Museum showcases WWI artifacts

By Betsy Clayton
Emerald Reporter

The World War I Victory Medal has a faded rainbow ribbon with two bars across it and a gold medallion hanging from it. The two bars commemorate battles fought, and the rainbow ribbon represents all the countries involved in the war.

This victory medal is just one of the many World War I relics that are on exhibit at the Springfield Museum until Dec. 19. The collection features uniforms, hats, medals and personal equipment from German, French, American and British armies.

All the military memorabilia is from World War I and is part of a private collection of a Springfield resident, according to Ruth Williams, a museum docent.

"It is rather unusual that there is a man who lives here who has a collection like this," Williams said.

The display has many war items that are local. There is a child-sized American army uniform that came from an estate of the McCall family and was reportedly worn by former Oregon Gov. Tom McCall. A rifle with a bayonet that a Springfield resident used during the war and a book, "Letters from Oregon Boys in France," also add to the local flavor of the exhibit.

Williams said the Prussian soldier uniforms are interesting to look at because they give a true idea of what was worn.

"We've seen American dough boys in movies and things so we're familiar with them, but most of us aren't familiar with the Prussians," she explained.

She pointed out a Prussian Kurussier helmet with metal decorations on it and the emblem of the Hapsburg empire. Prussian helmets during the war had sharp, pointed tops. One of the helmets on display has horse hair plumes coming from the tip of its stem.

Williams said she finds it interesting to look at the posters from the era and see how the government was trying to sell bonds to finance the war. One of the posters reads, "Are you 100 percent American? Prove it! Buy U.S. Government Bonds Third Liberty Loans."

Photo by Ted Shepler

This U.S. infantry uniform and many other World War I memorabilia are currently on display at the Springfield Museum

Among the military memorabilia, there is a special flag that was designed for the home front. The flag reads, "God bless America. Equality, Liberty, Justice," and was to be hung in residents' windows to show that someone in the house was in the service.

One set of German body armor is on display. According to the historical note card, this was the last try at military armor. It was normally used for machine gunners because the weight of the metal was so heavy that movement was restricted.

The exhibit has been open since late September and Williams said attendence has been good.

The Springfield Museum is located at Main Street and Sixth Avenue and is open Wednesday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. There is no admission fee.

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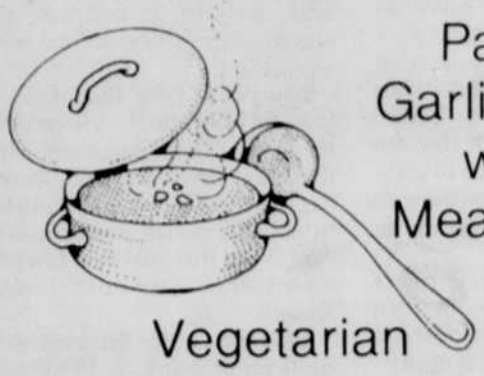

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MEETINGS

Women in Transition will have a brown bag lunch and support group meeting today from 12-1:30 p.m. in EMU Room 318. For additional information call WIT at 686-4099.

The Society of Professional Journalists will meet today at 3 p.m. in Allen Room 215 to vote on issues of next week's national convention in Chicago. Broadcast, magazine and newspaper students are invited.

MEChA (Chicano/Latino Union) will meet today from 4:30-6 p.m. in EMU Room 16-D to discuss its November symposium and recruitment conferences.

The Student Campaign for Disarmament will meet today at 7 p.m. in EMU Oak Room. Pizza and games are included.

Campus Crusade for Christ will meet today at 8:30 p.m. in Straub Room 146.

MISCELLANEOUS

Peace Corps recruiting representatives will answer questions on and sign up volunteers for two-year assignments abroad at an information booth today and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the EMU Lobby.

The Career Assessment Program, which helps students discover their professional goals through evaluating their values, lifestyle choices, interests and skills, will present an orientation today at 2 p.m. in Hendricks Room 237.

"Inside China: The Unseen Church" is the title of a film to be shown by the Collegiate Association for Research of the Principle today from 7-9 p.m. in EMU Forum Room. Skeeter Jackson of Open Doors with Brother Andrew will also speak.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication.