

NOVEMBER 2023 EDITION OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS NEWSLETTER, THE OIL LANTERN

Page 1 of 9 pages



P.O. Box 4323
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549

OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS
ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Our November 2023 meeting will be held on **Monday, November 13** starting at 7 pm. For our November meeting, members will have the option of attending the meeting in-person at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse (104 Santa Rosa Blvd) or attending over the internet by Zoom. In a few days OILA members will receive a Zoom meeting invitation by e-mail, with instructions on how to join the meeting.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Report from the President – **Brian Harrington**
- Nov 13, 2023 Meeting Agenda
- Rainfall for October 2023
- Wuzzle Puzzles
- This Month in History: November
- Draft Minutes – Oct 9, 2023 OILA Owners Meeting
- Trivia Crawler
- Wuzzle Puzzles Answers
- Architectural Report - October 2023
- Believe it Not
- Update on **“Pickles”** – the Publix Grocery Store Door Greeter Cat
- Latest Update on the Brooks Bridge Replacement Project
- Veteran’s Day – Let Us Not Forget!



LAST CALL FOR RENEWAL OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

WITH THIS ISSUE OF THE OIL LANTERN THE CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2023-2024 IS CLOSING.

To renew your 2023-2024 membership on-line, click on the OILA website www.oilaweb.com; then in the center of the page click “Join OILA”. This will take you to our membership page containing our links to Zeffy. Zeffy is an on-line tool we use to manage membership renewals.

If you would prefer to renew your membership by personal check please remit your dues (\$12 for membership or \$18 for membership plus U.S. mail delivery of the OIL Lantern) payable to OILA and mail your remittance to OILA, P.O. Box 4323, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact the Treasurer, Jim Simpson, 850-585-2116, sanleanna@cox.net



THE OIL LANTERN- SUMMER 2023

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OKALOOSA ISLAND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, Inc
P.O. Box 4323, Fort Walton Beach, FL 3254

Editor: Jim Simpson, (850) 585-2116 Association Website: www.oilaweb.com
November 2023



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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT – Brian Harrington



This is the absolute best time of year to enjoy the fantastic weather and all that the area has to offer! Several of our members said that they had a great time during the Halloween Tricks and Treasures celebration at the Boardwalk—if you didn't get to attend, try to give it a shot next year. Those of us who live here full-time are truly fortunate to be able to enjoy the Island life year-round.

As many of you know, our Island has a unique and fragile ecosystem. As we've noted in the past, Okaloosa Island is witnessing a significant reduction in the population of Monarch Butterflies. I've also been made aware of a couple of extremely rare species that are native to North Florida's barrier islands. One is the ground dwelling Gulf Coast Solitary Bee—which is considered critically imperiled. It feeds only on the nectar of the Coastal Plain Honeycomb head flower that naturally occurs in our north side beach freeways. The other is the endangered Florida Perforate Reindeer Lichen that has the potential to grow in the north side freeways.

As Island residents & OILA members we're charged with the responsibility to be good stewards of our natural resources. As you find yourself out and about on the Island, please be alert to the possibility of these rare species & try to get a photo and note the exact location if you happen across either of them. We also need to work with the county's maintenance crews to make them aware of these potential habitats while mowing the beach freeways.

The Board of Directors is continuing to capture our member's concerns as we improve OILA's website. We're working hard to have the member's portal section up and running soon where you'll be able to sign in and rank your top priorities for Okaloosa Island.

OILA – we're stronger together



Coastal Plain Honeycomb Head Flower



Perforate Reindeer Lichen – Note: The Holes in the Stalks



Gulf Coast Solitary Bee – Critically Imperiled and Under Review for Inclusion as a Federally Endangered Species

November 2023 Meeting Agenda Date: Monday, November 13 Time: 7:00 p.m.

I. PLACE: For our November 2023 meeting, members will have the option of attending the meeting in-person at the Okaloosa Island Firehouse (104 Santa Rosa Blvd) or attending over the internet by Zoom.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call of Board Members: Brian Harrington

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: John Donovan - Draft minutes, Oct 9, 2023 Meeting (copy in this newsletter)

V. Treasurer's Report for November 2023 - Jim Simpson, Treasurer

VI. Standing Committee Reports: Brian Smith: Architectural Review Committee Report for October 2023 (printed in this newsletter and for info only)

VII. New and Unfinished Business

- Endangered Species on Okaloosa Island*
- Holiday Food Drive*
- Website Update*
- Results from the Public Hearing during the BCC Meeting on October 17th.*
- Case Update-- Short Term Rentals*

VIII. Announcements, Speakers and Programs

XI. Adjournment

October 2023 Rainfall 1.1 Inches



Oct 11...**0.9** inches Oct 12...**0.2** inches

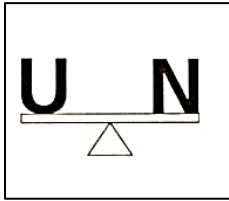
October Avg Rainfall.....**4.3** inches
Variance to Average.....**- 3.2** inches

Nov Avg Rainfall..... **4.1** inches
November Record High **89° F** (1998)
November Record Low **18° F** (1950)
Nov Avg Water Temperature...**72° F**

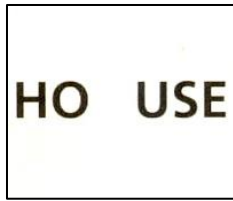
Avg Rainfall for Dec.....**4.8** inches
Dec Record High.....**84° F** (1968)
Dec Record Low..... **8° F** (1962)
Dec Avg Water Temperature ..**64° F**

YTD Variance **- 18.7** inches
Year to Date Rainfall.....**38.9** inches
Avg Annual Rainfall**65.1** inches

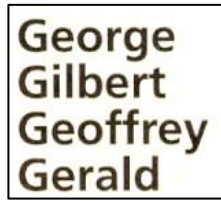
WUZZLE PUZZLES - What is a Wuzzle Puzzle? It is a puzzle consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures, or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, etc. Are you ready to take the challenge and figure out the "disguised" meaning of these wuzzles? Good luck. The answers are available on page 6 of this newsletter.



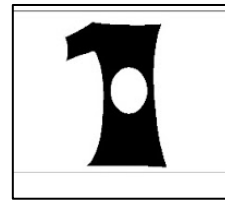
Wuzzle No. 1



Wuzzle No. 2



Wuzzle No. 3



Wuzzle No. 4



Wuzzle No. 5

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY – NOVEMBER

November 1, 1848 - The first medical school for women opened in Boston. The Boston Female Medical School was founded by Samuel Gregory with just twelve students. In 1874, the school merged with the Boston University School of Medicine, becoming one of the first co-ed medical schools.

November 7, 1944 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, defeating Thomas E. Dewey. Roosevelt died less than a year later on April 12, 1945.

November 14, 1666 - The first experimental blood transfusion took place in Britain, utilizing two dogs.

November 13, 1927 - The Holland Tunnel was opened to traffic. The tunnel runs under the Hudson River between New York City and Jersey City and was the first underwater tunnel built in the U.S. It is comprised of two tubes, each large enough for two lanes of traffic.

November 18, 1839 - Photography inventor Louis Daguerre announced his daguerreotype process to a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences, the first practical photographic process that produced lasting pictures.

November 22, 1935 - Trans-Pacific airmail service began as the China Clipper, a Pan American flying boat, took off from San Francisco, reaching the Philippines 59 hours later. The following year, commercial passenger service began.

November 28, 1942 - Fire erupted inside the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston killing nearly 500 persons who had become trapped inside.



OILA MEMBERS' MEETING 09 OCT 2023

Board Attendance:

BRIAN HARRINGTON	(BH)	Present
LOUIS BELANGER	(LB)	Present (Remote)
FRANK ADCOCK	(FA)	Present
DAVID JONES	(DJ)	Present
DYLAN HUNT	(DH)	Present
JERRY BOGGESS	(JB)	Not Present
STAN KING	(SK)	Not Present

Secretary-John Donovan	(JD)	Present (Remote)
Treasurer- James Simpson	(JS)	Present

Agenda:

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE: BRIAN HARRINGTON, LOUIS BELANGER (remote), FRANK ADCOCK, DAVID JONES, DYLAN HUNT.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: SECRETARY JOHN DONOVAN (remote), AND TREASURER, JAMES SIMPSON

This meeting was held at the fire station and via ZOOM on 09 October at 19:00 CST. A quorum was established at 19:00 with 5 board members being present. Absent was Jerry Boggess and Stan King.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by OILA membership.

John Donovan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 11, 2023. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously. No discussion.

Jim Simpson briefed October 9, 2023, and the October 2023 treasurer's reports (copies attached to these minutes). John Donovan made a motion to reimburse the Treasurer for expenses. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Nick Hall provided the ARC report: 20th of September ARC reviewed and approved one application for the Aqua Villa condo for an exterior restoration that included windows and stucco and waterproofing.

New business:

Chris Miller resigned from the board of directors and in accordance with the bylaws the board has selected a new board member which will be a position that is filled until June of 2024. The board has selected Dylan hunt. He has been a full-time Okaloosa Island resident since 1994 and the board has approved his nomination.

Letter has been drafted to the 96th wing commander of Eglin Air Force base addressing the road lane reduction proposed by the county on Okaloosa Island. Letter was written by Brian Harrington addressing the county's proposal to reduce lanes and looking for feedback from the Air Force to understand their position on any impacts resulting from the lane reduction. Letter stated the purpose of OILA is to preserve the public lands on Santa Rosa Island and explained OILA is in opposition to the proposed lane reduction. Previous proposals such as a new bridge on the west side of the Island was disputed by the DOD. While DOD may not have any concerns regarding the lane reduction, they have not been asked to date. OILA is looking for a written position from the 96th wing commander. Brian offered membership the opportunity to review the draft letter and letter has not been sent as of the member meeting on Oct 09, 2023.

Brian Harrington addressed the November 2020 list of priorities based on survey results of the OILA membership. Overwhelmingly the priorities were related to beach sand and beach restoration. Brian

Harrington asked members to provide initiatives that they as the membership felt should be new or updated priorities for OILA moving forward.

- Support parks and protection of public areas by the convention center
- Improve dialogue between OILA and County Commissioners. Appointed 3 person OILA committee to interface with commissioners/BBC.
- Paving of Santa Rosa Blvd and all roads on Okaloosa Island
- Ensure protective covenants regarding easements and ensuring unobstructed vistas is abided
- Short-term rentals are not allowed and should be enforced
- Desire to address and reduce the presence of strip clubs on the Island
- Crime reduction (recent shootings on Island)
- Sand quality and sand being supplied from the east pass
- Infrastructure issues on the island (water & sewage/lift stations). What is the impact with the new bridge?
- Foster good working relationship with our elected officials as they control the purse strings (BBC)
- New beach pavilions do not have appropriate drainage for showers
- Bathrooms at beach pavilions are not maintained and often very dirty
- Maintain the beauty of the Island e.g., trees and grass in medians. Medians should be maintained in a manner that doesn’t impact visibility while entering or exiting Santa Rosa Blvd.
- Santa Rosa Blvd lane reduction and maintain four lanes the entire length of Okaloosa Island
- Naming of the Veterans park
- Understand how island traffic will be impacted by the bridge construction and what the plans are to ensure island resident impact is minimized.
- Increase OILA engagement through more organized events or membership drives
- Improved communication amongst OILA members as well as with County Commissioners
- Review membership fees as OILA may need more funds for such items such as legal counseling
- Address derelict properties
- Address vendors selling food/drinks on the beach which is not allowed
- Ensure beach chair vendors abide by the rules of encroachment and do not set up chairs on designated public space. (further discussion)
- Business being operated on Island in residential homes/areas

Feedback on the new OILA website has been generally positive. Currently the website will allow members to renew or register as a new member. Members have the option to auto renew, which can be opted out. Looking to build a member portal where events and all things OILA can be communicated. You will have the option to share or not share your membership information. Any issues, please provide feedback to Brian Harrington.

Public hearing will be held Tuesday, October 17th at the Shalimar location. The original hearing was scheduled to be October 3rd in Crestview. Board requested the BBC to move the meeting to the Shalimar location to increase OILA participation. Agenda is forthcoming. Understanding is they will discuss an ordinance considering the amendment of Chapter 11, Article 6. Brian Harrington expressed/speculated this would be beneficial for the County to amend their code enforcement ordinance and streamline the nuisance property adjudication process. Generally, the time required to address covenant and code enforcement issues is very long. Would like to have 8-10 members to attend that meeting and then understand what the OILA membership thinks of the changes. Frank Adcock requested a targeted summary of the session outcomes.

Brian Harrington made the motion to adjourn the meeting and John Donovan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 20:00 CST.

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 281

September 11, 2023 TOTAL BALANCE: \$26,839.03

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AS OF September 11, 2023.....\$ 25,329.70

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST REPORT:

Membership Dues.....\$	805.00
U.S. Mail Fees.....\$	126.00
Donations.....\$	<u>232.00*</u>
Total Receipts.....\$	1,163.00

***Donors:**



Frank Adcock....	\$ 88.00
Barry Cohen.....	\$ 50.00
Scott Standish....	\$ 88.00
Mark Waschak...	\$ 6.00

EXPENDITURES:

Payment to Jay Waschak to reimburse him for purchase of an updated web-hosting platform.....\$ **90.00**

EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT:

Reimburse Jim Simpson for renewal of the annual ZOOM contract (Sept 11, 2023 to Sept 11, 2024).....\$ **149.90**

ASSOCIATION DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE AFTER RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES & EXPENSES PENDING APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT AS OF OCTOBER 9, 2023\$ 26,252.80

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF Sept 11, 2023.....\$ 1,421.28

BEAUTIFICATION FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

BEAUTIFICATION FUND BALANCE AS OF October 9, 2023.....\$ 1,421.28

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF SEPT 11, 2023.....\$ 88.05

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND EXPENDITURES SINCE LAST REPORTNo Expenditures

CHRISTMAS DECORATING FUND BALANCE AS OF October 9, 2023\$ 88.05

SUMMARY: October 11, 2023 Fund Balances

-- Association’s Discretionary Fund Balance.....	\$ 26,252.80
-- Beautification Fund Balance.....	\$ 1,421.28
-- Christmas Decorating Fund Balance (Donations).....	\$ <u>88.05</u>

TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE.....\$ 27,762.13

Respectfully Submitted – Jim Simpson, Treasurer

TRIVIA CRAWLER

In 1457, the Scottish parliament outlawed golf and football (soccer) because these sports were considered dangerous, time-wasting nuisances that detracted from more important pursuits – like archery.

The phrase “second string,” which today means “replacement” or “back-up,” originated in the Middle Ages, when an archer carried a second string in case the one on his bow broke.

Until 1862, the currency from the U.S. Mint took the form of coins. During the Civil War, the Union Congress authorized the Treasury to print the first paper money, which became known as “legal tenders” or greenbacks” because of the green ink used.

A hippopotamus can open its mouth wide enough to accommodate a four-foot-tall child.



It is against pro table tennis regulations for a player to wear a white shirt while playing with white balls. The visibility is considered too difficult.

WUZZLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wuzzle No. 1



Unbalanced

Wuzzle No. 2



A House Divided

Wuzzle No. 3



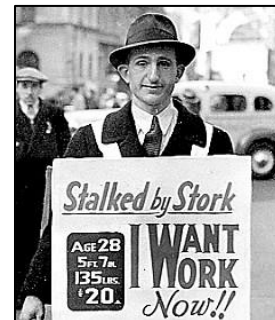
G-Men

Wuzzle No. 4



Hole in One

Wuzzle No. 5



Men Out of Work

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2023: The OILA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) received and reviewed the following during June and July 2023 and upon review and adherence to the OILA Covenants, has approved the following project(s):



<u>Date</u>	<u>Lot(s)</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Owner/POC/Address</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>In-Compliance & Approved</u>
Oct 3			J. Roberson Villa Capri Condo	Repair/Replace 1 st Floor Stairs & Landing	Yes
Oct 12			D. Meyers El Matador	Replace Trash Chutes	Yes

Special Notes: The OILA ARC instructions for your project are located on the OILA website:

[Okaloosa Island Leaseholders Association - OILA - Architecture Review](#)

Please read and follow the instructions for submission of an OILA ARC application:

3. OILA ARC review package:
 - 3.1. Completed OILA ARC application,
 - 3.2. Survey plat of the property,
 - 3.3. Overlaid illustration of the project on a copy of the survey plat.
 - 3.4. Other supporting documents* (drawings, plans, specifications, etc.) (*If these are large files, they can be submitted separately). (Combine the files into one file for submission to the ARC, either in MS Word or Adobe PDF format.)
4. Email the completed ARC application file to the OILA ARC for review at OILAARC@yahoo.com. The ARC applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and the review will be completed within 2 weeks of a completed application. **(Note: The ARC no longer holds meetings in-person/zoom meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursday's of the month).**

Believe It or Not - These Laws Were Actually on the Books!

Imprisonment For 'Fake' Weather Reports - Federal law dictates that anyone who "issues or publishes a fake weather report and claims it's from the Weather Bureau is subject to imprisonment for not more than 90 days.



Elephant Parking - Florida's *elephant riders get no special treatment*. If planning on parking their elephants at a paid meter, they must feed the meter.

Earphones or Jail - In Massachusetts, *using a boom box without earphones in public can get you tossed in the clink* for as much as 30 days.

Honk with Caution and Respect McDonalds - Little Rock, Arkansas, Municipal Code has made it *illegal to honk your horn after 9:00 p.m. at any place where sandwiches or cold drinks are served*.

Put Smokey in That Cage - In Missouri, you cannot, under any circumstances, *drive with an uncaged bear in your car*.

No Stogie for Rover - Illinois forbids you from giving your pup a lighted cigar no matter how much he wants one.

No Parachute for You! Florida is tough on the unmarried woman who plans on doing her parachuting on Sundays. Not a problem if she is in the company of her husband.

Lewd Shoes? - In Cleveland, Ohio, *women are strictly forbidden from wearing patent leather shoes*, particularly if they are wearing a skirt because it could unfairly tempt a man.



UPDATE ON PICKLES – THE FAMOUS DOOR GREETER CAT AT THE PUBLIX GROCERY STORE IN FT WALTON BEACH.

PICKLES HAS A NEW CALENDAR!

Pickles, the famous cat that greeted customers outside the Publix grocery stores located in the Paradise Pointe Shopping Center (located at the north foot of Brooks Bridge) for many years, is living the good life inside now. But her fans can still see here regularly in a Pickles 2024 calendar.

Photos taken by her caretaker, Mike Sullivan, and admirers are featured in the calendar, including her Publix “employee of the month” picture. The calendars are scheduled to be printed in October. Advertisements are being sold to pay for production costs. Calendars will be \$20 each and will be available to buy at the SOCKS’ shelter and thrift stores: 498 Carmel Drs, Ft Walton Beach, will all proceeds benefiting Save Our Cats and Kittens (SOCKS), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to finding forever homes for homeless, abandoned and neglected cats and kittens. “Thank you all for the love and support you have given Pickles the past few years,” Sullivan wrote. “You can continue that love by buying a Pickles calendar, and it will support a great organization.”

Those interested in an ad can email lorrynelynnwhetstone@gmail.com, the SOCKS volunteer coordinating the calendar. SOCKS is seeking to change Okaloosa County laws to benefit community cats such as Pickles. The change will allow Trap, Neuter & Return (TNR) programs, a scientifically proven method of reducing the number of “stray” or community cats. The cats are trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated for rabies, and returned to their outside home. A small part of ear is “tipped” while they under anesthesia. Ear tips, such as the one Pickles has, are the universal indicator that a cat has been sterilized so it won’t be trapped again. TNR drastically reduces the number of stray cats, and reduces problematic behaviors, such as spaying, yowling and fighting. Hundreds of cities and counties in the United have ordinance allowing TNR, including near Escambia County and Crestview.

Latest Update on Brooks Bridge Replacement Project

By Jared Williams, GETTHECOAST.COM

The new Brooks Bridge connecting Ft Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island is on track for completion by summer 2027, said project manager Brett Pielstick Thursday during a presentation at the Greater FWB Chamber.

The \$171 project received its final Coast Guard permit on Wednesday and Pielstick says have been “scratching around” a bit more now. Crews have begun driving steel piles for a temporary work trestle that will allow construction on the new bridge while keeping the existing four-lane bridge fully operation during daytime hours.

The new bridge will extend the current 1,300-foot span to 2,100 feet, allowing it to cross over Santa Rosa Boulevard on Okaloosa Island. The clearance over the Intercoastal Waterway will increase from 50 feet to 65 feet.

The finished bridge will have three, 11-ft. lanes, 10-ft. shoulders, and then a 12-ft. shared use path on both sides according to Peilstick.

Crews will build one new bridge north of the existing bridge. Once complete, west-bound traffic will shift to the new bridge while the old bridge is demolished and replaced.

The \$171 million budget includes contingencies for weather delays. Lane closure will on occur night and weekends except for emergency repairs. “If you see out there during the day, that’s because maybe someone hit an attenuator,” Pielstick said.

The project aims to improve access while minimizing environmental impact. Conservation efforts are focused on protected species like bald eagle, Gulf sturgeon, small tooth →



sawfish and manatees.

Crews will drive 348 concrete piles – 174 for each bridge – starting in late October according to Pielstick.

The new bridge will feature shade structures, benches and energy efficient lighting designed to limit impacts on sea turtles. Turns off the bridge will be reconfigured, but access to businesses will remain.

Pielstick said the project will “really connect Ft Walton Beach with the beaches in a good way.” He added that the 12-foot share use path will be “a huge thing for the community” compared to the existing bridge which is “pretty frightening at this point” for pedestrians. To stay updated with all new bridge info, visit ILoveFWB.com.

This story first appeared on ILoveFWB.com and was written by Get The Coast, a prominent local news publication known for delivering up-to-date news and updates about the Ft Walton Beach community.

VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 11, 2023

A DAY WE MUST REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE FOR THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR US
--by Jim Simpson



Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 making it an annual observance, and it became a national holiday in 1938. Sixteen years later, then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation changing the name to Veterans Day to honor all those who served their country during war or peacetime. On this day, the nation honors military veterans – living and dead – with parades and other observances across the country and a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

To celebrate this coming Veterans Day, myself and my wife, Shirley, decided to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by members of our families. Shirley’s uncle, Owen Coleman, was killed in action in the European theater during WWII; my uncle, Bill Kiser, was killed in action during the Korean War. Following are their photos and the stories of their sacrifices:



Pvt Owen Coleman - 1919-1944

Owen was born in Anniston, Alabama in 1919. He completed his advance infantry training at Ft McClellan, Alabama and was attached to the 3rd Army in France in 1944. He was killed in action during the battle of Saint Lo, Normandy, July 17-19, 1944. He was 25 years old. He is interred in Anniston, Alabama



Pvt Bill Kiser – 1933-1951

Bill was born in 1933 in Valient, Oklahoma. He was assigned to the 5th Calvary Regiment. He was killed in action on June 5, 1951 while fighting the enemy in North Korea. He was 17 years old. He had two brothers and a sister who served in the Army during WW2. He is interred in Valient, Oklahoma.