

# 'Wall' moves viewers from 14 states, Canada

By JUDY SHERARD

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Scores of people from 14 states, including Kansas, and one from Canada have filed past "The Moving Wall" during its display in Norton.

Some came to remember, some to learn, and still others to look for a name. Few came away unmoved by the experience.

The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, arrived Thursday. Members of the American Legion Riders and other volunteers assisted with set-up and helped during the event.

Lt. Col. Ramon Horinek, one of the most decorated officers from northwest Kansas and a former prisoner-of-war, spoke for the opening ceremony.

Horinek, who now lives in Texas, said he's often asked to speak, but since he's nearly 80 he only agrees to four or five appearances a year.

"No way was I going to turn down one in Kansas so close to my home town of Atwood," he said.

Despite his having suffered torture by the North Vietnamese and 5 1/2 years in captivity, Horinek said the real heroes were those whose names were on the Wall. They gave up their plans for the future because their country called.

The opening ceremony included a cannon salute by members of

the First Nebraska Artillery, all dressed in authentic Civil War-era uniforms.

A ceremony Friday evening included presentation of medallions by Curt Archibald, commander of Weiland Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Though medallions for Vietnam veterans have been approved by the Kansas Veterans Commission, they have not been made yet, so Archibald said the VFW and the Harmonson-Redd American Legion Post purchased coins to present to the 75 veterans who have made application for the medallions. They then called all of the Vietnam veterans eligible for the medallions to the stage, presenting a total of 96 coins.

"As far as I know, everyone got a coin," Archibald said.

The Norton Community High School choir performed at a Saturday evening service honoring prisoners of war and those missing in action.

During that era, everyone was affected, said Jim Deister of Salina, chairman of the State POW-MIA Council, Vietnam Veterans of America. The nation was torn by moral issues related to the war, but those questions didn't matter to the families of the missing.

The audience participated in a candle-lighting and laying a rose on a bamboo cage. Harvey and Diane

Nicholson lighted the candle, representing all those missing in action and killed in Vietnam.

John Musgrave, Baldwin City, a Vietnam veteran who was wounded three times, was the keynote speaker.

Because others were killed trying to save him after he was wounded, Musgrave said, he felt like the gunner's accomplice in those men's deaths.

The difficulty getting prisoners of war home began in 1945, he said, and continued with precedent set in 1945, 1953 and 1973 when the United States government asked for the return of prisoners of war rather than demanding it.

"Not only is it a disgrace, it is a crime," Musgrave said. "That's why the fire burns in the heart of so many Vietnam veterans."

The Sunday evening ceremony was a church service hosted by the Norton Ministerial Alliance.

Gale Hays, a veteran from the Church of God, spoke, and the church's choir performed.

A small crowd attended the closing ceremony Monday afternoon featuring the retiring of the colors. John Wyatt, an American Legion Rider, thanked those attending and the volunteers who made the five-day event possible. Carol Erlendbusch, president of the Norton Arts Council, also thanked everyone.



DOCTOR LESLIE DALLY started at the family practice clinic on Monday at the Decatur County Hospital.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Doctor starts work at hospital

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

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The Decatur County Hospital's Family Practice Clinic is open for business with a new doctor at the helm.

Dr. Leslie Dally started work at the clinic, in the speciality-clinic wing of the hospital, on Monday.

Dr. Dally said he grew up in Columbus, Ga., and received a bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Alabama. He went to medical school at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Bioscience.

Prior to coming to Kansas City, he said, he had never been to the Midwest. Dr. Dally said he graduated in 2002 and did an internship in Michigan, a residency in Ohio and then a year in New York in obstetrics and gynecology.

After residency, he moved to Anthony, Kan., to work. Dr. Dally said he wanted to work in primary care. The hospital in Anthony is a critical access hos-

pital, but didn't have enough patients, so he started to look elsewhere.

Dr. Dally is waiting to hear about his medical license for Kentucky, where he has a commitment. He said he will know about it in December, but added that he would be happy to stay here. Right now, his is a temporary position. So far, he said, he has some appointments scheduled with patients, but it's been slow. Dr. Dally said he likes to stay busy.

If he stays, said Dr. Dally, he would want to do family practice with the obstetrics and gynecology.

Hours at the clinic are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. They might try a Saturday clinic or open earlier in the mornings, he said.

Dr. Dally also will cover the emergency room one weekend a month.

He said he's interested in doing some community education on topics like cardiovascular disease, diabetes or other areas.

## Farm boy died in Vietnam

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

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Like lots of farm boys during the 1960s, John Diederich wanted to do his patriotic duty.

The country was at war and he volunteered. Like four of his five brothers before him, John served his country.

"I had just gotten back from Vietnam," his brother, Tom Diederich of Lenora, said, "and before I could even talk to John, he had volunteered. He wanted to get it out of the road."

John graduated from Leoville High School in 1966 and that fall enlisted in the Army, training to maintain and service power generation equipment. John had considered making the Army his career.

In September 1967, he spent his furlough at home before leaving for Vietnam. His sister, Virginia Rome, said before her brother left for war, he had shared some of his thoughts with her.

"With the type of training I've had, (intensive, jungle fighting, etc.)," he told her, "I don't think I'll be coming home."

His premonition proved correct. On Aug. 23, 1968, with only a few weeks left on his tour, John Leo Diederich, 20, who had already re-enlisted, was killed when an enemy rocket struck his bunker.

Thirty-three years later, the family received a letter from one of John's Army buddies, David Porter.

"I apologize for waiting so long to write this letter," Mr. Porter wrote. "I was a member of Battery A with your brother. I heard from Nick Zeiler (another of John's buddies) after I returned to the States. He said he had stopped by and visited your family. I wish I had as well.

"I remember Aug. 22 and 23, 1968, very well. For years, those events replayed in my mind most every night. John came to my gun section the morning of the 22nd and asked if I would like to go get a haircut with him. I grabbed my gear and off we went. I recall we were happy to get away from our work and fell to kidding each other as we walked along. Your brother had a good sense of humor and was not afraid to use it!

"We stopped first at the barber's shack by the main gate, but John did not like the looks of the Vietnamese barber and suggested we check out the shop in the village. Walking down the dirt road to Highway 1, we saw a Viet approaching, pushing a large bicycle. We both noticed he had a live 155 mm artillery round in a basket on the bike. Since the VC (Viet Cong) mined this road and Highway 1 each night with such explosives, we covered him with our rifles and walked him and his bike back up the road, turning him over to

the guards at the gate, then went on to the village. John pointed out the barbershop and in we went.

"The shop was a small, frame shack with a wooden floor. The native barber was alone in the shop and did not seem glad to see us. I offered to let your brother go first, since I wanted to see how good a job he did on John. John smiled and declined. He said he decided that he did not want a haircut after all.

"I accused John of using me as a guinea pig, but he just laughed and said he would skip the haircut for now. After a bit of Pidgin English and gesturing, the barber wrapped a small towel around my neck and went to work on my hair with rather dull hand clippers. John stood to the side and watched, smiling at my discomfort. He laughed when the barber began scraping around my ears with the straight razor and I stood, abruptly. I paid the fellow and we left, John still chuckling over my close 'shave.'

"We walked back up the highway and one of the fellows in my gun section came up and said that our gun and one other was moving to LZ (Landing Zone) Buff to join two other howitzers and their crews already there. John said he would see me in a minute and left me to get my crew to the helipad to meet the Chinooks that would lift us out to Buff. John tossed each of us a beer and we drove off to meet the choppers. This was a small kindness that I'll always remember.

"LZ Buff was a small, remote position on top of a small mountain six or seven miles west of Dottie, our camp, and away from the coast. We landed just before dark and just had time to get the gun ready to fire. Late that night, we were called to fire a mission for our guys on Dottie.

"(Dottie was the base camp for the infantry responsible for the My Lai massacre in March 1968.)

"During a pause in our fire mission, I overheard an infantryman in the bunker next to us ask if anyone heard a noise down the hill. At that moment a mortar round landed just in front of our gun. The attack on Buff had started. It was to last until daybreak. At times we received reports from Dottie that John could not be found.

"I was slightly hurt during the night and the next morning caught a Medevac flight. The helicopter stopped at Dottie and a couple of my friends carried a wrapped body under the whirling blades of the helicopter. As they placed it gently on the floor, one Sgt. Escott, leaned to my ear and shouted something I could not make out over the noise. As the chopper rose, I reached over and caught the fluttering tag on the body bag. It was John.

"I am terribly sorry, for you, John,

and the rest of your family. I know that John being reported missing in action and his death was a terrible time for your family. I sincerely hope that this letter does not cause you any renewed pain. Know that John was well-liked and respected. He was mature beyond his years and a good friend.

"I tried for 15 years to ignore my memories of the war, but since then have come to terms with them. I feel it was a stupid war, but then most are. However, I am proud of my service and glad to have known John. We supported and fought for each other and there is always honor in that. I think of John often, and will always remember him."

Bernard and Bernadine Diederich, New Almelo, had been counting the days until John, youngest of their six sons, would be home. They had big plans. The trips they were going to take and the traveling they were going to do was all the elder Diederich could talk about. He would say, "When Johnny comes home, I'm gonna have him drive and we're gonna travel and see some country."

Time was running out for Bernard, 69. He was fighting his own war with cancer. Six months after John's death, he died.

John's brother Tom said his mother handled her grief in a stoic way. "She was a strong woman," he recalled. "I credit it to her strong faith. She buried her husband and four sons before she died at age 98 1/2."

He was posthumously promoted to the rank of sergeant. His funeral mass was Sept. 12, 1968, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in New Almelo. He was buried in the parish cemetery.

## Pianist to give concert

Dino Kartsonakis, a professional pianist, will be performing two concerts at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 12, and 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, at the First Assembly of God Church 210 W. State Street in Phillipsburg.

Known professionally simply as "Dino," he was born and reared in New York, the grandson of first-generation Greek immigrants. He credits his existence to the strong

faith of his mother and grandmother after they were told that he was going to be stillborn. He has entertained at the Christmas Extravaganza in Branson, Mo.

Tickets will be sold in advance only, at a price of \$15, from 2 to 6 p.m. at An Angel's Paradise in Phillipsburg or by calling (785) 543-8904.

## City gets hit with dispatch bill

The Oberlin City Council received notice this month of a \$262-per-month increase in what it pays Decatur County for dispatch services, but not in time to be included in the budget for next year.

The council voted to tell the county it has no money for the increase at the meeting Thursday, Sept. 16.

Interim City Administrator Karen Larson said the county apparently forgot to send the notice to the city. She said she told the county that the city had already finished with its budget and hadn't allowed for the increase.

The county breaks down the dispatch expenses, with the city paying 35 percent, said Mrs. Larson.

Councilman Rob McFee asked what part of the budget the city could cut to pay for the increase.

The other option is to tell the county that the city can't pay the increase because the county needed to get the information to the city before the budget was done, said Mayor Joe Stanley.

"I like that idea," said Councilman Richard Kimble, who made a motion to that effect. It passed on a unanimous vote, with council members Bill Reidel and Rhonda May absent.

She said she hasn't made any more payments to BWR, the engi-

neering firm designing the airport project, because the city hasn't received any forms for reimbursements from the Federal Aviation Administration. The city doesn't have the cash to pay the engineers, said Mrs. Larson, if the reimbursements aren't timely.

Jay Anderson, a former councilman, came to talk about the importance of the antique stores in town. The stores are good for the whole town, he said, bringing people in from all over.

At one time, he added, the city helped the stores organize their marketing, but since then the stores have gone different ways.

The people who are being drawn in by the antique stores can provide the town with cheap advertising, said Dr. Anderson. It's important to keep the town neat and clean so


people shopping here will tell others about us.

Dr. Anderson said he would ask the council to see what the city can do for these businesses, which are doing a lot of good for everyone.

Mayor Joe Stanley asked if the antique business owners asked him to come or if he was at the meeting on his own. Dr. Anderson said he has gone around and talked to the store owners and they asked him to come to a council meeting, but he's been putting it off for a year.

The stores do bring people to town, said Mayor Stanley. He said he sees some of the men at the hardware store while wives look at antiques.

Dr. Anderson suggested that anyone who hasn't been in the stores should go check them out.



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