

Robert Eugene "Bob" Smeltzer, son of Robert Daniel "Camp" (1886-1959) and Maude (Yost) (1888-1965) Smeltzer, was born 9 July 1913, Indiana Harbor, East Chicago, Indiana. Bob was twin to a brother, Donald Camp "Don Smeltzer."

*The Times (Munster, Indiana) Wednesday 9 July 1913*

## INDIANA HARBOR

Here is an item worth chronicling. Twin boys put in an appearance this morning at the home of

*News Journal, Sunday, April 20, 1930*

Mr. and Mrs. Camp Smeltzer in Parrish avenue. Mr. and Mrs.

### Here's Real "Full House" Of Mansfield's Boy Scouts



What you would call a "full house" of boy scouts is located at 100 Marion-av.

For in Camp Smeltzer's family there are four registered scouts, which is an enviable record for any family to have.

Standing, left to right, is Frank tenderfoot, aged 17; Bob and Don, twins, aged 16, second class scouts; lower, Camp Smeltzer, the father, and Vernon, tenderfoot, aged 14.

The boys were formerly members of Troop 9, but were transferred to Troop No. 6.

### ALFRED W. DARLING SUCCUMBS SATURDAY

Alfred Wellington Darling aged 66 years died at his home near Perrysville, Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. Mr. Darling had been in

Smeltzer already have one son, aged 16 months and this sudden increase in little Smeltzers quite took the breath away from the proud and happy father. Mrs. Smeltzer and the twins are doing nicely. Bob was always greatly interested and came up through the ranks in the Boy Scouts and while in college lead a local Ingham County troop.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Tuesday 3 May 1938*

The next stop was at Milan, O., where the birthplace of Thomas A. Edison was visited. The troop was entertained in Mansfield by Troop No. 6, home troop to Robert E. Smeltzer, who is a junior student at Michigan State college.

Bob grew up in the Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio area. After graduating from Mansfield High School he furthered his education at Michigan State College, East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, graduating in 1940.

*New-Journal (Mansfield, Ohio) Friday 14 June 1940*

## GETS DEGREE

Robert Smeltzer, 331 West Fourth street, was graduated from Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., with a degree of Bachelor of Science, during commencement exercises held Monday.

Smeltzer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Camp

Smeltzer and was graduated from Senior high School. His parents attended the commencement exercises.

From 1941 through 1946 Bob served in the US Army as a "special service officer," and R.O.T.C. instructor. Sometime during 1941 Bob married Miss Carol Marguerite Root. Carol, a native Californian, was born 26 September 1922.

*News-Journal (Mansfield, Ohio) Wednesday 12 May 1943*

Lieut. Robert Smeltzer, home from Camp Roberts, Cal., planning to leave soon for Lansing, Mich., where he will take up his duties as an instructor in the R.O.T.C. at Michigan State college.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 28 October 1943*

East Lansing, - Lieut. Robert Smeltzer, special service officer for the army specialized training program at Michigan State college, announced today that a recreation room and study hall will be set up in the ballroom of Demonstration hall to meet recreation needs of the ASP soldiers. There is no service club or USO in East Lansing.

After honorable discharge from the military Bob taught school in the Lansing area. During the summer of 1948 Bob was hired to teach science at Okemos High School and 8th grade math.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 22 July 1948*

Robert Smeltzer has been secured to teach the sciences and eighth grade arithmetic. He has his Bachelor's degree from Michigan state college. Last year he taught at Breckenridge.

Also in 1948 Bob again took up scouting and became the new Scoutmaster of an Okemos troop.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Friday 19 November 1948*

John Grugel, district commissioner, presented the certificate of neighborhood commissioner to William T. Cromley of Williamston, and Harold E. Woodin, field executive, introduced Robert E. Smeltzer as the new Scoutmaster of Okemos Troop 64.

In 1949 Bob and Carol added a fourth son to their family.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Wednesday 10 August 1949*

On Friday afternoon a son, Allen Wayne, was born to the Robert Smeltzers at the St. Lawrence hospital. The father is science teacher in the Okemos high school.



Then....

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Tuesday 27 June 1950

## BOY SCOUT SAVES LIFE OF LEADER

**Area Scout  
Is Honored**

**Gerry Rozan of Okemos  
To Receive Medal  
For Lifesaving**

An Okemos Boy Scout who rescued his stricken Scoutmaster after the latter had injured himself while swimming in a gravel pit will be awarded a citation for meritorious action by the national council of the Boy Scouts of America, it was revealed Thursday. The presentation will be made to Gerry Rozan of Troop 64 in Okemos at the regular meeting Thursday evening of Lodge No. 525, F. and A. M., which sponsors the Okemos troop.

The youth is credited with rescuing Robert Smeltzer, then master of the troop, on June 26, 1950 while the troop was swimming in a gravel pit south of Okemos.

Smeltzer had dived into the water and struck his head on a rock, paralyzing himself from the waist down, when the Rozan youth jumped into the water and towed his leader to the bank.

The youth then covered the unconscious Smeltzer with a blanket and ran a mile to the nearest house, finally flagging down a car whose driver assisted him in summoning a physician.

A copy of the citation will be presented to the sponsoring institution and the certificate of merit to young Rozan by Clarence A. Neitz, local executive for the Chief Okemos council.

Gerry is the son of Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Rozan, 4702 Woodcraft rd., Okemos.



**Rozan**

The quick thinking of a Lansing doctor's son was credited Tuesday with saving the life of the youth's Scoutmaster after the Scout leader suffered a broken neck in a swimming accident.

Apparently recover, but in only "fair" condition at Edward W. Sparrow hospital was Robert Smeltzer, 36, a science teacher at Okemos high school and master of the Scout troop.

Smeltzer, in charge of a troop of Scouts enjoying an outing Monday at a gravel pit at Okemos rd. near Cavanaugh rd., dived into what he thought was 12 feet of water, but struck his head either on a stone or the pit bottom.

The blow paralyzed Smeltzer and he floated to the surface of the pond, his lungs full of water.

### DIVE INTO WATER

Garry {*incorrect spelling*} Rozan, 15-year-old son of Dr. Josef Rozan, Lansing physician, dived into the water and, with the aid of Smeltzer's wife, carefully lifted Smeltzer from the water. The youth then stood guard over Smeltzer and would not let anyone touch him until Dr. Rozan arrived and assisted in reviving the stricken man.

Dr. W. O. Badgley was assisting Dr. Rozan Tuesday in caring for Smeltzer, who still was paralyzed from the neck down but apparently recovering.

"The quick thinking of Garry in getting the man out of the water and then cautioning others not to move him definitely saved his life," Dr. Badgley said. "Mrs. Smeltzer said she couldn't have gotten her husband out of the water alone. And if he had been moved at all, it quite possibly could have proved fatal."

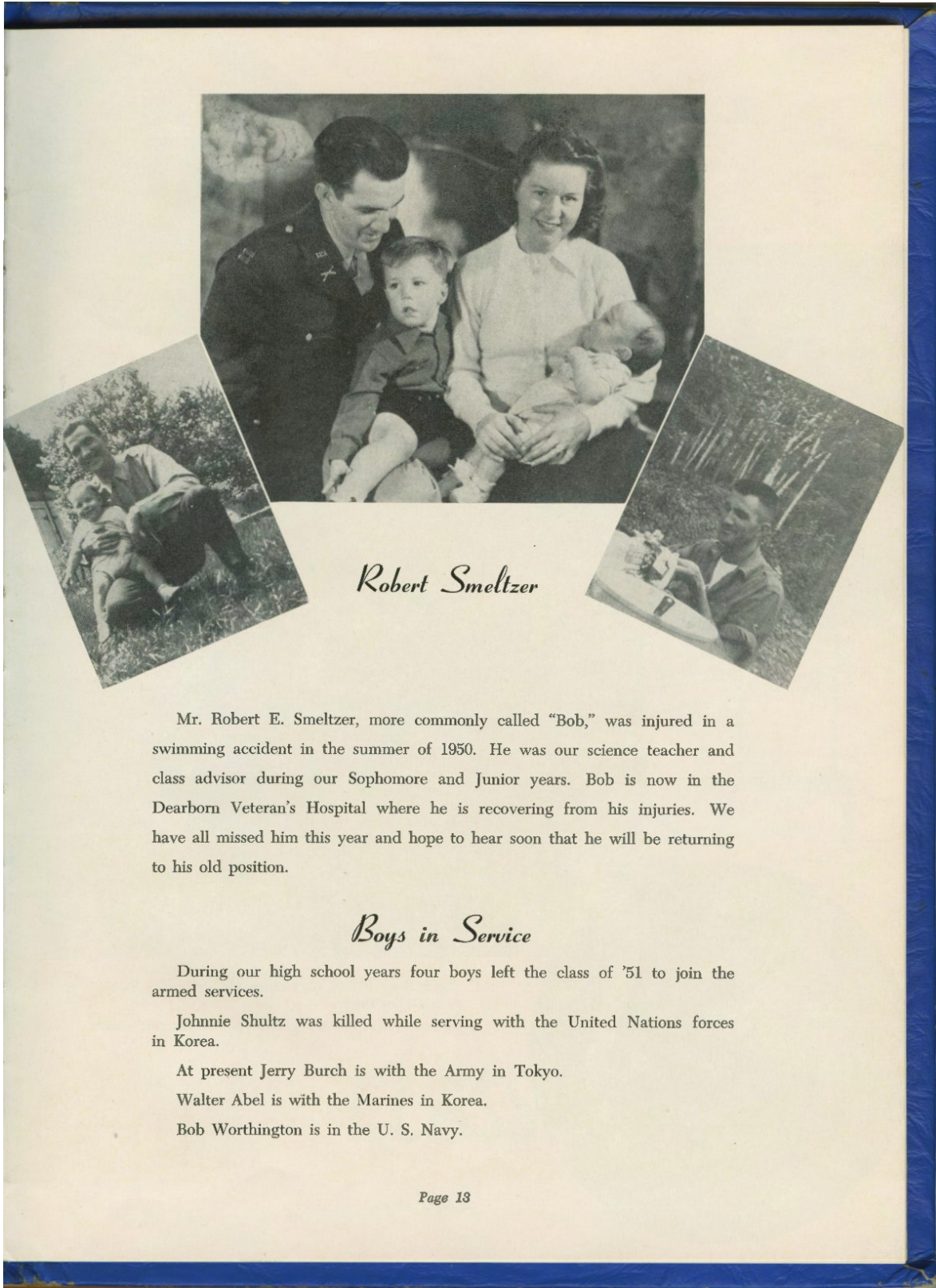
Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Friday 29  
September 1950

## OKEMOS SCHOOL TEACHER IS CONVALESCING

Okemos, Sept. 29 - Robert Smeltzer, Okemos school teacher, who fractured his back, while diving in June and who has been at the Sparrow hospital since then, was brought to his home for a two-day visit over the last week-end. Preparations are being completed for his entrance in a

veterans' hospital for further corrective work. His cast was removed recently and he can now be in a wheel chair for a short time. Mrs. Smeltzer and their four small sons are at their home on Dobie rd.

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*Robert Smeltzer*

Mr. Robert E. Smeltzer, more commonly called "Bob," was injured in a swimming accident in the summer of 1950. He was our science teacher and class advisor during our Sophomore and Junior years. Bob is now in the Dearborn Veteran's Hospital where he is recovering from his injuries. We have all missed him this year and hope to hear soon that he will be returning to his old position.

### *Boys in Service*

During our high school years four boys left the class of '51 to join the armed services.

Johnnie Shultz was killed while serving with the United Nations forces in Korea.

At present Jerry Burch is with the Army in Tokyo.

Walter Abel is with the Marines in Korea.

Bob Worthington is in the U. S. Navy.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Tuesday 19 December 1950

### **TAKEN TO VETS' HOSPITAL**

Okemos, Dec. 19 - Robert Smeltzer, high school teacher in science, who broke his back in a diving accident last June and who has been in the Sparrow hospital since then, was entered in the veterans administration hospital at Dearborn last Wednesday. He will be given further treatment there in the paraplegic department. Rev. David Evans accompanied him on the trip. Mrs. Smeltzer and their four little sons live on Dobie rd., where the Smeltzers are buying a home. His present address is Room 317C3.

News-Journal (Mansfield, Ohio) Wednesday 20 December 1950

Robert Smeltzer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Camp Smeltzer, 2471/2 West Third St., being transferred to the Veterans' hospital in Dearborn, Mich. He was injured in an accident last June and is paralyzed from the waist down. His address is Ward 3-C, Room 317, Dearborn Veterans' hospital Dearborn, Mich.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Tuesday 28 August 1951

The Robert Smeltzer family are vacationing at a Traverse City area lake. Mr. Smeltzer, an Okemos school teacher, who broke his back a year ago in June, is at home in a wheel chair.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Wednesday 14 May 1952

### **CONTINUES FRACTURED BACK TREATMENT AT HOSPITAL**

Okemos, May 14 - Robert Smeltzer, high school teacher who has been invalided for two years with a fractured back and its attendant disabilities, has been received at the Hines Veterans [Illinois] hospital to begin further treatment. The family last week sold their farm home on Dobie road and moved to their home on Mt. Hope rd., where Mrs. Smeltzer and the four little boys will now live.

The family decided to move to California.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Wednesday 3 June 1953

### **RECEPTION PLANNED FOR OKEMOS FAMILY**

Okemos, June 3 - A farewell reception for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smeltzer and four sons will be held Sunday, June 7, at 8 p.m. in the Okemos Community church parlors. Mr. Smeltzer was formerly an instructor in the Okemos high school and very active in Scout work until an accident three years ago caused a spinal injury, making him an invalid since.

According to the San Luis, Obispo County, California City Directory of 1954, Robert E. (Carol R.) Smeltzer was listed as a public school teacher.

**Bob died 11 February 1989, San Luis, Obispo County.**

Carol, who had a lovely singing voice, was mentioned numerous times in the Lansing State Journal newspaper from 1941-1953. She sang solos and in choirs in the Lansing area. The "four



little boys" mentioned in news articles were Robert Eldon, Paul, Glen and Allen Wayne. Carol died 22 May 2012, Obispo County. Bob and Carol were interred Pasco Robles District Cemetery, San Luis.

*Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home, Paco Robles, CA*

Why are the angels singing? Because they have a new choir member. Carol Root Smeltzer joined the heavenly choir on May 22, 2012, having sung God's praises her entire life. Born September 26, 1922, she spent most of her life in the Paso Robles area where she grew up, raised a family of four boys, taught in the Paso Robles public schools, worshipped and led music in the Methodist churches, gardened, and wrote poetry and prose.

A fourth generation Paso Roblan, Carol is known by many in the community as an author of local historical fiction. Others may remember her as their elementary school teacher or as a school board member. She thoroughly enjoyed the honor of serving as Pioneer Day Queen in 2010.

Her deepest and most enduring passions were her Christian faith and her family. A member of the church since age 9, Carol spent the rest of her life nurturing her faith and fostering her relationship with God. Second only to her faith was her family, whom she graced with a deep and abiding love.

Carol was preceded in death by her husband Robert and her son Eldon. She is survived by her sister Marilyn Moe, three sons and their wives Paul D. Smeltzer (Karen), Glen S. Smeltzer (Sandy), and Allen W. Root (Sarah), nine grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Carol's life will be held at the Atascadero United Methodist Church, 11605 El Camino Real, on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers Carol has asked that memorial gifts be given to the Atascadero UMC, Loaves and Fishes of Paso Robles, or the SLO Botanical Gardens.