

To DeWitt Chapter.
Blue Star Mothers.

From Agnes Steinhardt

Oct 25, 1944

DeWitt Blue Star Mothers were organized
15 years ago and in our Anniversary
Year, 1958, we have this fine old Bible
given us By a Loyal Friend and Wonder
Worker to our fine DeWitt Public
Library.

September 11-1958

DeWitt Blue Star Mothers #9
Florence Magnus
Bernice Moots
Alvina Chungma
Hazel Norris
Fern Thompson
Ma

66 ON CHAPTER NO. 99
BLUE STAR NOTHERS



PAST PRESIDENTS

MERLE WALKER BURNS
ADELLA MOORE
ELIZABETH RICHMOND
EVELYN CURREN
BLANCHE VINCENT
BERTHA LENDENMAN
HELEN KIEBLER
GERTRUDE DAGUE
JUNE LANKFORD
LUCY GEARHART
DESSIE ALZNER
HAZEL NORRIS
ELSA MILTS
FLORENCE MACSIG
BERNICE MOOTS
MARIAN RITTER
GERTRUDE SOLTOW
VERA CORTRIGHT



BLUE STAR MOTHERS

CHAPTER NO. 99

THE COLLECTED PLEASURES OF
EVERYDAY LIFE FADE QUICKLY AWAY
UNLESS THERE IS AT THE HEART OF
THEM THE GLADNESS OF HAVING DONE
SOMETHING THAT HAS MADE SOMEONE
HAPPIER.

*20th Anniversary
of the Blue Star Mothers
10/16 1963*

YR0121H JAC91
M0173J1J03
3411
BOX

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION BOX FILE

PRESIDENT.....FREIDA NICKELS
VICE PRESIDENT.....ELSA FILT
SECRETARY.....FLA BLIZZARD
FINANCIAL SEC.....HAZEL NORRIS
TREASURER.....MARIAN RITTER
PATRIOTIC INSTR.....VERA CORTRIGHT
HISTORIAN.....HELEN KIESLER
CHAFLAIN.....ELIZABETH RICHMOND
HOSPITAL CHR.....DORIS GREENFIELD
REHAB. CHR.....BERNICE MOOTS
AMERICANISM.....NORA CLARK
SUNSHINE.....

OFFICERS DEPT CHAPTER NO. 66

PROGRAM

PRAYER.....REV. DAN KELIN
..DINNER..
WELCOME.....PRES. FREIDA NICKELS
RESPONSE.....HABEL MAIERS
SONG.....AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL...BY ALL
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
STATE AND NATIONAL OFFICERS
PHILIS WASON
INTRODUCTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS
INTRODUCTION OF CHAPTER MEMBERS
FREIDA NICKELS
CHAPTER HISTORY.....HAZEL NORRIS
SONG.....DEWITT HI GLEE CLUB GIRLS
SLIGHT OF HAND.....REV. DAN DALLAS
ADDRESS.....WOODROW ARMSTRONG
DANCE.....WANDA BUTLER STUDIO
REMARKS. TESTING OFFICERS AND CHAPTER
SONG.....BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS
BENEDICTION.....1ST VERSE...BY ALL
.....REV. KELIN

War's tragic miscue Mom's call to action

By JOHN SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

Barbara Peltier's only son, Jimmy, died in Vietnam when he was 19.

It was not a hero's death, but a tragic miscue of war.

"He was killed by one of his own men," said the DeWitt woman in the flat tones of one who has grieved too much. "He was shot. He was driving a truck near Saigon. Somebody didn't have his gun on safety."

Army Pfc. James Peltier arrived in Vietnam on Christmas Day, 1967, and died less than four months later. He received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star and was buried in DeWitt.

LARGELY BECAUSE of Jimmy, the mother spent two days in a sweltering room of Lansing's Plaza Hotel this week, representing DeWitt at the 39th annual state convention of the Blue Star Mothers of America Inc.

"I can't help my own son," she explained, "but maybe I can help somebody else's son."

Peltier was one of about 80 women from 41 chapters across Michigan who, dressed in the white dresses and caps of the organization, attended the convention which included reports from the various chapters, election of officers, a ban-



Barbara Peltier

quet and other activities.

Blue Star Mothers is a national group of women with sons or daughters now or previously in the armed services.

THE CLUB ORIGINATED in Flint in 1942 and spread throughout the U.S. Its members hung white silk widow banners which bore one blue star for each family member in the armed forces. For men and women killed on active duty, the blue stars became gold.

Volunteer efforts of the Blue Star Mothers are directed toward Veter-

ans Administration Hospitals. The Mothers organize fundraisers, collect clothing, books, games, etc., for hospitalized veterans, visit patients and take them on outings and perform a variety of other volunteer services.

Peltier, who has been a Blue Star Mother for about 12 years, is former president of the DeWitt chapter and former co-chairman of the state hospital committee.

She said her membership in the organization has made it "a little easier" to accept her son's death.

"I'VE BEEN TO all the VA hospitals," she said. "I didn't think I could do it, but I made up my mind that I would."

Peltier's husband, A.B. Peltier, is a disabled veteran who was wounded in World War II and spent seven months in a German prison camp.

She has three grandsons. Asked if she would ever try to discourage them from joining the armed forces, she said, "No. I'd let them choose for themselves."

While Peltier said she considers the Vietnam War "a waste," she harbors no bitterness about her son's death.

"Jimmy was called to serve," she said. "They gave him a truck to drive and he was in seventh heaven."