

## Where Are They Now...

### **Jesse and Etta Ruth Heird Lifetime Members at the Hampstead American Legion Post 200**



Recently three American Legion Auxiliary members spent a very interesting evening with Jesse and Etta Ruth Heird. The couple are both members of our Hampstead American Legion family. In fact, Etta Ruth is one of the original 38 Charter members of Unit 200. They were married on August 19, 1949 and have had a fascinating life. Jesse, originally from Manchester began a career raising turkeys. Etta Ruth Buchman was raised on a farm off St. Paul and Houcksville Roads in Hampstead. Together they decided to continue raising turkeys on Etta Ruth's family farm. The business was very successful and Jesse mentioned many a trip to Baltimore to sell their turkeys. He told us about one specific client who wanted their turkeys wrapped in

brown paper bags when delivered because she wanted the turkeys “disguised” to pass for chicken. The reason being was that chicken cost more to sell and when served would bring a higher price on the menu. Jesse also talked about donating turkeys to Wesley United Methodist Church and to the American Legion for many dinners over the years.

Etta Ruth worked at the original Hampstead Bank before starting their family and mentioned a good friendship with another recently interviewed member, Mazie Rohrbaugh. The couple have two sons, Jesse and Steve. Jesse is an airline pilot and Steve is a vascular surgeon who has three sons and a daughter. We found out that flying airplanes must have run in the family because Jesse senior, Steve and Etta Ruth have all flown airplanes. Etta Ruth said she wasn't that wild about it but it really isn't that hard. They owned a plane for years and took many a trip. In fact, the couple traveled extensively all over the world. They have been to Ireland, Africa, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and Germany. They have also visited Alaska, the Panama Canal and have taken many cruises. Years ago they spent many enjoyable winters in a house they owned in Ft. Myers, Florida where they talked about playing tennis with friends. They were also snow skiing enthusiasts and skied in Vermont, Idaho, and Colorado. The Heirds opened their home to exchange students from Sri Lanka and Ireland and still keep in touch.

The Heirds are lifetime members of the American Legion and remember days where they helped chaperon dances at the teen center on Main Street in Hampstead. We asked why they joined the American Legion and they both responded similarly to many people of the WWII generation. Their friends joined, so they joined. It was a unified generation. As we got ready to leave it is no wonder that Jesse, 89 and Etta Ruth, 86 look so wonderful for their age....they haven't had time to grow old!