

COLFAX COBBLESTONES

April 2025

Issue 37.1

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April 5 Presentation: The Colfax Fireballs – Decades of Fast-pitch Softball

Join us Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 4 p.m. for stories, photos, memorabilia, and a film about the Colfax Fireballs, a baseball team that represented Colfax, California, from 1947-1993.



The Colfax Fireballs's fans turned out for the 1982 ASA (Amateur Softball Association) state tournament held at the Colfax Living War Memorial Park.

Mike Ray, former sports editor of the *Grass Valley Union* and the *Colfax Record*, will display memorabilia and tell stories about the Colfax Fireballs. The team began as a hardball team in 1947 and switched to fast-pitch softball in 1956. The Fireballs competed against teams from Reno, Tahoe City, Grass Valley, Santa Rosa, Chico, Monterey, Pacific Grove, and other Northern California cities.

Beginning in 1966, the Colfax Fireballs hosted an annual fast-pitch tournament that continued until 2014. It began small, as part of a Recreation Day sponsored by the Colfax Recreation Department, which included activities at the swimming pool, games, softball, and a Saturday night dance.

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 4 p.m.

Colfax Passenger Depot
99 Railroad Street, Colfax, California

There is no charge to attend
Everyone is welcome

The annual tournament began on Thursday or Friday and continued through Sunday. Over the years the number of teams in the tournament ranged from four to as many as 22.

For more photos and details about the Colfax Fireballs visit our Facebook page or our website.

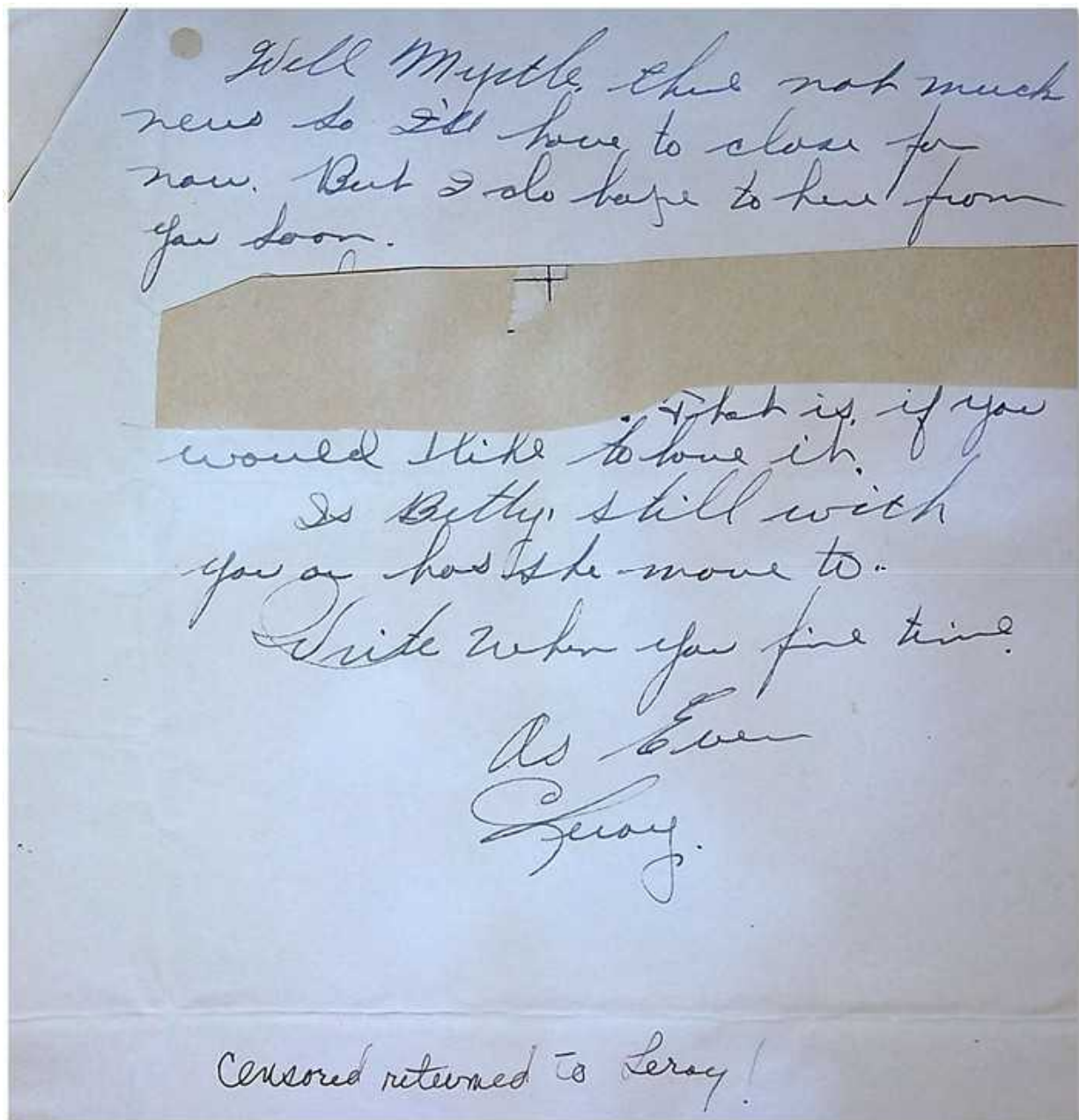
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Myrtle Findley's Collection of Letters from Servicemen during World War II

One of the interesting collections of documents in the Archives Room of the historical society is a scrapbook donated by Myrtle Finley, one of the charter members of the Colfax Area Historical Society. During World War II, Myrtle wrote letters to U. S. servicemen throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. The scrapbook contains letters that she received from them in 1943 and 1944.

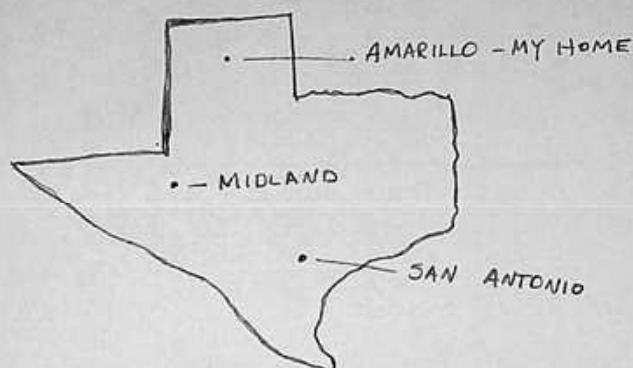
The following letter, written April 5, 1943, from Leroy in North Africa had been censored with scissors or a knife (only the second page is shown here). This seems to be the same Leroy who sent Myrtle a postcard from a German prisoner-of-war camp 18 months later, on October 4, 1944. That postcard is shown on page 6.



The writers shared with Myrtle the kinds of details that people wrote to friends and family – news about their training and their plans.

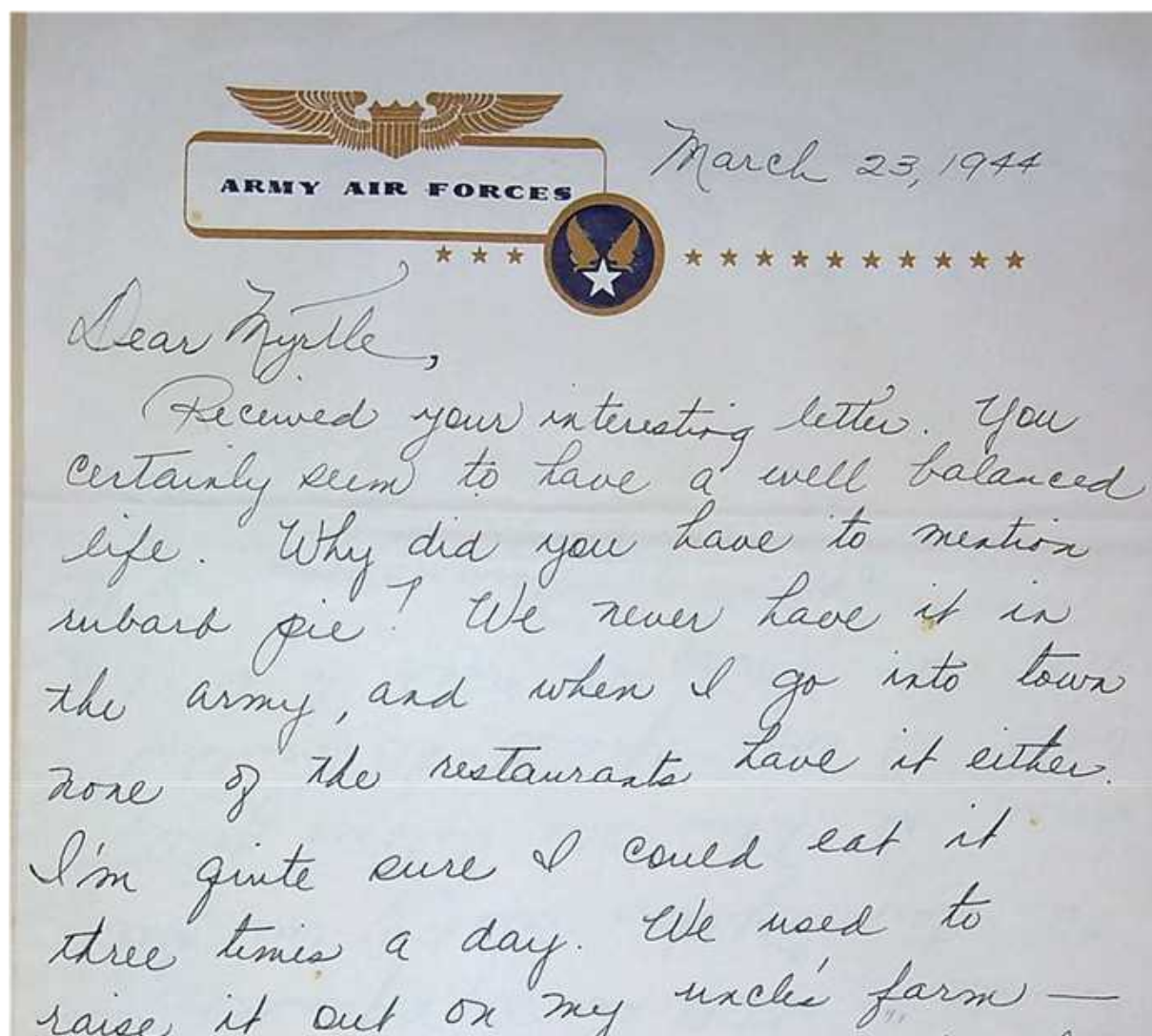
Dear Myrtle,

Yours received. I am now in Advanced Bombardier School here in Midland, Texas. In case you don't know where Midland is:



It is about 300 miles from here to Amarillo but I will not be able to get home all during my stay here as they will not give us any passes. My stay here will be about 20 weeks and at which time I hope to graduate and get my wings. I may get a furlough then, and I hope I do. I have a sister who is married living only 100 miles from here. It is only a 3 hour drive and I expect to visit them on their farm quite often during my stay here.

Some letters were written on letterheads from the service branches, military camps, training centers, hospitals, medical centers, and the Red Cross. Others are written on blank paper. The following writer told Myrtle how much he missed rhubarb pie, which she had mentioned in a letter she had written to him. He said that his family had raised rhubarb on his uncle's farm, and he told her he could eat rhubarb pie three times a day if it was available.



You can view high resolution copies of these and other letters that Myrtle received by visiting our website, colfaxhistory.org.

Myrtle was one of the 41 charter members of the Colfax Area Historical Society. She served as president from 1997-1999 and again from 2006-2008. She and Gertrude Paul (1918-2017) worked together to have historical markers installed on Main Street and other locations. For decades Myrtle served throughout the community. She was involved with the beautification of downtown Colfax, served on the city's Design Review Board, was chair of the Colfax Garden Club, and was a landscape and design consultant for the Garden Clubs of America. She was a member, officer, and trustee of the United Methodist Church. In 2001, the City of Colfax appointed a Depot Project Management Committee, with two CAHS members serving. Jim Wood was Chairman, and Myrtle Findley was vice chairman. The restored Passenger Depot is now the site of the Colfax Heritage Museum.

Please support the local businesses and organizations that support CAHS

The following local businesses and organizations are members of the Colfax Area Historical Society, and we appreciate their support. We ask you to support them.

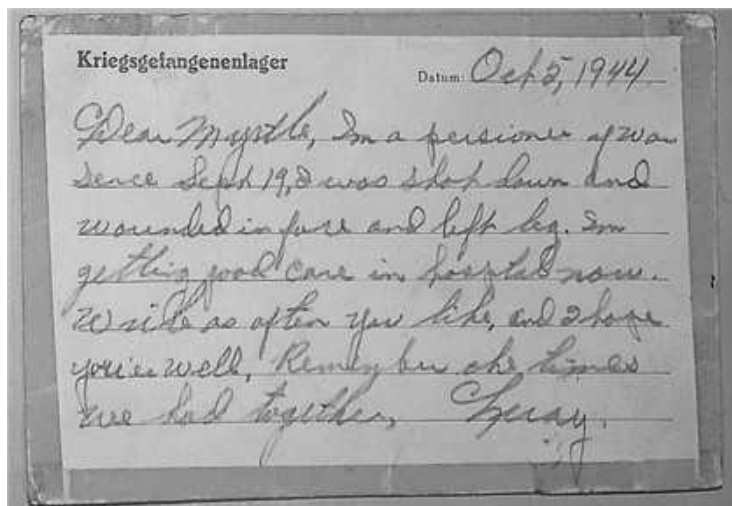
American Legion Colfax Post 192 P.O. Box 311 Colfax, CA 95713	Colfax Dental Center 120 Whitcomb Avenue Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-6244	Colfax Garden Club P.O. Box 1801 Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-6215
Colfax General Store 6 North Main St. Colfax, CA 95713 rklobner@colfaxnet.com	Colfax Lions Club P.O. Box 664 Colfax, CA 95713 facebook.com/ColfaxCALionsClub/	Grace Hubley Foundation 24820 Ben Taylor Colfax, CA 95713 gracehubleyfoundation.org
Kurtis H. Fox, M.D., Inc. 101 Grass Valley St. Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-2281	Sierra Business Services 520 South Auburn St, #D Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-2455 barbkelly@foothill.net	Sierra Mountain Internet Providing internet service to the Colfax Heritage Museum, businesses, and residences throughout the area. (530) 389-5550 • Service@MySierra.org https://sierramountaininternet.com
Sierra Vista Community Center 55 School Street Colfax, CA 95713 (530) 346-8726 svcc@colfaxnet.org	VFW Auxiliary Post 2003 P.O. Box 1213, Colfax, CA 95713 President: (530) 636-4242	

<p>To join the Colfax Area Historical Society, fill out this form and mail it with a check to: CAHS, PO Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713 . Your subscription will begin with the next quarterly issue.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>Phone _____ Email _____</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual membership (one person)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family membership (including children)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Business or Non-Profit Organization membership (includes an ad in each issue of <i>Colfax Cobblestones</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Receive the newsletter by email. We will send a copy of each newsletter to your email instead of mailing you a copy.</p>
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Current Executive Board Officers

President: Kim Douglass
Vice President: Irene Allen
Recording Secretary : Joann Geist
Outreach Coordinator : Nancy Hagman
Treasurer: Barbara Kelly
Archives Director : Roger Staab

Museum Director : Ric Nepil
Colfax Cobblestones Newsletter Editor : Dirk Gifford
Membership Chair: Chris Miller
Member-at-Large: Swend Miller
Member-at-Large: Mike Dalton
Immediate past president : Dirk Gifford



Inside: Letters from servicemen to Myrtle Findley during World War II. This postcard was written by an American in a German prisoner-of-war camp – a *Kriegsgefangenenlager*. The writer, Leroy, may be the same Leroy who wrote the letter to Myrtle shown on page 2, in April 1943, which was written 18 months before he became a prisoner of war.

The collection of letters, written in 1943 and 1944, were kept in a scrapbook by Myrtle Findley, which she donated to the Colfax Area Historical Society.

The scrapbook is available to peruse in the Archives Room of the historical society.



The Colfax Area Historical Society

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Colfax CA 95713

Phone: (530) 346-8599

Email: museum.colfax@gmail.com

USPS mail: Mail for both the Colfax Heritage Museum and the Colfax Area Historical Society is received at PO Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713.

Museum location: The Colfax Heritage Museum is physically located at 99 Railroad St, Colfax, California, in the restored Passenger Depot.