

"Fallen Soldier"

(Cont. from front)

DNA from Jimmy Higgins' remains. A few weeks ago, officials notified family members that the blood

samples and DNA from Jimmy Higgins bones were a match.

This opens up old wounds all over again, but it is worth it to be able to finalize this chapter of our lives," Mrs. Bruce said.

Bro. Bruce said that he, too, was

glad the family would be able to bury his brother-in-law in a manner befitting a courageous soldier, but he said it was also worst today than 50 years ago, when the family got the news that Jimmy was missing in action.

"You have to wonder why the powers that be, would send young innocent men into a battle where they were sure to be slaughtered," Bro. Bruce said.

"It just doesn't make sense, but there are a lot of things the government does that don't make sense," he said.

The Bruces were invited to Washington for a June 25 memorial service, marking the first day of the Korean War in 1950.

They sat on the front row and shook hands with President Clinton.

"It was certainly worth it to me to be there. It made me proud to be an American, and the service acknowledged the sacrifice that so many people made during the Korean War, which is often referred to as the forgotten war," Mrs. Bruce said.

Jimmy Higgins joined the Army in 1948 at the age of 17.

He spent time stationed in Alaska and, in August of 1950, he was sent to Korea to fight in the war which had begun in June.

On November 1 of 1950, Jimmy Higgins was killed by a grenade. But,

it wasn't until late in November of 1950, a day when Kentucky played Tennessee in football, that a member of the war department and the local police delivered the sad message to the Higgins' family that their son and brother was missing in action.

Three years later, in 1954, the Higgins were told that an eyewitness saw Jimmy die in the battle of Unsan. Mrs. Bruce, and her brother David Higgins, are the only two members of the immediate family still living.

Leon Higgins, who gave blood along with David, did not survive to

hear the news and Jimmy Higgins parents have been dead for more than twenty years.

Jimmy Higgins body was one of the first Kentuckians to be identified by the use of DNA.

The Armistice between two coun-

tries who never actually declared war on each other, was never signed. But, for Mrs. Bruce and other family members, the long trip from Harlan County to Korea and now to Arlington National Cemetery is finally over for their brother and for them.

"Watson" (Cont. from front)

Valley Entertainment Center on Saturday. There will be two performances one at 7 p.m. and another beginning at 9:15 p.m. Tickets are on sale, now.

Reduced ticket prices for locals

For the next two weeks Renfro Valley Entertainment Center will be saying thank you to Rockcastle County residents with a very special offer, according to Renfro Valley Chief Operating Officer Jane Thorne. Tickets for any regular Renfro Valley Show on Wednesday through Friday, beginning July 19 and ending July 28 will be only \$5.00.

All local residents need to do is present your drivers license as proof of county residence at the ticket window.

The Renfro Valley Shows included in the offer are Wednesday, MASAL (music & singing & laughter), Thursday Classic Country, Friday Barn Dance and Jamboree. For information or reservations call 256-2638.

"Mills"

(Cont. from front)

area of the arts, according to Rockcastle County High School counselor Dale Whitaker. "Only the cream of the crop are chosen for this prestigious school," he said.

The three week program, which began June 25, will end Saturday with a finale of performances and a graduation ceremony.

Mills is the son of Tom and Cloye Mills of Mareburg.



Tom Mills Jr., a senior at Rockcastle County High School, was selected for the Governor's School for the Arts.



From left: Bro. Jack Bruce, Mrs. Betty Bruce, Mrs. Peggy King, the Bruce's daughter and Army Major Jean MacIntyre, who escorted the Bruces while they were in Washington during the Korean War memorial service.

"Veteran"

(Cont. from front)

According to Sears, on his command, all of the men took off from a rice paddy with about six inches of water in it and headed over the hill. He picked up the unconscious soldier, put him on his back, and began the climb up the hill.

"The other men got over the hill before they saw them, but because I was moving pretty slow up the hill with the soldier on my back, they saw me and began firing at us," he said.

"I fell about the time I got to the top of the hill and we both began to roll - it seemed like for a mile, but the

North Koreans weren't able to get to us," he said.

Bro. Sears said that he and the wounded men made their way through the jungle and "...after dark I saw a Jeep coming up the road. I wasn't sure if it was the enemy or our soldiers so I sent an able-bodied man to check it out and thank God it was Americans," Sears said.

Reports from that day's escape said that Bro. Sears had carried the wounded soldier on his back for seven miles before they were rescued.

For his bravery and his willingness to be captured so he could stay with his men, Bro. Sears was presented with the prestigious Silver Star

Award for Gallantry in Action.

Bro. Sears also recounted the times he would run from foxhole to foxhole during battle trying to help the wounded.

"I would stop the bleeding and I was free with the morphine. I hated to see those men suffer," he said.

Bro. Sears, who also assisted doctors in surgery, said the television series MASH, which is centered around a field hospital during the Korean War, fairly depicts what took place over there.

"We would just try to get them stabilized and do the best we could to help them make it to a real Army hospital - I let them didn't make it but a lot did," he said.

Bro. Sears said he has had lots of cards and letters and some visits from servicemen he helped during the war and he really appreciates that. "I'm not so sure how much soldiers in the Korean war were ever appreciated," he said.

Bro. Sears returned to Fort Knox in 1950 and married his wife, Ann, also a Rockcastle County girl, on December 29, 1950.

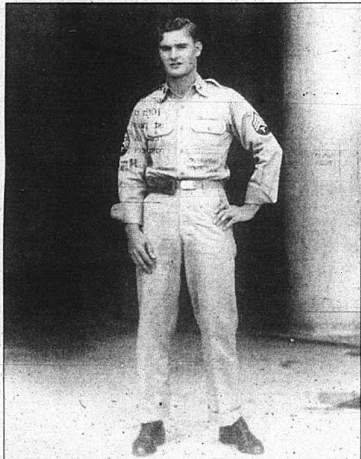
In 1952, Bro. Sears was discharged from the service and since that time he and his wife have raised six children. They also have 10 grand children and three great grandchildren.

There is no way of knowing, but in 1975, when Bro. Sears was working at a service station in Renfro Valley, a Korean War veteran stopped to buy gas.

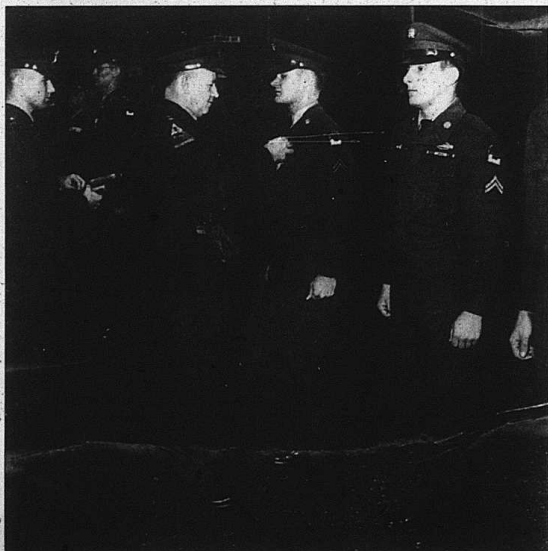
"He had a really bad scar on his head and I asked him what happened. He said he got it in the Korean War - that he was injured in battle and that he was knocked unconscious and someone carried him out," Bro. Sears said. "That all happen to him in September of 1950," he said.

"We still don't know for sure, but I wouldn't be surprised if that wasn't the soldier that I helped," he said.

Bro. Sears and his wife live at Copper Creek and he preaches at Macedonia Baptist Church at Scafold Cane.



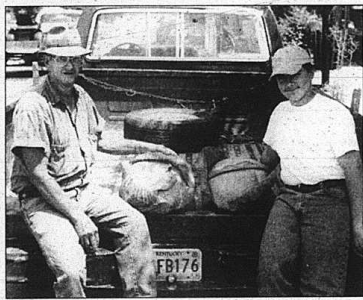
Bro. Carl Denton Sears of Copper Creek was a medic in the Korean War in 1950.



Corporal Carl Denton Sears was presented with the prestigious Silver Star in 1951 for his actions during the Korean War in September of 1950.



Mrs. Betty Bruce, left, shook hands with United States President Bill Clinton during a memorial service for Korean War Veterans held in Washington on June 25.



Douglas Lovell, left, of Chestnut Ridge, shows off his big cabbage, which he grew in his garden this summer. Lovell said he had an entire row of cabbage that averaged weighing over 20 pounds each. At right is his grandson, Josh Lovell.

All Our Neighbors

Rabbits nestle in a bed of native grasses. Butterflies flutter among a patch of wildflowers. And a mother raccoon gathers food for her babies.

A nature preserve? Not really. It's a transmission corridor owned and maintained by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. The pathway that brings power to your home is also home to many rare plants and animals.

A two-year study of our transmission corridors throughout the Daniel Boone National Forest found many rare plants growing beneath our power lines: Several of the species were thought to be near extinction. As a result, our biologists continually monitor the pathways to help protect these plants and the wildlife that live among them.

But that's only part of our commitment to the environment. Each year, our cooperatives bring nature into hundreds of classrooms throughout Kentucky. Students learn about the plants and animals of our great commonwealth. And hopefully, they will grow up to be strong stewards of our natural resources.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are proud to be nationally recognized leaders in environmental education and preservation. Because that means we're doing our best for our communities and our neighbors - all of our neighbors.



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