Destination Lodi

A Historical Journey

Lodi American Legion

Circa 1921

I had the honor to be present, saying a few words for the re- dedication of the American Legion to honor Major General Robert “Dick” Rowland on Oct 7. The celebrating included Buzz Nye and Dan Goodrow’s words of his accomplishments, Cloverleaf Band and flag presentation to the family members present included his son Rick, family, and cousins. The family was touched and so grateful to the Legion. Another positive light on Lodi. The Lodi American Legion is now The American Legion, Robert “Dick” Roland- Post 523, “The Pride of Lodi”. Please google and read about this extraordinary man.

The founding of the American Legion began on July 1, 1921. World War 1 veterans assembled at the City Hall for the purpose of organization.

Lloyd Leatherman acted as chairperson and proceeded to get the fifteen signers as required to issue a charter. The following signed to become the posts Charter Members: Lloyd Leatherman, John E. Rice, Amos Barnes, Harry C. Rickel, Jesse A. Bauders, Elmer H. Bauders, Howard H. Bennader, William C. Basom, Lee Whitright, Carl M. Underwood, Ralph H. Grannis, Blake H. Codding, Ernest L. Eicheler, Asa W. Dean and Floyd W. Whitman.

For there were no war casualties from this near vicinity for which to name the post , it was decided to use the name Lodi and the number 523 was assigned. By August 1, the charter was at hand and a constitution and by-laws adopted.

The first Thursday evening of each month was chosen as a meeting date with dues assessed yearly at $3.50.

The first regular commander to serve the post was William Basom, with Lloyd Leatherman serving as his adjutant. First year membership totaled 55.

In 1922, Lodi Post occupied rooms on the second floor of the Ainsworth building. In July 1923, the post took possession of the rooms over the Rowland Drug store, where it remained until 1948. The Harrisville Twp. Hall was used in 1946 and 1947 because there was not room enough in the post’s regular quarter for all the new members who has returned from World War 11. The first meeting held in the new post home on Bank Street on July 22, 1948.

It was in 1929 the Lodi Memorial Association turned its work over to Lodi Post, which then took up the project of erecting a memorial in Central Park. Through contributions of cash from interested citizens, it became possible to erect this memorial to the veterans of all wars. It was unveiled on Armistice Day 1929 in a ceremony, which included other organizations of the community.

The Lodi American Legion has been involved in supporting and contributing to the community of Lodi since their beginning. I am personally grateful. Please support their flag program. Give them a call.

Many thanks to Dee Scheck, 1st Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary for the history.

On November 11, 2018, Armistice Day, to acknowledge the 100-year anniversary of the conclusion of WW1. We are to ring a bell at 11am. Spread the word.