



NICE TO KNOW

The word "epilepsy" comes from the Greek word for "seizure." Epilepsy is actually an umbrella term covering about 20 different types of seizure disorders.

Cell phone pictures can help find missing children

Dear Abby, B4



Author tells Berthoud family's WWII story

Eric Jensen's new book, "Forever and a Day," is based on an incredible 1,200 letters written by family members during World War II, supplemented by interviews with veterans.

Jensen, with 26 years of teaching language, art and history in the Jefferson County school system, focuses on three major elements in his book.

First, there was home front when the five Jensen brothers, his father and four uncles, were off to locations in the United States for training.

The second element was how his father and uncles were then shipped out to far-reaching places to join the struggle for freedom. This included Europe, Alaska and the war in the Pacific.

The last element was their re-



Ken Jensen
Thompson
Tales



Special to the Reporter-Herald/KENETH JESSEN

Eric Jensen signs copies of his new book, "Forever and a Day," a World War II odyssey covering the effect of the war on an American family.

turn to the business of making a living and trying to forget the horrors they had witnessed.

Jensen was driven to write this book by his desire to know more about what happened to his

farm-based family and how the war changed their lives.

His book communicates a personal look at war, but also serves

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COURTESY OF THE LITTLE THOMPSON PIONEER MUSEUM

Workers harvest sugar beets on the Jensen farm in about 1918.



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JENSEN: Book sets stage in WWII

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as a legacy for future generations. Jensen, using his extensive educational background, sets the stage putting each and every battle into its historical context. He provides background information to allow the reader to understand the significance of each struggle his family went through.

In gathering the massive amount of data, he needed to fill in some of the blanks by interviewing veterans outside of his family.

He recalls vividly how one man in Oregon started taking about World War II in the third person, describing the events he saw personally. As the interview progressed, he slowly changed to the first person, reliving his own experiences.

Jensen's family roots are firmly planted in the Berthoud area. His grandfather, James Jensen Sr., emigrated from the southern region of Denmark to the United States in the 1890s.

His grandfather took up a lease on 160 acres growing corn, alfalfa and during the winter, raising sheep. They eventually purchased their own land.

After the construction of sugar factories starting in 1901 with the Loveland facility, sugar beets became the cash crop for the Jensen family.

In 1940, just as the United States was entering the war, foreclosure procedures forced the Jensen family off of their farm. The sons went off to war, so typical of most farm families in the United States.

George Jensen, Eric's father, was shipped to Alaska to serve in the Army Signal Corps. His job was to provide vital telephone and radio communication for the

three major projects in Alaska and Canada. Fear that the Japanese would invade the United States via this area became real when Japan occupied several Aleutian Islands.

Possibly the most famous project was the construction of the Alaska Military Road. This 1,420-mile road passed through forbidding country with sub-zero winter temperatures and clouds of mosquitoes during the summer.

The Canadian Oil Project was vital to the military success of the United States with the construction a pipeline to bring petroleum south to fuel the war effort.

Airfield construction was another project where Jensen's father played a role in keeping vital communication channels open.

One of Eric Jensen's uncles served in the Philippines and New Guinea. Another uncle was on the USS Belau Wood in the Pacific, and while on active duty, this aircraft carrier was attacked by kamikaze aircraft.

To enhance the details of the war, Jensen uses direct quotes from his family and the men who fought. Bob Jensen wrote in March 1945, "...we have been working almost twenty-four hours a day. It was worth it ... because we sure gave them a real hot foot ... The B-29s left Tokyo burning like a forest fire."

This \$22.95 book is available at area bookstore, and for more information, go to www.ForeverandaDayBook.com.

Kenneth Jessen has been a Loveland resident since 1965. He is an author of 12 books and more than 1,000 articles. He was an engineer for Hewlett-Packard for 33 years and now works as a full-time author, lecturer and guide.