

History of American Legion H. U. Wood Post No. 245 Seguin, Texas

This post was organized on July 14, 1920 at a meeting called in the law office of F. B. Vaughan. A temporary organization of the local post was formed at this meeting. It was decided to name the post after H. Urban Wood who was one of the Seguin men who gave their lives in the services of their county. A temporary organization for the purpose of securing a charter was formed with the following officers: John Vivroux, Commander; Ben Williams, Vice Commander; H. K. Chamberlien, Adjutant; Charles Bruns, Finance Officers; and Charles Bauer, Historian.

After securing the charter, A. H. Neighbors was elected as the first Commander of the post. The post was officially called H. U. Wood Post No. 245. E. E. Tips finished the term as commander after the resignation of A. H. Neighbors.

The records of the post show that the organization was responsible for quite a few major accomplishments during its first few years of existence. The post was instigator of what was known then, as Seguin's White Way. This was the financing of and installing of lamp posts around the Court House Square and Park. Legionnaires also fastened bronze memorial plates, on the lamp posts, honoring the fallen hero's of the county. The post helped in securing playground equipment for the playground near the old post office. The post was also responsible, with the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce, for decorating the streets for holidays. Every veteran who passed on, was accorded a military funeral. Memorial Day was observed by all legionnaires. The Boy Scouts were reorganized by the legionnaires and were sponsored by the Legion until they were able to proceed with their own strength. A local baseball team was organized. Records show various other activities that the local post was instrumental in organizing and supporting.

No meetings of the post were held from October 19, 1927 to January 18, 1928. At this time, the post was heavily in debt. In the year 1928, the post was put back on its feet with Judge John C. Hoyo as Commander. Headquarters of the post were moved from the downtown hall to the Seguin Country Club. Commander Hoyo was succeeded by A. E. Pape. Also, in 1928, the Ladies Auxiliary was reorganized. The next few years the post maintained its membership and took part in community projects. During the years of 1931 and 1932, situations changed and for a six-month period in 1932, no meetings were held. But, the post remained in existence.

The records from 1933 through 1936 show the post active and taking part in many community projects. In 1936 the post bought the Seguin Bowling Club for its Legion Home.

Since 1936, the post has continued to add its part to community projects. In 1949 the post added another building which contains the present bowling lanes. The old hall is still in use for meetings and dances. The membership remains constant and is now 668. For a number of years the post has organized one of the best American Legion Bands in the State. This band, under the management of C. Meyer and the direction of Max Richter, plays concerts in the city and for childrens homes and hospitals.

In 1956, the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary started a Capt. Alfred and Mrs. Schlafli Memorial Fund. All members of Post 245 and members of posts throughout the State contributed to this fund. The total sum was \$638.00 collected at that time. At a regular meeting held August 5, 1965, the members the post voted to furnish a room in the new Guadalupe Valley Hospital of Seguin, in the amount of \$750.00 and to donate \$250.00 to the new Library in memory of Capt. and Mrs. Alfred Schlafli.

It is only proper to name the ladies auxiliary which is active in numerous projects; poppy sales on Veterans Day, Girls State, Child Welfare and many others.

The post sponsors Legion baseball, Boys State, military funerals, presentation of flags, raising of colors, decoration of graves and many others. The Legion also has one of the best Service Officers who is here to handle all veteran's problems.

The above is a brief review of the history of H. U. Wood Post No. 245. It is impossible to name all the people who helped build and also supported the post. But this organization is glad to have a part in all community projects and support the county and the country whenever the need is there.

NICK KUTACH
Historian