscher said, because that was her first experience with prejudice.

She ran after the woman, Rauscher said, and took her to a house that had rooms available. She asked someone at the big Victorian house to let her know when another room was available and later moved to that house.

She sat on the steps of a train to travel from Tampa to Monroe, La., Rauscher said, and learned quickly she would have to pretend to be someone's wife to get on the trains.

She would meet a serviceman on the platform who was traveling, Rauscher said, and would agree to pretend to be his wife. Then, once they were on the train, she said, she never saw the man again.

One time, though, when the man who pretended to be her husband was a sailor, she was up all night. Sailors never sleep, she said.

"But we were at sea for months at a time," Boyington said.

When she was in Louisiana, Rauscher said, she walked alone on a lane beside the bayou. She would be scared to death to do that today, she said.

When Dale was shot down, Rauscher said, she got a letter from him that looked like a diary she was supposed to get if he wasn't coming back. All she could do was wait, Rauscher said, and then she got word he was missing.

When he returned, she said, he had lasting effects from the things he endured as a prisoner. The food was meager, she said, and not safe to eat.

One or two potatoes would be di-



Les Frazier showed his waterproof map at the Sherman County Historical Society's annual meeting. He shared memories of being in the Air Force during World War II. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

vided among 10 men, she said, and there would be worms on top of the soup.

As a result, she said, Dale had dysentery that never really left.

When he had surgery in Colorado Springs, she said, he reverted to being a prisoner of war. He cut the tubes because he thought they were ropes tying him down, she said, and he shaved his head.

He had to be strapped to a bed, Rauscher said, and thought she was the enemy because she wouldn't remove the restraints.

"There was a whole way of life I didn't know was out there," Rauscher said, "and I don't know if I'd be brave

enough to do it again."

At the time, she was young and in love, Rauscher said.

Leslie then told the group that she had grown up in Scott City and had planned to go into nurse's training in February of 1942.

The war broke out in December of 1941, she said, and she began training as planned in February.

The girls who wanted to be nurses went to cadet training in 1943, Leslie said.

She graduated Feb. 1, 1945, Leslie said, and worked at Wesley Hospital until she got her orders.

She took basic training in Colorado Springs, Leslie said, and it was like a

vacation to her. She was in the mountains, Leslie said, and did calisthenics and walked everywhere. And she met girls who became close friends.

In Springfield, Mo., Leslie said, she worked in surgery. She helped a neurosurgeon and did orthopedic surgery. Helping with skin grafting, Leslie said, she saw amazing things.

She lived in old barracks, Leslie said, and was on call once or twice a week. The Army fed her so well, she said, it was a wonder she didn't gain weight. But she must have worked it all off.

In June 1945, she said, the war was over and O'Reilly Hospital was closing.

She was transferred to Washington,

where she was a "float" nurse who was sent wherever she was needed.

She saw a lot of different things, Leslie said, working in the amputee ward. The men all had arms or legs missing and were very pathetic.

Working around the capital, she nursed a lot of retired military officials, Leslie said, including Gen. John Joseph Pershing, and she did a lot of dressings.

Boyington told the group he went into the service in 1940, enlisting for six years. He served on the battleship USS Maryland, Boyington said, in the South Pacific and Honolulu.

Several ships were tied up together in Pearl Harbor, he said, and a plane flew over with a Japanese insignia on it. The announcement over the loudspeaker said, "This is no drill!"

The Japanese hit the Oklahoma, he said, which was tied up next to the Maryland and then hit the West Virginia.

They lost four men, he said, right off the bat.

The Tennessee was bombed, he said.

They worked day and night for two days, Boyington said, to get men off of the Oklahoma, and some men had to crawl through the small portholes to get on the Maryland.

"I just about lost my cookies," he said. "I knew something terrible had happened."

There were 1,144 men lost from the Arizona, he said, and at least that many hurt. Seven sets of twins were on the Arizona, he said, when the ship went down.

Now the military doesn't put twins together, Boyington said, so they don't die at the same time.

The Maryland stayed with the fleet the whole time, he said, and only needed repairs. The ship later was involved in seven major battles, he said.

In the aviation unit, Boyington said, he was the gunner in the rear seat.

He saw 1,000 men get killed at one battle, Boyington said. He and the pilot had 47 holes punched in their aircraft, he said, and the pilot had to fly with his head out the side of the plane to see.

They went back to the ship immediately, he said, and were given another plane and sent right back to the battle.

The Japanese said nobody would

ever take the island, Boyington said, but they took it in three days and the Japanese only took four prisoners.

The would not have hurt civilians, Boyington said, but many Japanese committed suicide when they saw American servicemen. He saw a woman carrying a baby and leading a child commit suicide.

President Evelyn Ward recapped the society's activities for 2001. The society purchased the Handy House, she said, which had 124 visitors during the grand opening on July 3-4 and over 600 visitors for the year.

The society has had an active advertising promotion with the Chamber of Commerce and has had special displays during the year.

They have worked at getting the historic district downtown identified, Ward said, and are planning a walking tour. All the downtown buildings except one are over 50 years old, she said, and some are over 100 years old.

The society publishes a quarterly newsletter for members, she said, and have been trying to negotiate the purchase of the Gulick house.

They have published books, she said, and a historical calendar and are collecting information for the fourth volume of "They Came to Stay."

The society has newspapers available and records from county schools, she said, at its office at 620 Caldwell. The records from the schools need to be typed, she added.

The society is working on a cookbook, Ward said, of grandmother's or great grandmother's recipes. They are looking for strange recipes, for example, how to prepare a body for burial.

The society was offered J. B. Moore's house, she said, but would have to move it to town. She asked for opinions on whether or not the society should accept it.

In 2007, she said, the society would like to plan a celebration similar to the centennial celebration for 120 years for Goodland.

She said it would cost \$18,000 for supplies to convert the two-car garage at the Handy House to an office, which would allow the society to have their office there instead of at a separate location. The society hopes most of the labor would be voluntary, she said.

Budget surpluses shrinking

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of the Social Security trust fund."

In the most dramatic indication of how much the budget landscape has been altered in a year's time, Bush projects that surpluses over the next 10 years will total just \$1 trillion — down from the \$5.6 trillion that he estimated just a year ago.

While Bush blamed much of the erosion on the country's first recession in a decade and the costs of waging a war against terrorism, Democrats pointed to Bush's 10-year, \$1.35 trillion tax cut. They said the administration, to protect those tax cuts, was seeking unnecessarily severe budget cuts across a wide swath of government programs.

The president's spending plan for the next fiscal year came wrapped in a red-white-and-blue cover depicting the American flag — and for the first time ever featured color photos of everything from military jets to ordinary Americans in an effort to bring the mind-numbing parade of budget charts to life.

Defense would get a \$48 billion boost in its spending and ability to award contracts, the biggest increase in two decades. Spending to make Americans more secure at home would nearly double to \$37.7 billion.

To make room for those big gains, scores of other programs from highway spending to environmental projects, would be cut.

The president, in a message accompanying the budget, said his administration was prepared to do whatever it took to win the war against terrorism.

"My budget provides the resources to combat terrorism at home, to protect our people and preserve our constitutional freedoms," Bush said.

He pledged to wage a "bold agenda for government reform" that would eliminate wasteful spending by using for the first time a formal performance rating that determined which government programs were failing to do their job effectively.

Bush's proposed cuts include a \$9 billion reduction in highway spending, reductions in water projects by the Army Corps of Engineers and elimination of hundreds of education and health projects that lawmakers had won congressional approval for last year for their home districts.

Critics contended Bush was wielding the budget knife to protect his most

prized economic achievement: last year's passage of a massive \$1.35 trillion, 10-year tax cut.

In his new budget, the president proposes spending \$344 billion to make that cut, which is due to expire after 2010, last for two more years.

Overall, Bush proposes new tax cuts totaling \$591 billion over 10 years. Two major reductions involve tax relief for corporations and higher-income individuals that are part of his economic stimulus program that has been stalled in the Senate because of Democratic objections.

Bush's budget is being released in a vastly different environment than his first spending blueprint just a year ago.

Because of the recession, the terrorist attacks and his huge tax cut, the projection he made just a year ago for a 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion has melted down to just \$1 trillion, a figure that assumes his new spending and tax proposals became law.

The budget projects a deficit for the current year of \$106 billion, breaking a string of four straight years of surpluses, a feat last accomplished 70 years ago.

For the 2003 budget, Bush projects a deficit of \$80 billion followed by a small \$14 billion deficit in 2004 before surpluses return in 2005.

Bush proposes getting \$1.2 billion in

new revenue by leasing the drilling rights in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, something strongly opposed by environmentalists.

The president also makes another attempt to win congressional approval to provide prescription drugs for Medicare recipients, which he estimates would cost \$190 billion over the next decade. Democrats contend the cost would be much higher.

One of the president's savings would be a \$9 billion reduction in 2003 in federal payments to hospitals.

The military budget would increase by 14.5 percent, the biggest gain since 1982 when Ronald Reagan was president, with seven cents of every dollar in the \$379 billion proposal going for the war on terrorism.

Spending on homeland security would nearly double with big increases slated to beef up airport security and fight bioterrorism.

The portion of the budget governed by annual appropriations — the part excluding big benefit programs such as Social Security — is scheduled to increase by 8 percent to \$773 billion next year. Spending outside of defense and homeland security would rise by only 2 percent.

The shrinking of the surplus over the next decade has forced delay one of Bush's major campaign promise.

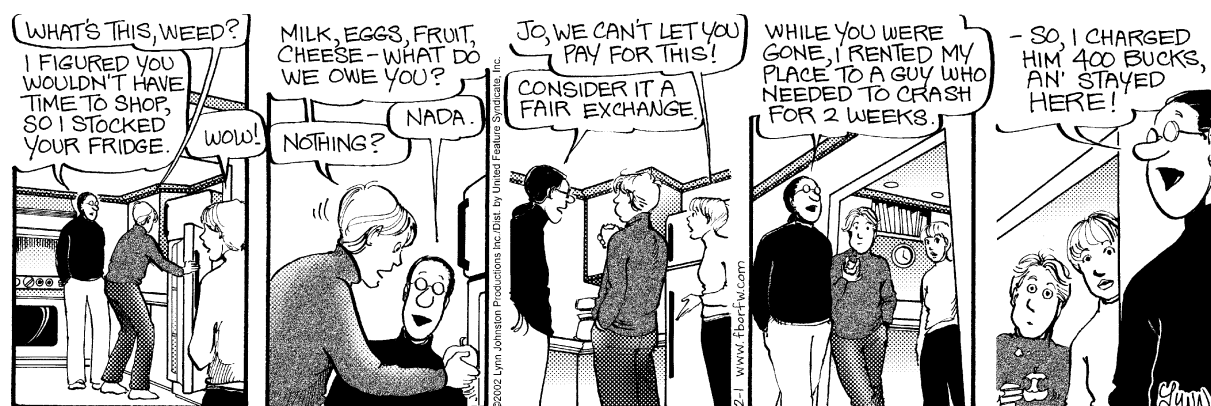
Healthful news



Brenda McCants, representative of the Goodland Regional Medical Center, reviewed information with Elsie Miller at the annual health fair at the Goodland Activities Center last month. Photo by Skilar Boland/The Goodland Daily News

Comic missing from Friday's paper

for better or for worse by lynn johnston



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