

Jim Farley sees different Europe during 50th anniversary

It was the same place, the same people, but the scene was drastically different. When Jim Farley of Heppner was in England and Europe during World War II, the landscape had been devastated. Fifty years later, during the anniversary celebration of D-Day, Farley encountered a totally different Europe. "It was hard to recognize," said Farley, "because when I was there it was war torn. It's was all war then. Now it's just beautiful."

Farley said that instead of being greeted with guns, this time his reception was warm. "We were really accepted," he said. "We were treated first class. The food was good and we had all you could eat. You got all the wine you wanted, but you couldn't get a drink of water or a cup of coffee."

Highlights of his tour, which was from May 31 to June 15, included a visit to the headquarters of General George "Old Blood and Guts" Patton in Luxembourg, where, he says, they were treated "royally." "To the delight of everybody," said Farley, Walter Cronkite, who was a prominent news correspondent during WWII, introduced President Clinton to the crowd at the D-Day celebration. A man in Farley's tour group from Pendleton, Jiggs Fisk, was a friend of Lt. Gen Talburt who introduced him to Clinton. Fisk sat in the same booth as Clinton, shook his hand and was even on television.

Besides, Clinton and Mrs. Clinton, dignitaries at various ceremonies throughout the D-Day celebration included the Queen of England, Prince Charles, Princesses Anne and Margaret, the Duke of York, English Prime Minister John Major, Polish President Lech Walesa, French President Francois Mitterand, the king of Norway, the queen and prime minister of The Netherlands, the king, queen and prime minister of Belgium, the prime ministers of France, Australia, Canada, Luxembourg, and New Zealand and presidents of the Czech and Slovak republics.

Farley and the other veterans attending the ceremony received a letter of welcome from French President Francois Mit-

terand. "France is happy and proud to welcome the veterans of the Western Allied troops, who 50 years ago, came to mingle their blood with that of her sons," writes Mitterand. "War was raging throughout Europe: to the east where the Russian offensive was about to start up again along a 1,500 kilometer front; to the south where the fall of Rome on 4th June set the armies of Italy free for other tasks. However, as soon as Operation Overlord (the code name for the D-Day offensive) was launched, all eyes turned to five Normandy beaches, where the fate of the war would be sealed, where several thousand men succeeded in landing, soon to be followed by tens of thousands of others; but what anguish during the first hours, the first days, what prodigious acts of bravery and tenacity were accomplished by men to succeed in an undertaking that no-one had ever attempted before 6th June 1944."

"To those who, 50 years later, have come to pay their respects at the graves of their fallen comrades, or to see again together the theatre of so much glory and so much suffering, I express the gratitude of France. Welcome!" signed, Francois Mitterand, Le President de la Republique.

Millions of people were on hand for the anniversary celebration, said Farley, including many sons, daughters and grandchildren of WWII veterans. One incident was particularly touching, he said, when a woman in his group took a picture of the grave of her father who had been buried at the Omaha Beach cemetery. She had never seen her father and had never before visited his grave. "It was pretty emotional," said Farley.

Farley's tour of WWII battle sites was extensive and took him to many places he had visited during the war. His itinerary included two days in London, highlighted by tours of Parliament, Big Ben, Piccadilly and Oxford circuses, the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, Stonehenge, Salisbury and the seaside resort of Bourne-mouth; a ferry ride across the English Channel to France; a drive along

Omaha Beach to Vierville-sur-Mer, Pointe du Hoc, Ste. Mere Eglise and Cherbourg and Utah Beach; Paris, including the Arc de Triomphe, where he attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Eiffel Tower, Sacre Coeur, Notre Dame and the Louvre. Then it was onto Battle of the Bulge sites, including Luxembourg, where he visited the burial site of General Patton, St. Vith, Losheim Gap, Malmedy, Trois Pons and Parker's Crossroads, Bastogne, Liege, Boppard, Cologne; a trip up the Rhine River, visiting the Remagen Bridge Museum (he had crossed a pontoon bridge shortly after the destruction of the Remagen Bridge

during the war); and eventually to Frankfurt before heading home.

Farley, a 24-year-old first lieutenant in the 955th field artillery, was in Exeter, England, on D-Day, before being shipped out in an ocean landing ship tank. He was on the ship five days and eventually landed on Omaha Beach where he went into combat with the field artillery. At one point during the war, he was in the Bastogne area in the



Memorial at Bastogne

middle of winter, in two feet of snow in 10-degree-below-zero weather with only K-rations to eat. Also during the war he was at a site just outside Buchenwald, the infamous death camp. He was in Europe "a short two years. The Good Lord helped me make it through it," said Farley. "Many had a rougher time than I. But some didn't have it rough at all."

Mary Goheen attends convention

Mary Goheen of Heppner has returned from Cincinnati where she represented Soroptimist International Club of Heppner as a delegate to the Soroptimist International of the Americas Biennial Convention, July 1-5.

"Outstanding and inspirational speakers, visitors and panelists included Bella Abzug who spoke on "Women's Role in Peace"; Marie Jeanne Bosia-Beberat, Lugano, Switzerland; and Maureen Reagan who moderated a panel of five experts in areas of health, education, environment, economic and social development and human rights," said Goheen.

There were over 1000 attendees from U.S., Canada, Mexico, South America, The Philippines and Japan.

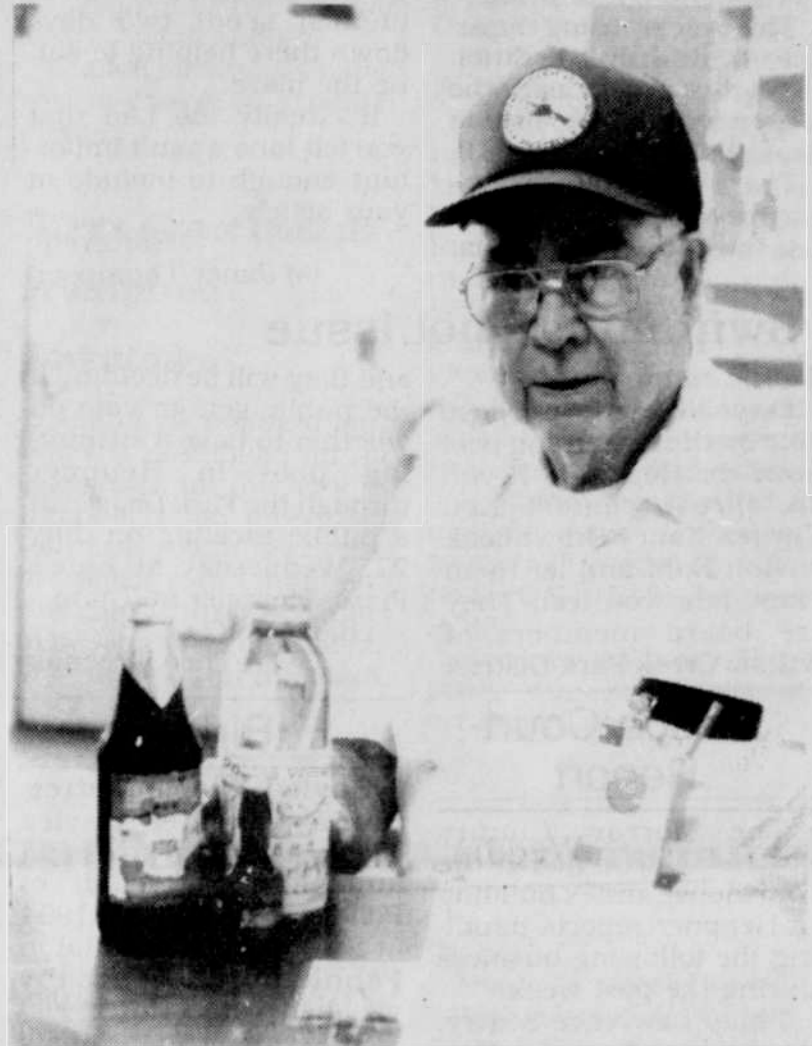
An optional event that Goheen said was most enjoyable was a dinner cruise on an Ohio River boat followed by an outdoor symphony "pops" concert

which included members of the Cincinnati Ballet Society and The Studio Cloggers.

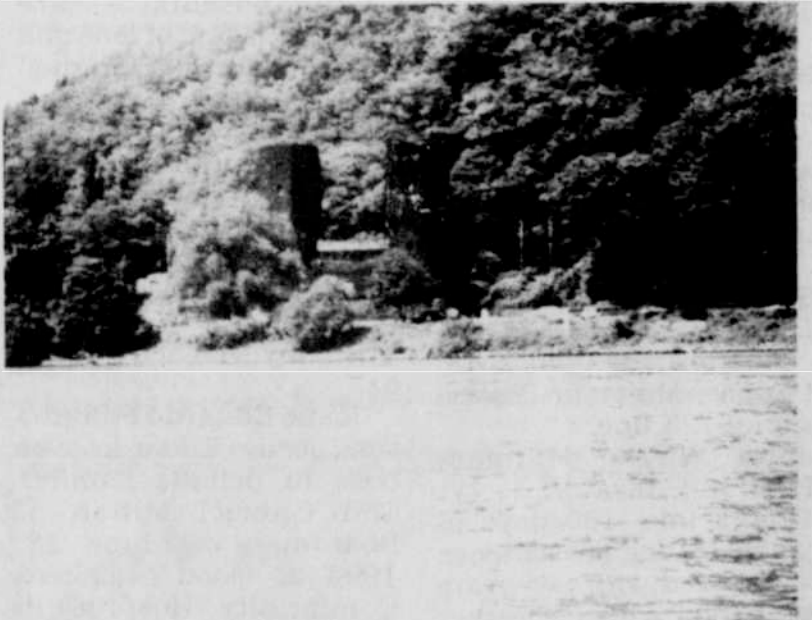
Goheen reports that some of the rewards of the trip were renewing friendships with friends from Juneau, Alaska, Inglewood, California, and Tokyo, Japan.

A city tour included The Museum Center at the former Union Station and its Omnimax Theater currently showing the film "Africa The Serengeti" with some scenes she saw in Kenya last year. Cincinnati is the location of headquarters of many companies such as the Proctor & Gamble world headquarters, also ethnic areas with huge mansions built by the early settlers who accumulate great wealth.

Goheen says temperatures of 94 and 95 degrees here do not seem too bad since in Cincinnati the temperature was the same but also with high humidity.



Jim Farley



Bridge at Remagen

Sign up for talent show

The Morrow County Talent Show will be held Wednesday, August 17 at 7 p.m. at the outdoor stage in the fairground picnic area. To sign up to perform contact the fair office, 676-9474.

Smokey Bear contest winners

The Smokey Bear 1994 poster contest winners for the district and state competition have been announced by District # 10 and the Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs. Smokey Bear has been recognized as the wildfire prevention

symbol since 1944. The slogan "Only you can prevent forest fires" was first used in 1947. This slogan is still used as the theme each year for the contest.

Lone Garden Club members announce district winners from the lone elementary school.

They are: fifth grade: Molly Barrow-first, Chris Peck-second and Kathryn Jones-third. Third place winners were Amellia Peck, fourth grade. Sheena Christman, third grade and Cyde Tullis second grade.

At the state level Chris Peck won third place for the fifth grade and Amellia peck third place for the fourth grade levels.

Lone Garden Club has cooperated with the Forest Service for a number of years to promote this educational contest for the youth of the area under the supervision of Pat Pettyjohn, youth contest committee chairman.

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