



Jesse Cagle, 81, of Dallas with a photo collage from his childhood, with his father, mother and brother, and during his military service in the 1950s during the Korean conflict. After his childhood in the Philippines, Cagle's family moved to the United States, where he became a teacher.

A blessed life

Dallas resident Jesse Cagle experienced war from two perspectives: as a child and young man

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Most people in Dallas know Jesse Cagle as “Mr. Cagle.”

A teacher in the Dallas School District for 27 years, he had countless students in his classrooms over the years. Some he occasionally sees around town, and though they are adults now, they still call him Mr. Cagle.

Cagle has had a rich life in Dallas, raising 11 children, nine of them adopted, and a number of foster children with his wife of 50 years, Joyce, and enjoying a fulfilling career in education.

A portion of his childhood stands in stark contrast to what Cagle said has been a blessed life in Dallas.

A changed life

He was 7 years old on Dec. 8, 1941, when the first bombs dropped on Manila, Philippines. He was in school when his father, Lawrence Cagle, picked



JESSE CAGLE /for the Itemizer-Observer
Cagle stands in front of his bunker on DMZ in Korea.

him up before taking his family — Jesse's mother, Virginia, and his younger brother, Lonnie — out of Manila.

Lawrence Cagle was a

former American serviceman who was stationed in the Philippines before being discharged and returning to marry Virginia Saliwa. As an American, he

feared being captured and placed in an internment camp. Lawrence took the family into the jungle north of the Philippine province of Pangasinan.

“That's where my mother was born, so she was known up in that area,” Cagle said. “That's where we hid in the early part of the war.”

Out of concern for his family, Lawrence decided he should separate from Virginia, Jesse and Lonnie. With the help of his wife and other locals, he hid in the swamps in the region, an area Japanese soldiers rarely ventured. “He had been there for several months and my mother would provide food for him every so often, and so would other Filipinos,” Cagle said.

But all he did to hide didn't stop Jesse's father from being captured by a Japanese patrol and sent to Santo Tomas Internment Camp on the grounds of Santo Tomas University in Manila. The camp held

American, British, Australian and Chinese citizens, Cagle said.

His family visited his father at the camp — the Japanese considered Filipinos “aliens” and did not hold them captive, though thousands of civilians were killed over the course of the war.

But Lawrence began noticing the environment worsen, and fearing for their safety, told them not to return until he was released.

“Most of the duration of the war, we were up in the jungle,” Cagle said. “My mother took care of my brother and I. We survived. By whatever means my mother had of finding food, we were able to do that.”

He said in spite of their situation, he and his brother never felt unsafe, deprived or in fear they would never see their father again.

That was in large part due to his mother's caregiving.

See BLESSED, page 7A

Civil War-era cannonball found on street in Dallas

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Alex Frey, of Dallas, was driving on East Ellendale Avenue between Walmart and the 76 gas station when he spotted something unusual in the road.

It looked like small rubber ball, but it was in the road where a car could hit it. He was riding with three friends — all of them teenagers — so one of them, Jacob Schultz, jumped out to get it.

“I got out and went and

picked it up. It was heavier than I expected,” he said. “I dropped it by accident.”

The first impression was that it may be a shot put, used in the throwing event of the same name in track and field. But the four friends had a sneaking suspicion it might be something else, but what, they didn't know.

They all held it and took photos with it. They dropped it for a second time.

Kristal Dunmire and Frey asked their teachers — they

are students at Dallas High School — to see if they knew what it was.

No one knew for sure, so Dunmire gave it to her stepfather, Thad Boatwright, to see if he could figure it out.

Boatwright did some research and concluded this: It was an old cannonball. But there still was something unusual about it.

“It didn't meet the criteria of what a normal cannonball (would look like),” Boatwright said.

See EXPLOSIVE, Page 7A



THAD BOATWRIGHT/Itemizer-Observer
Four teenagers found what turned out to be a cannonball.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

Dallas High School students team up with actors from LaCreole Middle School to present “Oliver!” The play opens tonight.

»Page 16A

FALLS CITY

Family Building Blocks starts a new program at Wagner Public Library.

»Page 3A

INDEPENDENCE

Talmadge Middle School students gather more than 2,000 pounds of food for the Ella Curran Food Bank.

»Page 15A

MONMOUTH

“Book of Days” opens at Western Oregon University Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

»Page 3A

SPORTS

Perrydale football defeats Pine Eagle to keep state-title dreams alive.

»Page 10A

EDUCATION

More than 70 students filled out college applications during the nationwide College Application Week campaign, sponsored by GearUp.

»Pages 16A

CRIME

See inside for updates on a sex-abuse case at Kings Valley Charter School, a different case involving kidnapping and rape in West Salem, and this month's most wanted.

»Pages 2A, 6A

LEAF PICKUPS

Residential leaf pickups are beginning in Dallas on Saturday, and continuing for residents in Monmouth and Independence.

»Page 3A

Got a news tip?

Give us a call at 503-623-2373 or email ionews@polkio.com.

THE NEXT
7
DAYS
PLANNING
FOR YOUR
WEEK



wed

Veterans and their families are welcome to breakfast at the Monmouth Senior Center. Happy Veteran's Day!
8:30-10:30 a.m. Free.



Partly cloudy
Hi: 52
Lo: 35

thu

Young Professionals is a networking opportunity for the younger business crowd, meeting at Independence Grill.
5:30 p.m. Free.



Mostly cloudy
Hi: 50
Lo: 42

fri

See what the Arc of Polk County is all about at its bi-monthly dance and karaoke at the Academy Building.
6:30 p.m. \$3.



Cloudy
Hi: 56
Lo: 47

sat

Swing your partner and do-si-do at Guthrie Park's old-time square dance at the Guthrie Park Community Center.
7-10 p.m. \$5.



Rain
Hi: 54
Lo: 41

sun

Explore the hobby of remote-control aircraft flying with the Dallas Wingdingers RC Flying Club.
1-3 p.m. Free.



Rain
Hi: 53
Lo: 38

mon

Today is National Button Day. Button collecting has been a recognized hobby since 1938, when the National Button Society was founded.



Showers
Hi: 51
Lo: 38

tue

Bring your loose change to the Polk County Coin Club's monthly meeting and see if you have any gems.
7 p.m. Free.



Rain
Hi: 49
Lo: 38