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Just the Facts

Monday, Jan. 24, 1994

Lourdine Osborne, Editor

Susan Comstock, Ad Manager

Miss Hoopeston, Jaycee of year announced

An Illinois State University student will represent Hoopeston during the 1994 National Sweet-corn Festival.

Megan Longfellow, 18, was named Miss Hoopeston at Friday night's annual Distinguished Service Award banquet at the American Legion.

Longfellow, the daughter of Steve and Joan Bane, will serve not only during the festival, but will represent the community at other activities in the spring and summer.

The new Miss Hoopeston is a freshman at ISU, where she plans to major in pediatric nursing. She is employed at Watterson Towers as a desk

assistant.

Jaycee of the Year was also announced at the banquet. This year, the honor went to Don Kaeb, chairman of the 50th anniversary festival last year. Kaeb was honored for his efforts in making the 50th festival successful.

The Distinguished Service Award went to Debbi Lankford. Russ Leigh, the 1993 recipient, presented the award.

This year's festival chairman was also introduced. Cliff Crabtree will head this year's event, which is expected to include new events, including pig races and a petting zoo for children.

Re-enactors provide real flavor to 'Gettysburg' opening

The cannon outside the Lorraine Theatre last weekend was real.

So were the Confederate and Union flags, the guns, the ammunition, the regulation wooden canteen and the woolen uniforms.

In fact, it looked like the Civil War had returned to Hoopeston.

And in a way, it had.

Ten members of the Illinois 35th Regiment re-enactment team arrived in full period costume for the opening of "Gettysburg" at the theater.

Three re-enactors - Eugene Bencomo of Oakwood and Charles Gamm and Robert Roth, both of Marshall - were cast in the movie, which, at 4½ hours, is considerable shorter than the real battle, which occurred July 1-3, 1863.

Bencomo is the regiment's commander, dressed in a captain's uniform. "I'm actually a major, but

I've never worn the major's uniform," he said.

Members of the re-enactment team waited two
See "GETTYSBURG" on other side

Movie gets good reviews

Sittin

"Getty

the Lorraine Theatre this weekend.

And most movie-goers liked what they saw. "It was a great movie," one man said, leaving Saturday's matinee showing.

"I really enjoyed it," added another viewer. Seventy people attended the movie's opening Friday, while 160 attended the Saturday matinee and 132 attended Saturday night.

"Gettysburg" is rated PG. It will be at the theater the rest of this week.

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Gettysburg continued from other side
 years between applying for roles and the finished product.

Bencomo applied in 1991 after reading an ad in the *Camp Chase Gazette*, a national magazine for re-enactors. The men filmed in September 1992 at Gettysburg, Penn. The movie was released by Turner Productions in October 1993.

Bencomo will not forget the experience. "It was fun doing the movie, I'll tell you that," he said. I'd always laugh at those scenes on tv when they'd call for makeup and some little guy would run out and slap the actor with a big powder puff. When we were there and they'd call for makeup, this girl would run out with a big powder puff full of dirt."

Not all the filming was fun, however. One actor had a close call after he accidentally fired a gun at a box of ammunition, Bencomo said. The ammunition went off, catching the actor's beard on fire, he said.

Seeing the movie at the Lorraine was close to what Bencomo experienced on the set. "We couldn't wait for it to come here," he said. "The (sound of) the cannons (in the theater) make your chest hurt. It made me feel like I was back there again."

"Gettysburg" is based on "The Killer Angels," a novel by Michael Shaar. The project was delayed when, in 1988, Shaara died, leading to four

years of court battles over the rights. Two studios turned down the project before Turner Pictures accepted it. According to Bencomo, the movie will eventually become a six-hour mini-series before it is released on video cassette.

Since filming finished, members of the group have gone back to what they did before: take part in re-enactments in Illinois and the country. They also do living history performances at schools and clubs, all on a donations-only basis.

The group includes 27 soldiers, mostly from the Union side, as well as 15 women. Members come from Rankin, Oakwood, Danville, Westville, Paxton and Marshall, as well as Covington and Indianapolis, Ind.

The group stays true to the original regiment, which left Illinois in August 1861 from Camp Butler, Springfield, Bencomo said.

The original regiment was comprised of Vermilion and Champaign county residents. "It was all farm communities that went into that regiment," Bencomo said.

Bencomo spends "as much time as I can" on re-enactments. "I love the Civil War," he said. "I've studied (it) since I was seven years old."

The 25-year employee of the Veterans Administration hospital in Danville said he is looking forward to his retirement. His plans are simple. "I'm going to do a lot more re-enactments," he said. "For months at a time."

Police News

Darren P. Hasselbring, 26, of East Lynn, was arrested by Hoopeston police at 12:47 a.m. Saturday. Hasselbring was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and driving too fast for conditions. He was also arrested on an outstanding county warrant. He was released on bond.

Four Hoopeston boys were arrested at 8:20 p.m. Saturday, charged with illegal consumption of alcohol. **Jeffrey S. Dazey**, 18, 618 W. Main, **Robert J. Herman**, 19, 17260 State Route 9, **Jeremy J. Gaddis**, 17, 1010 E. Thompson, and

Benjamin P. Pyle, 17, 809 W. Penn, were released after posting their driver's licenses.

The Hoopeston fire department was called to a house fire at approximately 2:10 p.m. Sunday at a house owned by David Lackey.

Weather

Morning fog today, then cloudy. High in the low to mid 40s. Tonight, cloudy, chance of fog and drizzle. Low near 40. Tomorrow, light rain possible. High near 45. Low near 36.

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