



From dawn until dusk a guard mount, with 12 Explorer Scouts alternating as guards, at the Morgantown East Hill Cemetery pays an impressive tribute to the war dead.

in 1961. The Scout is Dickie Satter, now deceased.
DICKIE SATTER

PERPETUATING A HERITAGE

Morgantown's annual Memorial Day observance, scheduled for next Sunday, is one of the state's impressive programs

MORGANTOWN is not merely the "gateway to Brown County" but the gateway to remembrance—to deep and abiding remembrance of its soldier and sailor dead over an unbroken period of almost a century.

Next Sunday as so many times in the past, this quietly picturesque, little town will throb with the cadence of marching feet, the drone of planes, the roll of muffled drums and the strains of taps as it perpetuates a hallowed heritage: To observe the true spirit of Memorial Day with the full measure of devotion.

Scarcely anyone will leave Morgantown during the day. No cars, bearing holidaying tourists, picnickers or sports

fans will pass through the village during the ceremonies. For most of the day the business section, on Road 135, will be completely lined with new 50-starred American flags as part of the setting for full-scale memorial services in the high school, at the postoffice and in the two historic cemeteries, East Hill and Baptist.

Indeed, the whole restricted area will become a vast amphitheater wherein prayers, drills, martial music, speeches, the dropping of wreaths and flowers from planes and a 12-hour guard mount will honor the Morgantown men who served under the Stars and Stripes all the way from Buzzard Roost, Ga., to Pork Chop Hill, Korea. All

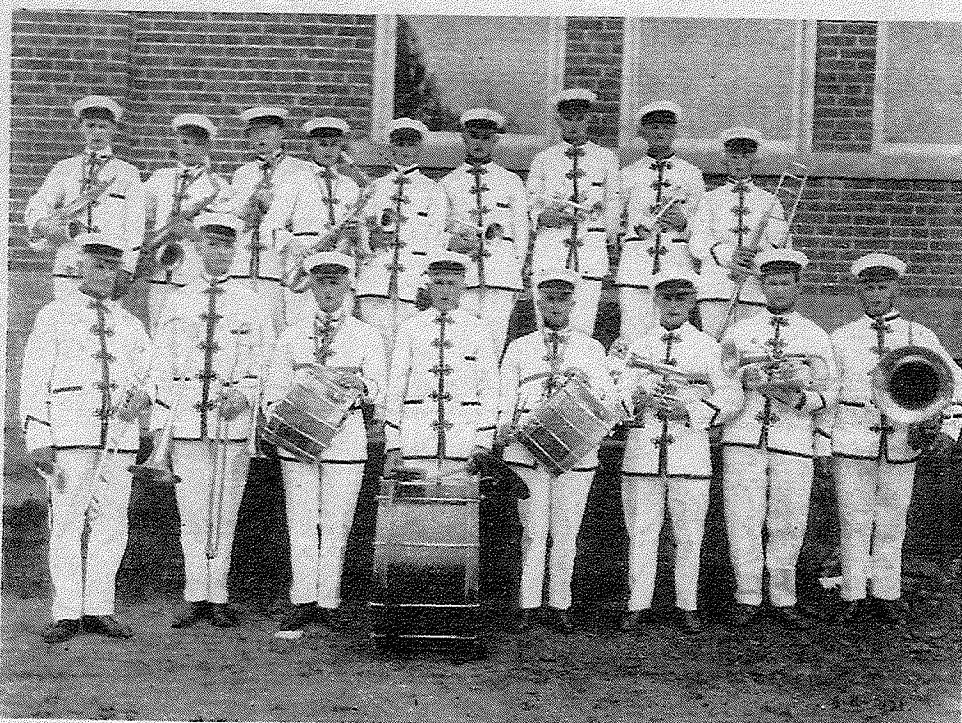
of this because generations of residents have revered the memory of soldiers and sailors who died on American and foreign battlefields, at sea and, after honorable service, at home; and because of an extraordinary community spirit of co-operation which has increasingly emphasized the importance of the day down the years.

ONE OF the veterans sleeping in East Hill Cemetery is Dr. Reuben C. Griffitt, a Morgantown physician, who was president of the state commission appointed by Governor J. Frank Hanly to provide, by state funds, a monument in honor of Indiana soldiers who died in Anderson-

MAY 21, 1961



Since the first observance, Morgantown citizens have displayed a fine community spirit. In 1908 the music was provided by the Silver Cornet Band of Morgantown.



Another local band was on duty by the time of the 1921 Memorial Day Services. It was the Morgantown Civic Band, under the direction of Charles Teeters (front left).

ville (Ga.) Prison, 1864-65. This monument was unveiled and dedicated in the Georgia National Cemetery Nov. 26, 1908. Dr. Griffitt presented the monument to the State of Indiana, and Miss Luna Fesler, still a Morgantown resident and a daughter of Capt. Peter Fesler, who is buried in East Hill Cemetery, sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *The Prisoner's Hope*.

Dr. Griffitt and 10 other Morgantown residents were members of Company C, 22d Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which was organized at Nashville, Brown County, and was mustered into service at Indianapolis, Aug. 15, 1861. The regiment participated in 28 battles.

In May, 1866, after the war, surviving Morgantown area veterans held a reunion and marched to the two cemeteries to honor their deceased comrades. In 1868 May 30 was officially designated by the GAR as Memorial Day, but for some time Morgantown has observed the day on the Sunday before May 30 or on that date if it fell on Sunday.

WITH SUCH a background, the entire village has been spurred to join in preparations for the observances, spear-headed by a tireless, organizational expert, Alvin J. Whitaker, who has been chairman since 1928, except in 1943-44-45 when he served in

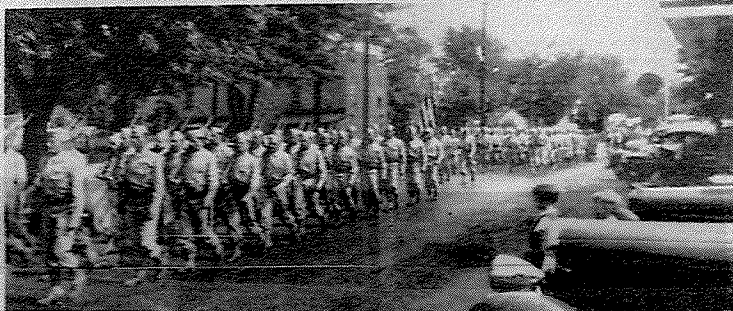
World War II. He was with the 17th Airborne Division, the 193d Glider Infantry and 194th Glider Infantry, was wounded in action twice and was decorated with the Purple Heart, Purple Heart with Oak leaf cluster and the EAME Theater ribbon with three bronze stars. On his return home he was again appointed memorial chairman and this is his 30th year.

In the attractive home on Main Street, where he and Mrs. Whitaker reside, he has an upstairs studio with office equipment, including a filing system, and there for months he works enthusiastically on preparations for Memorial

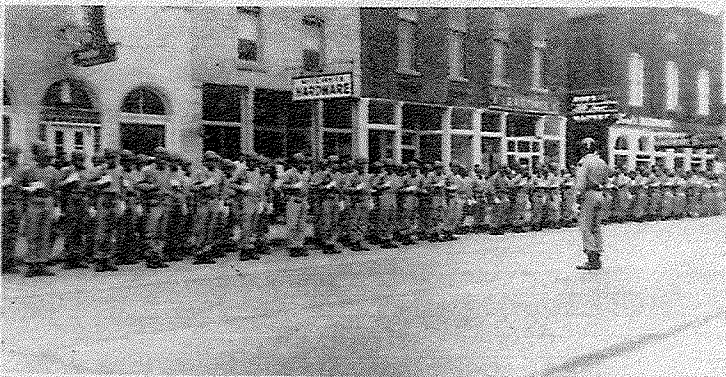
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PERPETUATING A HERITAGE ●

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The Fort Benjamin Harrison Military Police Division marches along the main street during the Memorial Day parade in 1942.



In 1951, the Pennsylvania Keystone Division came to Morgantown from Camp Atterbury to participate in the Memorial observance.

Day. Every detail is neatly typed and many photographs and memorabilia give a pictorial history of this outstanding observance. And he talks mostly about the 26 chairmen of as many committees and their helpers; of the vice-chairman, Mrs. Zelma McCoy; of the clergy, police, National Guard, planes and pilots, bands, veterans organizations, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and especially of the spirit of the townspeople.

This spirit is epitomized in the person of Mrs. Schuyler Pool, 80, whose husband was killed in the Spanish-Ameri-

can War, and who directs the making of wreaths and artificial flowers to be dropped by the planes and an Indiana State Police helicopter. Mrs. Pool and other women work all winter on this project.

"I've gone along in the helicopter," says Whitaker, "and have looked down at crowds estimated at 10,000. The military formations, flags, banners, decorated graves and colors everywhere make a breath-taking picture. And, after watching the wreaths and flowers drifting down to

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The Dixie Division band, stationed at Camp Atterbury, was a popular organization. It played during the 1952 observance.

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PERPETUATING A HERITAGE ●

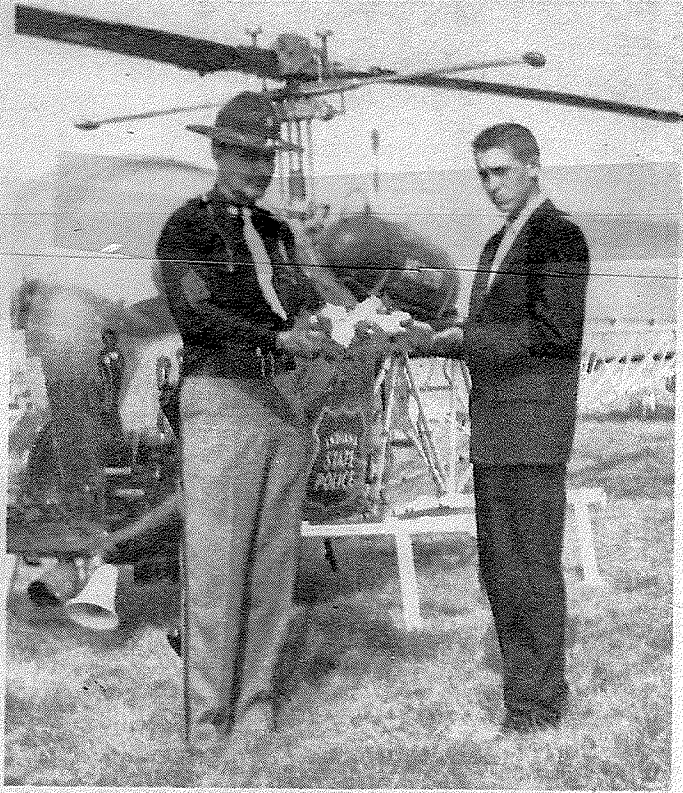
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the graves, I have been so overcome, emotionally, that, on landing, I've been unable for some time to speak."

The aerial part of the observance takes place at 3:50 p.m. when Indiana National Guard planes from Hulman Field, Terre Haute, sweep over the town, swing south to Nashville and return. Five minutes later the helicopter descends with a wreath to decorate the grave of Preston Crabtree, state trooper and Navy veteran. And at 4 p.m. a formation of planes from Franklin Field drops flowers on the graves.

The services, next Sunday, will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the decoration of graves in Baptist Cemetery. At 2 there will be a program at the high school gym, highlighted by an address by Representative William G. Bray of Martinsville, who will also speak at two later services. There will be music by the Southport High School Cardinal band and drills by the Cardinalettes.

At 3 there will be a parade from the high school to the postoffice with state police, Palomino horse patrols, National Guard infantry, color guards from the American Legion and VFW, ladies auxiliary, floats, including one bearing the memorial king and queen, and military equipment participating.



In 1959, State Police Sgt. Robert Myers presents a floral wreath in memory of State Police Sgt. Preston Crabtree, who was a veteran of the Navy, to his son, Dan Crabtree.

Following flag raising and other ceremonies at the postoffice, the final program will be held at East Hill Cemetery. As he has done for many years, John E. Hamilton will read the roll call of all

veterans. Representative Bray will speak and there will be graveside ceremonies and the aerial tributes, followed by volleys by the VFW firing squad, taps by two buglers and benediction.

Whitaker, former point judge for five years with the Indiana Motor Vehicle Bureau and now a rural letter carrier and active in church, civic and fraternal circles, highly praises the committee chairmen and workers who handle the many details of the observance.

"The community spirit has always been fine," he says, "even in the period between 1868 and 1875 when veterans from all over came here for reunions. In 1952 we even had a Dixie Division band come over from Camp Atterbury, and bands from other states have taken part."

AND ONE of the most impressive features of the observance has been the guard mount at East Hill Cemetery. Twelve Explorer Scouts will alternate on guard duty from dawn until dusk. Every half hour a cannon will boom a signal for change of the guard. This, like other features of the observance, follows closely the time-honored ritual of Arlington National Cemetery.

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Attired in a patriotic costume, Janet Gayle McCoy sings during the 1960 Memorial Day observance at Morgantown.