



Richard Balzer

Feb. 12, 2020

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting

As you've probably noticed, there are times when we place photographs in the Sullivan Review or on our Facebook page hoping for some identification. Well, as it happens, the photo we included in the Jan. 15th edition was of a band on parade at the monument in Dushore. The first call we got was from Joan Exley of Mildred. Joan was born in 1937 and graduated high school in 1955. But although she wasn't for certain, she guessed that the year was 1954 since

graduation in '55 was before Memorial Day which is what she and us determined the celebration to be. Oh, and did we mention: Joan said she was the majorette in white in the photo! Then the next contact was from Chris Kelley who verified that the year was in fact 1954 and that then the holiday was referred to as "Decoration Day". Many thanks to the both of you for letting us know – yet another mystery solved.

A fascinating background came in to the museum in the form of a WWII uniform jacket and hat. They had belonged to Richard G. Balzer of Millview. Richard was born Mar. 8, 1926 to Harry and Eva Karney Balzer of South Williamsport as the first of three more siblings. He was drafted in Aug. of 1944 at the age of 18 into the U.S. Army Infantry as a Private. One of his jobs was to supply artillery guns at the infamous Battle of the Bulge (Dec. 16, 1944 to Jan, 25, 1945). Richard later contracted rheumatic fever and was transported across the English Channel to hospital facilities. He relayed to his family how sick he'd been during the journey due to his illness and being sea sick. After a medical discharge, he returned to civilian life in South Williamsport, and met and married Mary Lou Pardoe in 1954. They later moved to Millview with their two daughters. Richard passed away on April 9, 2004 at the age of 78.

To Richard and all those who have served: a big Thank You.

For this and more, please contact the museum for an appointment by phoning 570-946-5020 or emailing museum@scpahistory.com or visit our web site at www.scpahistory.com.