Special recognition should be given to Past District Governor LeRoy Strye, Lion Austin Smith, and State Secretary Shafec Monsour for their determined effort to help organize the club.

It is interesting to note that at the present time, December, 1975, there are 42 Lion members. Of the original Charter Members, 11 are still members, 3 are deceased, 7 have moved, and 4 have resigned.

CLEVELAND V.F.W. POST 8974

An organization meeting was held November 22, 1946 at the Cleveland Firehouse. Alvin Droll was elected temporary chairman and Roger Jost temporary adjutant and quartermaster. The Post was instituted January 27, 1947 by Henry Wirtz and Otto Zube of the Sheboygan Post. There were twenty-two charter members. Wallace Pippert was elected First Commander. Meetings were held at the Firehouse, Tourist Inn, Wimmlers, Cedar Lodge, Pigeon Lake, Drolls, and Schurrer's Tavern. The official V.F.W. Rifle Squad was organized to participate and conduct funerals with Gordon Wagner as the first Squad Leader.

In 1948 the first picnic was held and the first bowling team sponsored. A building fund was begun and the first membership drive was held.

On July 4th, 1949, the dedication of the flag pole and Memorial Park took place. Picnic stands were constructed. The Post began selling poppies for Poppy Day. In March a 99 year lease was obtained from the Centerville Park Board for land on which to construct a clubhouse. Plans and bids were obtained and accepted as presented to the Post.

In 1950 several hospital beds were procured for community use. The first poultry party was held in September. At this time the post authorized the organization of the Ladies Auxiliary with the Post furnishing the charter fee. The first children's Christmas party was held, the Post paying the expenses, the Auxiliary organizing the party.

In 1951 the first joint installation of officers of Post and Auxiliary was held, and has been as such ever since. In August, several wheelchairs were purchased for community use. It was decided also to purchase flags for any school in the community or surrounding area in need of a flag. All members were blood typed in November, making blood available to all people in the community and surrounding areas. Howard Vogel became Rifle Squad Leader this year.

In 1952 the Post seal was purchased and past commanders were presented with a Past Commander pin.

By this time several buildings in the village had been considered for a clubhouse, but to no avail. In March of 1954 the build-
ing committee was authorized to proceed with actual construction of the clubhouse. Many members and people in the community contributed much time and effort in the construction, with many Saturdays proclaimed V.F.W. building days, all members being asked to help.

In April, 1955, Arthur Schurrer was elected Commander. By this time, the clubhouse was well underway. The auxiliary decided to donate all the kitchen facilities. Gravestone flags were purchased for placement on the veterans' graves for Memorial Day each year. Howard Vogel was elected Eighth District Commander. The first flag was secured in April of 1955 for the Post. Dedication of the clubhouse took place May 29, 1955 with a flagpole service. Gold Star mothers were the guests.

In May of 1955 Leo Noel became Commander. Kohler Company donated all the fixtures inside the clubhouse. The bar was donated by several members. A house committee was elected. Folding chairs were purchased, and twenty-four card tables were received free by selling advertising spaces. Picnics were discontinued in 1956, and it was decided to hold a Memorial Day dinner instead.

Warren Buechel was elected Commander in 1956; Howard Vogel was elected State Junior Vice Commander.

Eugene Dassler was elected Commander in 1957, and in 1958 Wallace Pippert was elected. Drapes for the clubhouse were donated by the Gold Star mothers. A testimonial dinner was sponsored by the Post at Tourist Inn for State Commander Howard Vogel for all the help he gave the Cleveland V.F.W. and many other posts throughout the State.

Robert Lorfeld was elected Commander in 1959, Lionel Bushey in 1960, Jerry Leonhard in 1961 and 1962, Melvin Wesener in 1963, Al Hardrath in 1964, Warren Heckmann, 1964 and 1965, and Ralph Jost in 1966. During these years a baseball team was sponsored, grave markers for sons of Gold Star mothers were purchased, a Lite-a-Bike program held, and flags displayed in the village on holidays were purchased by the V.F.W.

On Saturday, January 28, 1967, the V.F.W. celebrated its 20th anniversary at the V.F.W. Clubhouse. Eighteen of the original charter members were present. Speaker for the occasion was Assemblyman and Department of Wisconsin V.F.W. Judge Advocate Harold Froehlich of Appleton.

Clem Hartlaub served as Commander in 1967 and 1968. The Post voted to sponsor a Boy Scout troop, furnishing them with a flag. Flags were also furnished for the new Cleveland Elementary School. All past Commanders and World War I veterans were honored in November.

Elected Commander in 1969 was Ellsworth Schuette. The Blood Bank was started. Gerald Leonhard became Rifle Squad Leader. Ellsworth Schuette received the honor of being elected All State Post
Commander. A Hunter's Safety Course was organized and the Lite-a-Bike program held. Mr. Schuette was re-elected in 1970. A big project this year was the new kitchen. Two U.S. flags were donated to the Village for the sewer and water plant flag poles.

In 1971 Allan Cornell was elected Post Commander. Hugo Vandeske was honored for his many years as Post Quartermaster. The first senior citizen organization meeting, sponsored by the Post, was held on November 29, 1971.

Elected as Post Commander in 1972 was Cletus Wagner. In May, Gerald Leonhard was elected Eighth District Commander. The Post Clubhouse exterior was painted and air vents installed. The 25th anniversary celebration was held October 28th. Past Department Commander Vogel was appointed special aid de camp to National Commander in Chief Vicitis.

Allen Hansen was elected Post Commander in 1973. V.F.W. grave markers were purchased for all deceased members and a flag was given to St. Casimir's. Past Department Commander Vogel was appointed Chairman of the Wisconsin Veterans Committee and Luchinger Memorial Committee and a member of the National Publicity Committee.

Edmund Schmitt was elected Commander in 1974. Memorial services were conducted as in every other year at the four cemeteries. New flags were purchased for the village. A cub scout troop will be sponsored.

Elected Commander in 1975 was Bernard Shesta. Flags and staffs for re-sale commemorating the Bicentennial were purchased with all profits being designated to purchase additional new flags and promoting patriotism in the community. The V.F.W. Bi-Centennial Week set for April 24 – May 1, 1976, was observed by the Cleveland V.F.W. Post on April 25th with a brat fry, military displays, and a military service at the V.F.W. Clubhouse.