



**Charles Edward
Barnes**

**Edward "Buddy"
Casinger, Jr.**

**Wallace
Montgomery**

American Legion Post 303

"For God and Country,
We associate ourselves together
For the following purposes:
To uphold and defend
The Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law of order;
To foster and perpetuate
A one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents
Of our association in the Great Wars;
To inculcate service of individual obligation to the
community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy
Of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and good will on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity
The principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy:
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
By our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Born out of a desire to rebuild memories and association beginning in World War I, and in deep national pride and patriotism, a small group of World War I veterans met in early 1945 and began planning the organization of an American Legion Post in Senath.

Out of the Paris Caucus, convened in Paris, France in 1918, at which "ground rules" were laid and formulation of plans for a giant rally and meeting when American Expeditionary Forces returned home, culminated in the St. Louis, Missouri Caucus May 8-10, 1919. At the St. Louis

Caucus, the American Legion was born and the first American Legion Post #214 was chartered December 12, 1919 in Senath with 14 charter members. Post 214 was active for several years and at the time the charter was forfeited several members moved their membership to other posts in the area.

At the first organizational meeting in 1945, the decision to memorialize, in perpetuity, Charles Edward Barnes, Edward "Buddy" Casinger, Jr. and Wallace Montgomery, the three young Navy men who gave their lives in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, gave this Post its name: Barnes-Casinger-Montgomery.

Barnes-Casinger-Montgomery Post 303 was chartered April 4, 1945 with 46 charter members on the application, six of whom survive at this writing: Carlos Jackson, Joe C. Browning, Carl "Lightening" Wilkins, Lindell Holsten, James "Jim" Davis and George W. Jackson.

Lyle Richmond, Sr., was elected Commander at the first organizational meeting and was elected to succeed himself the following year, the first of only two Commanders to succeed himself in the history of the Post.

Much happened in the first year of the Post. The American Legion Dunklin County Fair was organized and held on the high school grounds in Senath. All exhibits were shown in rented tents. The fair continued for several years and with the corporate effort of the total membership, it prospered financially.

In 1946, the Post bought 40 acres of land 1/2 mile East of Senath, with approximately 15 acres reserved for the fair grounds, and the remainder rented as farm land. The purchase was financed largely by non-interest notes