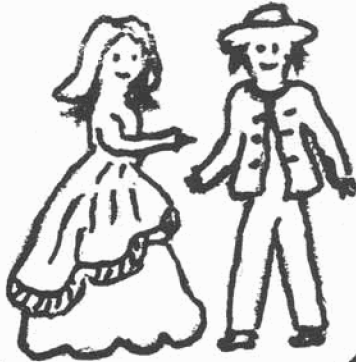


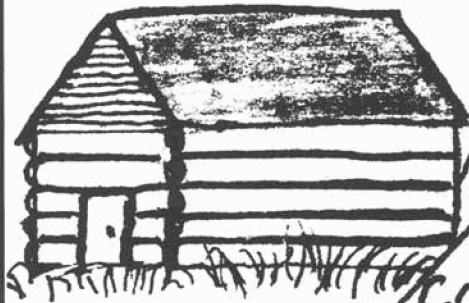
Families

"OUR HERITAGE WE PRIZE"

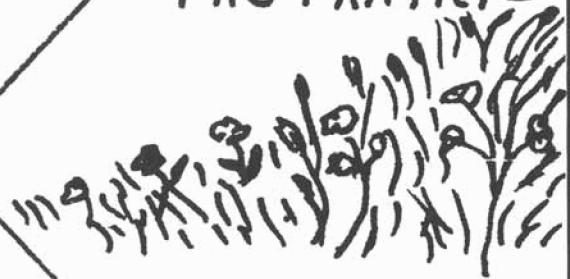
THE PIONEER



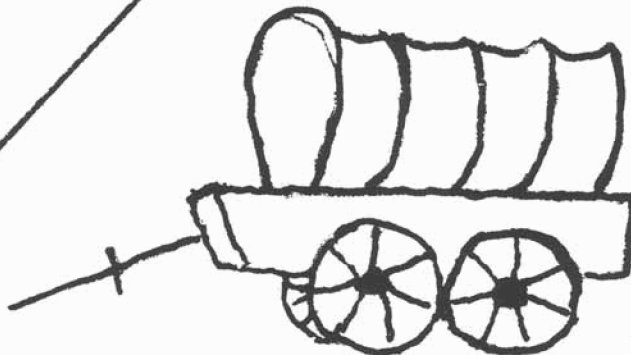
THE LOG CABIN



THE PRAIRIE



THE
COVERED WAGON



submitted by Lucinda Stratton

Lemuel Potter, along with Truman Robison and August Fallgatter, founded the town of Elma. Because of this, their family histories will be first in our history book.

Potter Family

The early pioneer, Lemuel Potter, and his wife, Honoria Dinsmore, moved to Iowa from North Conway, New Hampshire, in 1854 by rail to the "end of the line," where they purchased oxen and wagon and drove on 200 miles. They homesteaded on an Indian Reservation the government had opened up near McGregor. Their first three children died before they left New Hampshire. Of their other eight, only four survived, Henrietta, Nora, Everett and Elma. Lemuel had a store in McGregor which burned the night Nora was born. When she was 10 days old, the family moved by ox team and wagon to Howard County and built a home—a log cabin. They had to drive an ox team to McGregor for supplies—100 miles one way. They made their own furniture, sheared their own sheep, and carded, spun and wove the wool to make their clothes and blankets. Much of the sewing was done by candlelight (homemade candles) sometimes just burning tallow in which a rag had been placed. Often times Honoria would push a broom before her as she walked across the room for fear of rattlesnakes.



Honoria Dinsmore Potter and Lemuel Potter.

Lemuel Potter, along with Truman Robison and August Fallgatter, founded the town of Elma. The first settlement had been at Busti where Lemuel and his half-brother, Daruis, had first bought land for \$1.25 an acre. Elma was blessed with competition for railroads, the Chicago-Northwestern near the west end of Main Street (Lemuel Potter gave them 14 acres and a monetary sum where Colonial Manor is now located), and the Chicago-Great Western north along Busti Avenue. Potter gave that line the 80 acres of land bordering the west side and they were to locate the Division Center with Roundhouse and Turntable, Clubhouse, coal chutes, and water tanks there. This they did.

Mr. Stickney, president of the CGW, asked Lemuel Potter by letter for permission to name the new town Elma after his youngest daughter—permission granted. Elma cut quite a figure wearing her forest green riding habit, riding side saddle on her beloved

Morgan, Pat. She won many awards and blue ribbons at fairs. Elma, born in a log cabin on the banks of the Wapsipinicon River in 1862, was the youngest of Lemuel Potter's eleven children.

The family home was built in 1886—the year Elma Potter and Charles Brandmill were married—large enough to accommodate two families as that was the condition whereby Elma was granted "permission" to marry—that Charles would move from Cresco to the town which is now Elma.

Lemuel, Honoria, Charles and Elma all lived in the house until their deaths. Lemuel died November 9, 1900, and Honoria Dinsmore Potter died in 1912.

Truman Robison

Truman Robison was born January 10, 1834, near Lake George in the county of Warren, New York state. January 2, 1853, he married Susan R. Kenyon, Warren County, New York. In 1856 they emigrated to Wisconsin. The next year they started west again arriving at Lake Albert Lea, territory Minnesota, July 3, 1857. Albert Lea consisted of a log store and small hotel and three or four residences. The following year, 1859, they came back as far as Howard County and landed in the little town of Howard on the first day of June. Mr. Robison went into the hotel business and did a thriving trade by reason of the overland freighting done with teams and wagons. He continued in the hotel business for a period of two years and then commenced farming. He continued in this occupation as a renter until 1865 when he purchased the farm of forty acres; a portion of which was later known as the Burgess property. In those days there were 13 votes cast in Howard Township. By means of a post office resignation the name Howard was changed to Busti in about the year 1866. The nearest dwelling from Busti was 14 miles on the McGregor road. All the land now covered by the town of Elma was a blank, unbroken prairie. The settlers here about that time were L. Potter, G. W. Ostrander, James Hall, Hugh Coogan, Frank Pooler, Peter Clare, Joe Carter, Patrick McGrane, John Kildee, John Madden, William Burke, and Robert Lockie.

In the year 1885, a railroad was graded from In-



Truman Robison

dependence to Riceville; the grade passing just west of the town of Elma, near the creek. This was so uncertain a scheme that real estate did not rise in price to any extent. In the following year the Minnesota and Northwestern was graded and track laid from Hayfield to Dubuque, and the right-of-way passed through Mr. Robison's land. Then the real estate boom began in earnest—lasted for a year when it subsided somewhat. The land east of Busti Avenue belonged to Mr. Robison, a tract consisting of 36 acres, half of which he deeded to the Minnesota Loan and Debenture Co.

After his retirement, Mr. Robison was elected county supervisor in 1867 and served three years. When the town of Elma assumed proper proportions, it was incorporated. Mr. Robison was elected to serve three years on the board of councilmen. He resigned at the end of the first year and was elected mayor.

Mr. Robison was one of a family of eight, having three brothers and four sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Truman Robison were the parents of three children, Mrs. A. W. Fallgatter of Parker, S.D., John G. (the late Gaylord Robison's father), and Charles S.

August Fallgatter

August Fallgatter came from Germany to Massachusetts in the mid-1800's. Later, he moved to Watertown, Wisconsin, where he married Bridget Krueger. In 1854, the family moved to Iowa, settling just south of the present town of Elma on what is known as the Streich Farm. When the town was platted in 1886, the southeast part was the 'Fallgatter Addition.'

They were parents of four sons and two daughters, of which Dan remained on the farm.

Dan married Elizabeth Beaumaster and their family consisted of three daughters: Mrs. Harry (Emma) Pardee, who taught many years in the Elma School and was twice elected superintendent at schools in Howard County; Mrs. O. A. "Bert" (Mary) Dunton and Mrs. Edward (Doris) Conway.



Bridget and August Fallgatter

Charles Brandmill Family

Charles Brandmill was born May 25, 1850. He was brought to the United States by an older sister as an orphan when he was two years old to live with an aunt and uncle in Amsterdam, New York. When he was 16, he struck out for himself heading west. He was a grain and stock buyer in Cresco and met Elma Potter at this



"The lady for whom Elma was named." Charles Brandmill and Elma (Potter) Brandmill wedding picture—May 28, 1886.

time. He continued that business in Elma. Elma Potter was born February 3, 1862. Charles Brandmill and Elma Potter were married May 28, 1886. They were the parents of four children: Parke, Beryl, Potter, and Dinsmore—all born in the family home. Charles died October 21, 1934, and Elma died January 18, 1944.

Robert Armstrong Family

Robert and Cora Armstrong lived at Busti when they were first married. Cora was the daughter of George and Mary Ostrander, Busti's blacksmith. Cora was born on September 22, 1881, and died January 22, 1972. Robert died on June 15, 1918, when his daughters were just six years of age.

The children born of this union were: Lyle and twins, Mrs. Emmett (Erma) Burke, and Mrs. A. W. (Esther) Schulz.

Lyle was married to Ethel Denny and they had four children.

Erma was married to Emmett Burke and they had two sons.

Esther was married to Al Schulz and they had two children.



Robert and Cora Armstrong



Cora Armstrong

Orville Baethke Family

Orville Baethke was born the son of Charles and Amanda Baethke on a farm north of Elma. His parents both lived and worked in the Elma area for many years. Orville and Dorothy were married in 1948 and farmed in the area since 1951. Dorothy was born in Minnesota and came to Iowa in 1942. They were both educated in Howard County schools. They are members of St. Paul's Maple Leaf Lutheran Church. They are the parents of three children: Richard of Lime Springs, Susan (Mrs. Ronald Norman) of Lime Springs, and David of Elma.



Dorothy and Orville Baethke

Andrew Balk Family

Andrew Balk, son of Matt and Theresa (Schoeberl) Balk and Leona (Kinney), daughter of Stephen E. and Catherine (Biwer) Kinney were married June 18, 1924, at the Immaculate Conception Church in Elma. They were the parents of two daughters, LaVonne (Kettler) and Avis (Roethler).

They were engaged in farming for a short time before moving into Elma where "Andy" was a cream hauler, employee of the Farmers Creamery and later a livestock buyer for the Howard County Equity until his death in 1954.

After the death of his first wife in 1936, Andrew married Mary G. Mulick, daughter of John B. and Margaret (Morrissey) Mulick in 1941 at St. Patrick's Church at St. Cecilia. Mary is now Mrs. A. B. Gansen.

Clarence Bartels

Clarence Bartels, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bartels, lived near Maple Leaf. He married Irene Opat, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Opat of Lourdes. Their children are: Fred, Jim and Connie Foster.

Clarence served three years in the army, one and a half years overseas. He farms on the family farm near Maple Leaf.

Fredrick C. Bartels

Frederick C. 'Fred' Bartels, son of Ernest and Sophie Eickhoff Bartels, was born February 15, 1874. With his parents, he came from Bremer County to Howard County in 1893.

His father, Ernest, was born in Palatine, Illinois, March 21, 1850, and died November 6, 1924.

His mother, Sophia Eickhoff, daughter of Henry and



Ernest and Sophie Bartels family (Back row)—Fred Bartels, Ida (Bartels) Gesell, Sophia (Bartels) Schnadt, Dora (Bartels) Groff, Ernest Bartels. (Middle row)—Charles Bartels, Grandpa Ernest Bartels, Grandma Sophie (Eikoff) Bartels, Otto Bartels. (Front row)—Paul Bartels, Bernard Bartels, August Bartels.



Fred and Louisa Bartels family (Back row)—Herbert Bartels, Mrs. Alvin (Helen) Maseman, Mrs. Wm. (Mabel) Mixdorf, Mrs. Carl (Ellen) Mixdorf, Mrs. Wm. (Esther) Groth, Mrs. Albert (Rosa) Brummond and Victor Bartels. (Front row)—Father Fred Bartels, Clarence Bartels, Leonard Bartels, and Mother Louisa (Westendorf) Bartels.

Dorothea Geweke Eickhoff, was born in Germany on November 17, 1853, and died October 23, 1944.

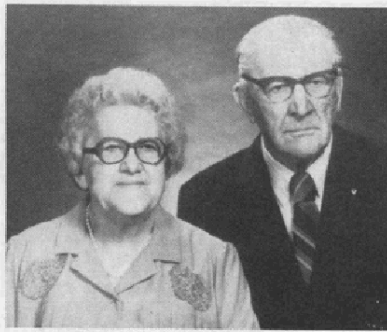
Fred, one of ten children, lived near Elma, as did his sister, Mrs. Otto (Ida) Gesell and his brothers, Paul and August.

Frederick married Louise Westendorf on December 8, 1898. She was the daughter of John and Dorothea Flugge Westendorf, born in Lyle, Illinois, on September 10, 1879. Children born to this union were: Mrs. Albert (Rose) Brummond, deceased, 1965; Mrs. Wm. (Ester) Groth, Boone; Mrs. Carl (Ellen) Mixdorf, Waterloo; Mrs. Wm. (Mabel) Mixdorf, deceased, 1985; Mrs. Alvin (Helen) Maseman, Elma; Victor, Denver, Iowa; Herbert, Elma; Leonard, Waterloo; and Clarence, Elma.

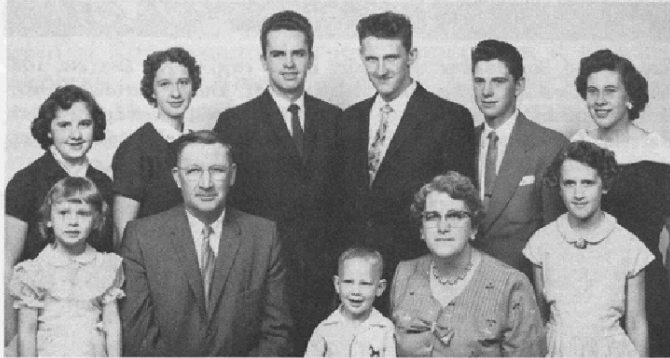
Louisa died October 19, 1961, and Frederick died February 19, 1962.

George Bayer

George Bayer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Bayer, and Clara Thiele, daughter of Leo and Anna Thiele, were married May 23, 1935, at the Immaculate Conception Church in Elma with the Rev. P. E. Donnelly officiating.



Clara and George Bayer



George Bayer family (Top row, left to right)—Marlene, Elaine, Melvin, Roger, Loren, Mary Ann. (Front row, left to right)—LaVonne, George, LaVerne, Clara, Lois. Taken in 1958.

They are parents of nine children: Roger L., Wisconsin; Melvin G., Illinois; Mrs. Robert (Mary Ann) Nielsen, Wisconsin; Mrs. Larry (Elaine) Newhouse, Wisconsin; Loren, New York; Mrs. Roger (Marlene) Hanaker, Waterloo, Iowa; Mrs. William (Lois) Mills; LaVonne, Wisconsin; and LaVerne of Elma.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Bayer

The late Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Bayer were married March 20, 1884, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Spring Fountain, Rt. 2, Sumner, Iowa. They started their married life on a place a fourth of a mile north of Denver, Iowa. Their son, George Bayer, was born there in 1895. In 1896 they moved to an 80-acre farm two miles north and two and a half miles east of Elma, Iowa, in Howard County. They paid \$25 an acre for the 80 acres. As years went by they bought more land until they had 240 acres; the last 80 acres they bought they paid \$55 an acre.

Five more children were born to their union, namely: Mrs. Bernard (Meta) Bartels, Mrs. M. E. (Emma)



Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Bayer

Palmer, Mrs. George (Martha) Herpelinek, Leonard and Walter Bayer.

In 1926 they retired from farming due to Rudolph's poor health and moved to New Hampton.

The Bayer farm was considered one of the best farms in Howard County. The farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Larsen.

John W. Beaumaster Family

John W., a son of William and Mary Beaumaster of Elma, and his wife, Katherine A. (Brennan) Beaumaster were the parents of two sons: James F. and George P., born at the Hastings Hospital in Elma.

They lived on a farm east of Elma before moving to Waterloo. James F. graduated from St. Louis University, received his Masters Degree in Computer Science at the University of Dayton in 1984. He spent 29 years in the military serving in both the Marines and Air Force. He is currently part of the Systems Development group responsible for the AF (Finished Inventory), Budget, and Employee Receivables Systems. George P. is a Computer Manager for Sperry Co. in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ed Beecher Family

Edward Beecher, son of John and Luella (McCabe) Beecher and Margaret Ann (Peggy) Kobliska, daughter of Louis and Margaret (Ruhoff) Kobliska were married February 3, 1941, and are the parents of seven children and 23 grandchildren: Sharon (Gansen), Lindy, Pat (Arnold), Betty Jo (Hastings), Marcia (Grimm), Mary (Roths), and June (Laures).

Edward moved with his family from Dougherty, where he was born, to the farm where he now lives east of Elma. The farm was purchased by his father from the George Lammers family. Edward has been engaged in farming most of his adult life, and has been an auctioneer since 1947. He is currently semi-retired.



(Back row, left to right)—June, Betty Jo, Sharon, and Lindy. (Front row)—Marcia, Ed, Peggy, Pat and Mary.

John Beecher

John Beecher was born in Johnson County, Iowa, in 1888. He moved to Dougherty, Iowa, as a young boy. He went to school in Dougherty and St. Joseph in Dubuque. He farmed with his brother. In 1917 he married Luella McCabe. Luella was born in LaSalle County, Illinois, in 1897. They were the parents of seven children: Ed, Bernard, Louis, Gerald, Mrs. Lee (Veronica) Riley, Mrs. Carl (Mary Jane) Richmond, Mrs. Gallus (LuAnn) Wandro. John died in 1977. Luella died in 1984.

John and Luella bought their farm in 1922, moving there in 1924. They farmed until he became manager of the Equity in 1933. He served as manager until 1968. He also was an auctioneer from 1931 until his retirement.



John and Luella Beecher



The John Beecher family (Back row)—Edward, Bernard, and Wm. Louis. (Front row)—Veronica (Beecher) Riley, John, Luella, LuAnn (Beecher) Wandro, Mary Jane (Beecher) Richmond.

Ernest R. Bellis

Ernest R. Bellis came from Pennsylvania to Elma. He married Harriet Curtis, who came from Cleveland, Ohio. They had three children: Lillian (Conway), Hazel (Richmond), and Lyle.

Ernest and Harriet were in the restaurant business in 1925. They also farmed and went back to the restaurant business until 1931. Lyle then ran the business until it was sold in 1935. Ernest and Harriet moved on to Boone, Ogden, Ankeny, and Seattle, back to Elma, then to Pasadena, California, where Ernest died August 26, 1961; Harriet died there also.



Harriet and Ernest Bellis

Lillian Bellis married Harry Conway and was in nursing. She died in November of 1985.

Hazel Bellis married Howard Gue. They had two children: Ernestine and Luva Mae. She married Ed Richmond, who was previously married to Esther Noonan. Ed had two children: Carl and Mary Ellen.

Hazel worked in Richmond Drug Store and after Ed's death on November 27, 1954, she moved to Pasadena, California. Later she moved back to Elma where she died January 17, 1959.

Lyle was married to M. P. Hanna. They had three children.

Merrill Benson Family

Merrill and Mary (Rouchka) Benson farmed east of Elma and, upon selling their farm, moved to the town of Elma where Merrill was manager of the Iowa State Liquor Store until his death in 1976.



(Back row, left to right)—Richard, Glen, and Raymond. (Front row)—John, Pat, and Mary Jo.

Merrill Benson who managed the Iowa State Liquor Store after the death of "Shorty" Al Weber in 1964 until his death in 1976.



They are the parents of six living children and two deceased: Richard of Gulfport, Mississippi; Glendon of New Hampton; Raymond of Des Moines, Iowa; John

of Charles City, Iowa; Patricia Royer, Omaha, Nebraska; Mary Jo Roethler, Charles City.

Mary Rouchka Benson died in July, 1975.

Leland Bigley

Leland Bigley and Bette McAvoy were married September, 1943. At that time, Leland was in the Army. After being discharged from service, they farmed near Elma and for several years, he was also employed by Howard County Road Maintenance.

In 1979 they moved to the town of Elma and Leland was retired when he died there in 1985.

Leland is the son of Francis and Loretta Glennon Bigley. He had one sister, Eileen, and one brother, Gene.

Bette is the daughter of Ed and Mabel Roche McAvoy. She has one sister, Muriel, and one brother, Leo, who died in 1980. Bette has been employed by Colonial Manor Nursing Home since 1978.

Leland and Bette are parents of: Patty Korsmo; Debra Shroyer; Tom; Mike; Nancy Schultz; and Tim.

The farm Leland Bigley's lived on has been a family farm since 1887, and is now the home of their son, Mike and his family.



Bette and Leland Bigley



(Back row)—Tim, Nancy, Tom. (Front row)—Mike, Debbie, Patty.

John Bilek Family

Julia Derr and her twin sister, Bertha, lived in Elma and married brothers (Joe Bilek married Bertha and John Bilek married Julia). Julia and John had one daughter, Alice, born December 4, 1904. Alice married

William O. Burke on March 23, 1923, and they were the parents of twelve children: Bill, Jr., Phyllis, Aleatha, Jack, Norbert, Allan, Donald, Glen, Muriely, Shirley, Jimmy, and Joseph (deceased).

Joe Biwer Family

Joe Biwer, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Biwer, and Betty Papenheim, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Papenheim of North Washington, were married June 22, 1955. Joe and Betty farmed northwest of Elma, living in Elma. Their home, the former Condon house, was destroyed in the 1968 tornado. They rebuilt and on June 20, 1971, they moved to Tempe, Arizona. Three years later, they moved to West Des Moines, Iowa, where they now live.

They were blessed with three sons: Mike married Mary Kay Vint on September 18, 1976. They live in New Hampton and are the parents of one daughter, Beth, born May 11, 1982. Tom is still single. Jim married Cindy Fiori on October 5, 1985, and they live in West Des Moines.



Joe, Betty, Cindy, Tom, Jim, Mike, Mary Kay, and Beth.

Mathias A. Biwer

Mathias A. Biwer was born November 10, 1840, the son of Adam and Mary Biwer. He had seven brothers: Nicholas, John, Frank, Peter, John P., Mike and Theodore.

The family came to America from Steinberg, Saarland, Germany, when Mathias was 14 years of age. They settled in Jefferson County, Wisconsin.

Mathias married Mary Ann Thoma and they became the parents of ten children: August, Mary Ann, Margaret (Mrs. Michael Elgas), Mathias P., Tena (Mrs. Dan Garmen), Amelia, Katherine (Mrs. Stephen Kinney), Frank, Annie (Mrs. Peter Palmersheim) and Henry.

Mary Ann Thoma Biwer died in 1880 and Mathias remarried, this time to Regina Schanke, who died in childbirth in 1883.

Mathias then married Annie Mistele and the family grew to include Elizabeth (Mrs. William Gansen), Rose (Mrs. John Schulte), Susie, who died in infancy; Ella (Mrs. John Palmersheim); and Agnes.

In February, 1892, Mathias and his family moved from Wisconsin to Elma where John B. was born in March, 1892; followed by Esther (Mrs. Louie Schulte), Philip P., Sara (Sister Mary Matthew), Gertrude (Mrs.



Matthias Biber

Francis Waldron), William, and Daniel, who died in infancy.

Annie Mistele Biber died in April, 1926, and Matthias died October 15, 1927.

Descendants of Matt Biber have heard many accounts of his mechanical abilities, and his capabilities in moving large houses and buildings.

Philip P. Biber

Philip Patrick Biber was born in Elma on May 28, 1896, to Mathias and Annie Mistele Biber.

On May 31, 1927, he married Elizabeth Rosonke, daughter of Stephen and Mary Brincks Rosonke of Elma. They became parents of seven children: Mrs. Leander (Geraldine) Heying; Mrs. Burdell (Mary Ann) Sullivan; Joseph; Mrs. Joseph (Phyllis) Glaser; Mrs. Robert (Betty) Klassen; Matthew and Alphonsus.



(Back row)—Mrs. Joe (Phyllis) Glaser, Mrs. Leander (Gerry) Heying, Joe, Mrs. Bob (Betty) Klassen, Mrs. Burdell (Mary) Sullivan. (Front row)—Liz, Matt, Phil and seated in front, Al.

Phil and Elizabeth made their home on the same farm on which Phil was born. They farmed all their lives. Phil was Director of Afton No. 8 school for many years. He also worked for the AAA office, measuring land for the farm program at that time.

Phil died January 22, 1982. Elizabeth still lives in her home on the farm.

This farm was purchased by Mathias and Annie Biber in 1892 and is now owned and operated by Phil's son, Alphonsus, so it has been in the family for almost one century.



Phil and Liz Biber on their 50th anniversary.

William Biber

William Biber, son of Mathias and Annie Mistele Biber, was born in 1903 in Elma. He married Theresa Rosonke, daughter of Steve and Mary Brincks Rosonke, in 1935.

Bill and Theresa are parents of six children: Marie, Mrs. Robert (Elaine) Schmitz, William J.; Mrs. William (Dorothy) Schmitz; Mrs. Charles (Rose Marie) Hickey; and Dan.

After their marriage, Bill and Theresa rented farms for a few years before buying the "Jim McGrane" farm in 1941. They farmed until 1973 when they moved to Elma. Their son, Dan, and his family now live on the farm.

Theresa was employed by Peoples Savings Bank in Elma for 13 years.



Theresa and William Biber

Dale Boderman Family



(Back row)—Darcy, Darla, Diane, Duane. (Front row)—Darin, Dale, Darlene.

Dale Boderman was born in 1936 to Otto and Lenora (Schmidt) Boderman. He was married to Darlene (Austinson) on August 22, 1965. They are the parents of five children: Darla, Duane, Diane, Darcy and Darin. Dale has farmed northwest of Elma all of his adult life on a farm previously operated by his father.

Charles Boyle, Sr.

Charles Boyle, Sr., married Clara Knippling, daughter of Henry and Adaline (Bauhaus) Knippling. Their children are: Eleanor (married Lee Hall), Norma (married Garland Buckley), Bernice (married Elmer Heying), Patrick, Madonna (Meuterthies), Marge (married Dale Meirick), Judy (Hilsman), Charles, John, and James. Bernice and Madonna are deceased.

Clara and Charles, Sr., farmed in the Elma area until retirement.



Clara and Charles Boyle, Sr., on their wedding day, November 10, 1924.

Charles Boyle, Jr.

Charles Boyle is the son of Charles and Clara Knippling Boyle.

He married Barbara Wenig of Dorchester, Iowa, on September 19, 1964. They are parents of Matthew, Norbert, Lisa, Randy and Brian.

Charles is engaged in farming and Barbara, besides her role as housewife, is Director of Religious Education at Immaculate Conception Church in Elma.



(Back row)—Brian, Lisa, Norbert. (Front row)—Randy, Barbara, Charles, Matthew.

Patrick Boyle

Patrick Boyle, son of Charles and Clara Boyle, is a life-long resident of Elma, except for one year when he lived north of Acme.



Boyle four generation: Nathan Boyle, Pat Boyle, Sr., Bill Boyle, Clara Boyle holding Nicholas.

He married Hazel Marr and they are parents of: Mrs. Alan (Ann) Sullivan; Patrick C.; Mrs. Melvin (Carol) Praska; Michael; William; Janice and Tom.

Pat and Hazel have lived on their farm since 1954. They are members of Immaculate Conception Church and Pat is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Dinsmore Brandmill

Dinsmore Brandmill is a retired Superintendent of Schools, principal and teacher living with his wife of 51 years in the original house on the Century farm in the Elma Corporation where he was born. He is the son of



Ruth and Dinsmore Brandmill 50th wedding anniversary, April 8, 1984.



Dinsmore Brandmill family: Dinsmore, Beryl June Judge, Janet Ruth Menzel, Jack, Ruth.

Elma Potter Brandmill, for whom the town of Elma was named, and Charles Brandmill.

On April 8, 1934, he was married to Ruth Bailard who had come from North Dakota to teach in Elma. Except for the years Denny spent in active service from 1940-1947, the couple has lived in the family home (which has survived two major fires and the tornado of 1968).

They are the parents of three children: Beryl June Judge, mother of Steven, John, David, Katherine, and Michael, who teaches in Hampton; Jack Dinsmore, father of Douglas and John; Janet Ingram Menzel, mother of Bruce and Jodi, who is a librarian aide in the public school and married to an insurance adjuster.

Dinsmore retired from the teaching profession in 1969 after 47 years. He was retired from service in the U.S. Army as a Lt. Colonel in 1965 after 30 years. Farming has always been his avocation and he maintains an interest in the home place as well as a farm in the country. Through the years he has served Elma as mayor and councilman, his community as chairman of the Cemetery Board, as commander of the American Legion, as Master and loyal member of the Masonic Lodge as Worthy Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star, and his church as member of the Administrative Board and Trustee. It was during his terms as mayor that the Elma Park was acquired and developed and that the Memorial Hall was built.

Eugene Brennan Family

Eugene and Henrietta (Myer) Brennan moved to the Elma area in 1918. They lived in the first house west of Busti and built a large addition. That farm is now owned by Wally Fair. The Brennans were the parents of 11 children, 7 girls and 4 boys.

Because of bad economic times, the Brennans moved to Eagle Center in 1932. Two of their daughters still live in Elma—Mrs. Isabelle Gansen and Mrs. Katherine Beaumaster.

Fred Brockney

Fred Brockney married Clara Flugge, daughter of Henry and Caroline (Westendorf) Flugge on December 18, 1919.



Pictured are Fred and Clara Brockney, Ivorn, Goldean, LaVern, Alice, and Lester.

Harold Brown Family

Harold and Verna Brown moved to Elma shortly



Harold and Verna Brown

after their marriage in 1938. They rented a house in northeast Elma before purchasing the house one block east of the Elma Locker.

Harold, a carpenter, worked for Fred Elwood of Cresco for many years. He also built kitchen cabinets and dressers. He and his hired man, Walter Stueber, did work on several of the business places in town. Harold was also a fireman and when Elma and the surrounding communities held fish fries Harold was asked to fry the fish.

Verna worked as a meat wrapper at the Elma Locker for many years; first when Francis (Shorty) Meirick owned it, then when Art Rimrodt bought it and finally when Merle Worple purchased it.

They were the parents of three children—Norma, Mrs. Kenneth Miller of Waterloo; Janis, Mrs. Joseph Durnan of Alta Vista; Kenneth of Canada.

Albert Brummond

Albert Brummond was born July 28, 1895, the son of Albert and Augusta Buss Brummond. He married Rosa Bartels February 20, 1919.

Rosa Bartels was the oldest daughter of Frederick C. and Louise Westendorf Bartels; one of a family of nine. She was born July 28, 1900, and died July 12, 1965.

They became parents of: Otto, Erwin (deceased 1966), Norbert, Mrs. Jim (Rosanna) Petersen, and Mrs. Reuben (Lois) Friedrich.

Albert's brother, Otto H. Brummond served in World War I and died in France of influenza October 19, 1919.

Albert died May 24, 1963.



(Back row)—Otto, Albert, Rosa, Erwin. (Front row)—Rosanna, Lois, Norbert.



Albert and Rose Brummond family.

August F. Buchholz Family

August Frederich Buchholz was born on August 27, 1870, to William F. Buchholz and Emelie (Pullman) Buchholz. The family lived at Debeuglassen, Hanover, Germany. In 1871 the Buchholz family and the Pullman family came to the United States, August being one year old. They located in Howard County.

The William Buchholz family was of the Lutheran faith. William was elected to the first council of the St. Peter Lutheran congregation as secretary, with Philip Gross as chairman, Leo Wachtel as treasurer, and Julius Linderman and Diedrich Weers as trustees. In 1896 these men along with William Diekmann, Carl Gesell, Henry Wolf, William Unger, William Lubitz and Fred Streich formed a committee to gather pledges for the building of the St. Peter Lutheran Church.

August grew up with his parents on a farm just west of the Elma city limits. This land is now owned by the Hart family. The house was destroyed by the tornado in May, 1968.

In June, 1895, August F. Buchholz, a farmer, and Dorathea Charlotte Wehrs, were married at Barre Mills, Wisconsin. Dorathea, known as Dora, was born September 15, 1871. She was the daughter of Fred-erich and Emelie (Miller) Wehrs. August and Dora were the parents of four children: Laura, Clara, Wyron and Rosella.

August and Dora lived on a farm located one mile south and three miles east of Elma. In 1913 they moved to a farm one half mile south of Elma, where his parents had moved to several years before. At this time his parents retired and moved into town, living in a house just east of the Elma Methodist Church. Some years later, August and Dora moved on the farm just north of where they were living, known as the O'Neil farm. In 1919 they retired and moved into Elma in the Fred Bender house, where the Lee Shannon family now lives. At this time, their son, Wyron, and wife, Elsie (Lauck), moved onto the farm. They lived there until 1956, when they retired and moved into Elma and lived on West Main Street in the former William Enloe house. Their son-in-law and daughter, Emil Platte and Charlotte, then moved onto the farm. A new one-story house was built which replaced the stately old farm house.

Laura, the oldest daughter of August and Dora, was married to Otto Bartels and lived in Alta Vista where Mr. Bartels was cashier at the Alta Vista State Bank. After Mr. Bartels' death, Laura married Ed Graf and lived in Sumner, Iowa.

Clara worked as bookkeeper at the Whelan Produce Co. in Elma. Later she married Walter Buhr and they farmed at Westgate, Iowa. They were the parents of two children, Mrs. Elmer (Delores) Matthias of Frederick, Iowa, and Ronald, who farms the home place.

Wyron and wife Elsie, who farmed south of Elma, were the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Emil (Charlotte) Platte, Elma, Iowa, and Mrs. Gary (Marlys) Johnson of New Hampton, Iowa.

Rosella is married to Arlyn Weers and are the parents of one son, Richard A. Weers, who lives at Converse, Texas. Arlyn (Shrimp) retired in 1976, having worked 44 years with the road maintenance division of Howard County. Rosella retired from working at the Peoples Savings Bank in 1978. Mr. and Mrs. Weers are life-long residents of Elma, living in their present home on Elm Street since 1940. This place was formerly owned by Ed Sayers.

Survivors of August F. Buchholz and wife, Dora, include Rosella and the five grandchildren mentioned and their spouses, nineteen great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.



Dora and August Buchholz.

Clarence Bueckmann Family

Clarence and Vera (Lubbett) Bueckmann have resided in the Elma area since 1923. They are the parents of one son, Chris.

Clarence is the son of Rudolf and Pauline (Friedrich) Bueckmann. Rudolf came to the Elma area in 1916. In 1930 he and his wife moved to the farm located five miles north and ½ mile east of Elma. This farm was sold in 1957 to Clarence and Vera Bueckmann who now farm in partnership with their son, Chris. They are engaged in diversified crop and livestock, specializing in the production and sale of Registered Black Angus cattle.

Emmett Burke Family

Emmett Burke, born April 25, 1904, to Tom and Anna (McGrane) Burke, on a farm north of Elma. He was married to Erma Armstrong in November of 1930.



(Back row)—Gary and Robert. (Front row)—Erma and Emmett.

Erma was the daughter of Robert and Cora Armstrong.

Emmett worked for the lumber yard for eight years, for Kark Rendering, and for many years for the town of Elma as street commissioner and town marshal.

Emmett and Erma had two sons: Robert and Gary. Robert is married to Alice Harris. They are the parents of Robin, Sherry, Debbie and Donny.

Gary is married to Mary Kelly. They have two children: Scott and Sara.

Emmett died in 1974 and Erma still lives in Elma.

Burke Family

Thomas Burke and Catherine McCarthy Burke came to America in 1833 from Limerick County Ireland. They settled in upper New York State in 1850. They were parents of ten children. Edward, the eldest, was born in 1829 in Ireland and moved to Riceville in 1857. He was married to Mary Mahoney.

William Burke was born September 10, 1839, and married Mary McArdle. They moved to Howard County around 1864, where he farmed for years and later moved to Elma where he was a Justice of the Peace for forty years.

They were parents of five children: Catherine, married W. H. McCormick and later, Dennis Franklin; Thomas Henry, born October 22, 1864, married Anna McGrane; John, married Sarah Shields and later, Mary Kelly; Ellen, who married Frank J. Ulwelling; and Edward Francis who married Mary Redmond.

The Elma Burkes are direct descendants of Thomas Henry Burke and Anna McGrane, daughter of Owen McGrane and Margaret Richardson. Thomas Burke farmed north of Elma his entire life.

To this union was born nine children: Mrs. Bernard (Anastasia) Elgas, born August 1, 1896, deceased May 2, 1969; Francis James, born October 29, 1897, and killed in a farm accident at age 7; Mrs. Milo (Mary

Ellen) Lowe, born October 5, 1899, deceased December 17, 1920; William Owen, born December 13, 1901, married Alice Bilek, deceased January 25, 1977; Emmett Edward, born April 25, 1904, married Erma Armstrong, deceased January 31, 1974, Erma still lives in Elma; Walter Joseph, born June 13, 1906, deceased age seven months; Mrs. Royal (Myrtle) Wentworth, born May 6, 1908, Cresco, Iowa; Thomas, born July 4, 1911, married Bernadette Shimek, deceased May 28, 1981, Bernadette lives in Elma; Mrs. Francis (Catherine) Shimek, Cresco, born June 4, 1913.

Tom Burke Family

Thomas Burke was married to Bernadette Shimek on August 16, 1932. His parents were Thomas and Anna (McGrane) Burke. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Shimek.

They had six children: Mrs. Reynold (Marilyn) Hentges, lives in Des Moines; Mrs. Joe (Charlotte) Kuhn, live in Austin, Texas; Tom, Jr., married to Joanne Dushek, lives in La Habra, California; Mrs. Duane (Betty) Vicary, lives in Lincoln, Nebraska; Mrs. LuVerne (Jean) Cerwinske, lives in Alta Vista; and Jerry, who died on September 3, 1953.

Tom and Bernadette lived on 80 acres northeast of Elma. They sold the farm in 1980 to Pat Boyle and bought a house in Elma, moving in November of 1980. Tom died on May 28, 1981.

Tom was born July 4, 1911. He hauled cream and then milk to the Maple Leaf Creamery for 21 years. He sold the route and went to work for Monsanto for six years, then he was manager of the plant in Elma. When the Burke farm was hit in the tornado of 1968, Monsanto had a trailer house moved to the farm for the Burkes to live in until the house could be repaired. Tom also worked at the Equity until his retirement in 1960. Bernadette upholstered furniture for 34 years. She still lives in Elma.



(Front row)—Tom and Bernadette Burke, and Tom, Jr. (Back row)—Jean Cerwinske, Marilyn Hentges, Charlotte Kuhn, Betty Vicary.

William O. Burke

William O. Burke, son of Thomas and Anna

McGrane Burke, married Alice Bilek, daughter of John and Julia Derr Bilek, on March 23, 1923.

They were parents of twelve children: William, Jr., Mrs. Vincent (Phyllis) Freidhof, Aleatha, John, Norbert, Allan, Donald, Glen (deceased), Muriely and Shirley (twins), Jimmy, and Joseph (deceased).

Mrs. Charlotte Burns

Charlotte Burns was born October 9, 1893, in the Cecelia area and lived there all of her life until she moved into Elma in 1961. Her parents were Thomas and Mary Roche. She was one of fourteen children and is the only one surviving in that family.

She taught school in the Cecelia area until she married Philip Burns on February 17, 1920. His parents were Philip and Ann Burns. He was born May 9, 1891, and was one of ten children. He spent his entire life in the Cecelia area. There is one remaining from that family, Virginia, who lives in San Francisco. Philip and Charlotte spent their entire married life farming in the Cecelia area. Two children were born to them, Phyllis Patrie, New Hampton, and John of St. Paul. She has eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Charlotte Burns

Delbert D. Burris

Delbert D. Burris of Linden, Iowa, married Betty L. Clouse of Yale, Iowa, on October 2, 1954, at Linden, Iowa.

They are parents of William 'Billy', Wisconsin; Allan Ray, married to Carrie Brockway, Allison, Iowa; and Kimberly Kay.

Delbert and Betty moved to Elma from Cresco in January, 1959. Delbert was employed in the Service Department of General Telephone Co. of the Midwest. He retired on July 1, 1983, after 33 years and 10 months of employment with General Telephone Co.

Delbert is a Korean War veteran, serving with the Army from 1951 to 1953. He was a member of the Army Reserve for twenty-four years, retiring as Sergeant First Class (E7), on January 31, 1976.

Delbert operates Del's Telephone Repair in Elma at the present time and Betty is employed by Colonial Manor.

Melvin Cannon Family

Melvin and Ruth Cannon moved to the Elma area from Nora Springs in 1960. Melvin farmed, worked at Oliver (White), and was the county supervisor for two



(Back row, left to right)—Sue, Melvin, Ruth Cannon. (Front)—Barb and Merrill Havlik holding Jonathan and Andrew, Heather, Stephanie, Marcia and Keith Cannon.

terms. Currently, Melvin is employed at J. R. Whitco and Ruth is employed at Sara Lee. They are both active in the Democratic Party and in church activities.

Their family includes: Sue, Keith (wife, Marcia, daughters, Heather and Stephanie), Mrs. Merle (Barbara) Havlik (sons, Jonathan and Andrew), and Steve (deceased).

Keith Cannon Family

Keith and his wife, Marcia, live on a farm northeast of Elma. They have two children, Heather and Stephanie. Keith is an owner/operator truck driver and Marcia is a bookkeeper at the Peoples Savings Bank in Elma. They have lived in the Elma area since 1975.

Mike Cashman Family

Mike Cashman was married to Margaret Clear in May of 1888. She was born near Elma in 1864. They were parents of Mrs. D. G. (Rachel) Lynch, Pierce, and Adrian Cashman.

They lived on a farm west of Elma until 1895 when they moved into town. Mr. and Mrs. Cashman, being married just two years after the town was established, lived to see the town grow from nothing to a booming community of nearly 2,000 and also to see it decline, when the division point was moved from Elma to Oelwein, to a population of around 700.

Mr. Cashman conducted a clothing store for a great many years in east Elma. His store burned to the ground in 1928. It was located where the warehouse for the Bluebird now sits. He died in May of 1932. She continued to live in Elma until 1945, when she moved with her son, Pierce, and his family.



Brothers, Mike and Tom Cashman.

Tom Cashman Family

John Cashman and his wife, Mary Murray Cashman, came to Iowa from County Cork, Ireland, in 1848. Their son, Thomas, was born on the ship coming to America on December 21, 1848. He married Johanna O'Conner in 1873. They settled in Howard County and became the parents of seven children. They farmed west of Elma until retiring in 1918.

John J. Cashman—July 29, 1876—October 31, 1951, married Mayme Clark, daughter of the John Clarks. Two sons, Raymond and Clarence Cashman.

Anna (Mrs. Will Marr)—March 24, 1878—Died December 19, 1949. Parents of Vincent, Urban, Gertrude (Mrs. Paul Meirick), Mary (Mrs. Vincent Miller), Francis, Grace (Mrs. Lloyd Fox), and Luella (Mrs. Jim Dunlay).



(Back row, left to right)—Clem Cashman, Ed Cashman. (Middle row)—Tom Cashman, Grace Cashman Olsen, Jim Cashman, Mrs. Tom Cashman. (Front row)—John Cashman, Mary Cashman Knox, Anna Cashman Marr.



Jim and Esther Cashman.

Edward Cashman—never married—died in 1934.

Mary (Mrs. Thomas E. Knox)—January 27, 1884—February 7, 1982. Parents of Regina (Mrs. Leo Broghammer), Grace Knox, Mildred (Mrs. Emmett Drew), Thomas Knox, Genevieve (Mrs. John Freidhof), Geraldine (Mrs. I. C. Bell) and Marcella Knox; Veronica (Mrs. Orin Gilbertson).

Clem Cashman—February 19, 1881—November 17, 1963. Married Lydia Sullivan. Parents of Louis Cashman, Pauline (Sister M. Clementine), Marian (Mrs. Lawrence Goergen), Betty (Mrs. Marvin Hockinson).

James Cashman—May 11, 1886—July 13, 1959. Parents of James Cashman, Lois (Mrs. Richard Iredale).



Mary (Cashman) Knox, Jim Cashman, Grace (Cashman) Oleson.

He was married to Esther Larsen January 8, 1918. They farmed most of his life near Elma. He was a charter member of the Howard C. Board of Review.

Grace (Mrs. Wm. Olsen)—August 29, 1888—July 13, 1959.

Thomas Cashman died in 1923 and Johanna Cashman died December 3, 1943. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1923.

Chihak Family

The first ancestors of the Chihak family to come to the United States were Frantisek Cihak and his wife, Josepha Rehak Cihak. Letters from their cousin, Joseph Lundak, influenced them to come and settle in Iowa. The couple came with their seven children in the year 1877 to Ridgeway, Iowa. The voyage on the ship took about six weeks to sail to the port of Baltimore, Maryland. During the voyage, the ship crashed into a freighter in a dense fog. The crew of the freighter was moved onto the passenger ship. Later, the freighter sank.



(Left to right)—William, Evelyn, Jane, Betty, Virginia, Elsie, Raymond. (Front row, left to right)—Eddie, Lillian, William, Sr., Marcella.

When the family came to Iowa they changed their name to Chihak. Frantisek in English is Francis or many times called Frank. Josepha is Josephine in English.

The family stayed in Ridgeway, Iowa, only a few months and then moved to the Lourdes, Iowa, area.

Frank Chihak was born December 2, 1830, at Pocepice, Province of Bohemia, Czechoslovakia. Josephine Rehak Chihak was born April 13, 1841, at Pocepice, Czechoslovakia. Frank died March 7, 1908,

and Josephine died February 4, 1907. They are buried in Lourdes, Iowa.

Frank Chihak, Jr., was born January 19, 1863, at Pocepice, Czechoslovakia. He married Mary Fillipi, who was born February 3, 1870, in Maranice, Czechoslovakia. They were married June 13, 1892. As a young man, Frank worked as a farm laborer. Before his marriage he worked in Chicago and took up art and enlarged pictures for people. Frank died May 6, 1945, and Mary died August 8, 1948. They are also buried at Lourdes, Iowa.

William Chihak was born May 28, 1909, at Lourdes, Iowa. He married Lillian Stepan who was born June 22, 1913, at Protivin, Iowa. They are the parents of nine children: Evelyn, Eddie, Marcella, William, Jr., Elsie (Mrs. Linus Lentz, Elma), Jane, Virginia, Raymond, and Betty (Mrs. Dan McGrane, Elma).

Willie has farmed in the Lourdes area all his life. He also was a church janitor and now is retired.

Anton Chihak Family

Anton Chihak was born March 11, 1879, in Howard County. He spent his life farming by Lourdes in Paris Township. The farm still belongs to the family and is now a "Century Farm of 1884."

In 1913, Anton married Josephine Wacha, who was born August 20, 1891. They were the parents of one daughter, Irene, who was born March 25, 1916. Anton passed away April 25, 1954, and Josephine, February 25, 1971.

Irene married Arthur Whiting.

Ed Chihak Family

Ed Chihak was born in the Elma Hospital, the son of William and Lillian Chihak, and raised in the Elma area near Lourdes. He graduated from the Elma I.C.A. High School and spent two years in the Army Air Borne.

Ed and Eileen, from Plainview, Minnesota, were married and have one daughter, Judy. Ed worked at John Deere Tractor Works for ten years and they lived in Waterloo at the time. In 1968 they took over the Lourdes Store from his uncle, Charles Chihak and ran that for three years. They then moved to the Chester area where they farmed for three years. He has managed the liquor store in Elma for the past ten years. Eileen has worked at the Riceville Care Center for five years. Their daughter, Judy, graduated from Crestwood High School and from the Capri Cosmetology College and is now employed at the HairPort in Elma.

Frank Wesley Church

Frank Wesley Church, the first mayor of Elma, was born to Jerome and Mariah Church in New Oregon Township, Howard County, on May 9, 1858. When he was eleven years old his father was accidentally killed

and his mother took him and his brother back to Afton, New York, where he grew up. He came back to Iowa when he was 21 years old and settled in Cresco. There he met Josephine F. Searles, the eldest daughter of the first sheriff of Howard County. They were married October 7, 1880. They became parents of four children, Arthur, Mrs. Tom (Florence) Young, Mrs. C. J. (Claire) Garmen, and Mrs. Lee (Alice) Elwood.

When Frank moved to Elma in 1886, the town was just organizing. He conducted a hardware business with his brother, Fred, who died in 1932. Frank's first building was Church and Hoyt Hardware on the corner of Main and 3rd Street.

Frank died in April of 1947 and Josephine in June of 1929.

One of the characteristics that endeared him to those who knew him well was his trait of punctuality. People said you could set your clock by him as he walked back and forth to the store three times a day. A habit he continued after retirement.

Edward A. Clark

Edward A. Clark was born April 11, 1889, near Elma to John and Margaret McGrane Clark. He was raised on the farm west of Elma.

On April 24, 1917, he married Margaret Hamill, daughter of Patrick and Mary Hamill at Tama, Iowa. Margaret was born near Tama on October 8, 1889.

They are parents of three sons: Dale, Rev. William and Jim, and one daughter, Mrs. Mel (Mary) Young.

Ed was a familiar figure of Rural Route 2, Elma, where he was a rural mail carrier for 43 years, retiring in 1957.

Ed Clark passed away in September 1970. His wife, Margaret, died in Cedar Falls, Iowa, February 13, 1979, at the age of 89 years. They are buried in Calvary Cemetery in Elma.



Ed Clark



Margaret Clark

John and Margaret Clark

Margaret was born July 23, 1855, in Illinois and came to Howard County when one year old.

Featured in the newspaper article feting Margaret McGrane Clark on her 96th birthday in 1951, was this tale about her early years.

"Margaret, being the oldest of a family of eight children, experienced many childhood hardships of

which the children of today know nothing. She had to herd the cattle, as the fences at that time were made of rails and a small enclosure was all they were able to have. When they were released from this pen, they wandered at large, many times going miles from home. When Margaret was busy helping her father with the field work, one of the small children would watch what direction the cows went. Shortly after four in the afternoon, Margaret would go in that direction, barefooted, running as fast as she could go, every few minutes stopping to listen for the ringing of the cow bell which was strapped around the neck of one in the herd. She worked after a reaper to help bind the grain into bundles and then put it in shocks. She helped her father to put up hay, and often walked to Elma with a basket of eggs and returned home with groceries for the family.

"The schools of her childhood were taught by a neighbor boy or girl without a certificate. The main subjects being reading, writing and arithmetic. The school year was from six to seven months. Whenever the parents thought they could get along without the children's help, they had school for a few weeks. Consequently, Margaret's years in school were few.

"For entertainment they would walk to some neighbors for a 'house party' where all the young folks from every direction came for an evening of fun with games and dancing. In the early hours of the morning all would again walk to their homes. Sometimes when the young man wished to escort a young lady home, he walked with her and then had a four or five mile walk to his home.

"Early in her life the Clark family moved into her neighborhood, and one of these was John who became her husband. They were wed at St. Patrick's of Cecilia. They established a home on a farm six miles west of Elma. This was known as "The Prairie" as few had as yet moved and settled that far west of Elma. Indeed, the name was true as wolves and wild animals came close to their house. They had no screen doors or windows at that time and Margaret often told of snakes coming in through the open door. Once as she sat at the dinner table visiting with her sister, a large snake curled up at her feet unnoticed until she arose from the table.

"Their house consisted of two rooms, a kitchen and bedroom. They never turned anyone away who would ask for lodging, but gave up their bed and slept on the kitchen floor. Nor did they turn anyone away who asked for something to eat. At that time they had to drive to McGregor by team for supplies and to have wheat ground into flour."

Margaret and John Clark were blessed with 12 children. Three children died in infancy and William and Charles died in young manhood. Their other children were: Mrs. J. J. (Mame) Cashman, John, Ed, Walter, Mrs. Margaret Knox, Cora McCarthy, and Gertrude. Margaret also took her brother's baby, Delia McGrane, into her home when the infant's mother passed away when she was just two weeks old. When Margaret's son, Charles, died leaving a two-year-old



Front row: (left to right)—Mr. and Mrs. John Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cashman. Standing in back: their grandsons, Raymond and Clarence Cashman, sons of John and Mayme (Clark) Cashman.

son, she took Glen in and cared for him so his mother could be free to work for a living.

In March of 1917 John and Margaret moved into Elma. On April 7, 1933, John Clark died. Margaret died November 28, 1954.

Jeremiah (Jerry) Conway

Jeremiah W. (Jerry) Conway was five years old and the third son of John (1825-1891) and Mary Keefe (1831-1903) Conway when they came to Afton Township, Howard County, Iowa. They left northern New York to head west in 1863. Their first home was a log home west of Elma. Later they moved to a farm northwest of Elma. The family consisted of Dennis (1855-1884); Charles (1856-1923); Jerry (1858-1934); John (1863-1877); Michael (1866-1935); Morgan (1868-1946); Daniel (1870-1921); and Frank (1872-1918).



Jerry Conway Family (Standing in back)—Edward and Loretta. (Middle row)—Leo, Jerry and Anna. (Front row)—Harry.

Jerry Conway married Anna Byrnes of Cresco on April 9, 1883. They moved back to the Busti area and moved on what is now the Fangman Farm. Their children were: Edward (married to Doris Falgatter); Harry (married Lillian Bellis); Mrs. James (Loretta) Stapleton; and Leo. In approximately 1886 Jerry started in the cabinetmaking business. In those days many cabinetmakers made coffins for the dead. Thus was the beginning of the Conway Funeral Home.

Edward D. and Doris Conway

A name long-familiar in Elma is that of Conway's. The Conway Funeral Home and Conway Furniture were continued by E. D. and Doris Conway and passed on to their sons.

Edward D. Conway was born on a farm northwest of Elma, May 16, 1884, the eldest son of J. W. "Jerry" and Anna Byrnes Conway.

On June 6, 1916, he married Doris Fallgatter. Doris was born October 1, 1893, in Elma to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Fallgatter. She attended Elma Public School, Howard County Normal Institute at Cresco, and the Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, Iowa. She taught school for three or four years.

Ed and Doris are parents of Robert E. (1917-); James E. (1918-); Richard (1920-); Daniel J. (1922-1973) and Mrs. Kenneth (Doris Marie, 1930-) Schroeder.

Ed joined his father to be the second generation in the furniture and funeral business, and operated them until his death in 1937. Upon his death, Doris managed the business with Robert, the third generation of funeral directors. They were joined in 1943 by James. In 1963, Doris retired from the furniture business and turned it over to her sons, Bob and James. She continued in the funeral home until her death, offering companionship and friendship to bereaved families for most of her life. She died November 26, 1974.



Doris Conway



Richard and Grace Conway, living in Austin, MN.

Robert E. Conway

Robert Conway is a life-long resident of Elma. He is the son of Edward and Doris Fallgatter Conway.

The family has long been associated with the funeral profession. Bob obtained his 'Studentship' license and served his apprenticeship under his father in 1935. He attended the University of Minnesota, graduating on June 19, 1937. On June 28, 1937, his father died and Bob joined his mother in the operation of the family furniture store and funeral home; and has been associated with the business ever since.

Bob married Charlotte Hilsman, daughter of Charles and Mary Hentges Hilsman of North Washington on November 7, 1938. They were parents of Ed, New Hampton; Mrs. Roger (Marilee) Nibaur, Lourdes; Mrs. Larry (Cheryl) DeVries, Charles City.



Robert and Charlotte Conway

Bob has served Elma as a member of the volunteer Fire Department, also acting as chief; has served on the Town Council and is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

James E. Conway

James E. Conway married Ellen Thomsen, daughter of Nels and Gladys Thomsen, in 1939. In 1943, Jim joined his mother and brother, Robert, in the funeral business, after obtaining his degree in Mortuary Science.

They are the parents of Mrs. James (Patricia) Fisher; Mrs. John (Linda) Angstman; Mrs. Gerald (Myrna) Colsch; Donald; Kay; and Larry.

Ellen passed away at their home in January, 1985.



Ellen and Jim Conway



Marjorie and Dan Conway

Daniel Jerome Conway

Daniel Jerome Conway was a long-time resident and businessman of Elma. He had attended the Immaculate Conception Academy and was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church. He was a veteran of World War II.

On September 7, 1943, he married Marjorie Pospichal at St. Cecelia Catholic Church. They owned and operated the Conway IGA Grocery in Elma and upon retiring from that, devoted his time to real estate and securities. Marjorie was a beautician and also clerked in the grocery store.

They are parents of Mrs. Pete (Connie) Palmersheim and Jerry. Dan passed away in 1973 at the age of 50.

Henry D. Cook

Although born in Wisconsin, Henry spent many years of his life in Iowa.

Having graduated as an advanced accountant from a



Henry Cook.

business college in Chicago, Illinois, he accepted employment with the Smith Lumber Company in Osage. He subsequently was transferred to a branch yard in South Dakota. Later he was employed at a lumberyard in Waverly and then in 1917 became manager of the Eclipse Lumber Co., Elma.

The Eclipse Lumberyard was originally located on the lots south of the Elma Locker or immediately east of the former viaduct. Later the Eclipse Co. purchased the Chapman Lumberyard on the west side of north Busti. This yard was later sold to the Great Plains Lumber Co.

Henry was a member of the Elma Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge, Order of Eastern Star, town council, and was president of the Lumbermen's Association of this area. He enjoyed traveling, especially through the West.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Maude, and son, Roger. They were also the parents of Ralph and Reed. In 1941 he was married to Margaret Stevenson. They became the parents of Jean Fountain, Linda Sass, and Kent Cook.

He died in 1957.

The Corrick Family

The Corrick family consists of Everett, Lucille and children: Robert, Thomas, Michaelen and Debra. Everett (Red) was well known for his baseball ability and presently resides in St. Paul, MN.

Lucille operated a beauty shop in Elma for 36 years, being the only shop in this area at that time. She recently retired from Comprehensive Systems at the Elma Cottage where she was employed for the last 15 years.

Robert graduated from Immaculate Conception Academy, Upper Iowa University at Fayette and also



(Left to right)—Bob, Debbie, Mickey, Tom, Lucille Corrick.

received a Masters Degree from St. Mary College at Winona, MN. He is presently teaching science and coaches at North Scott School, Eldridge, IA. He has two children, Brenda and Brett Corrick.

Thomas graduated from Immaculate Conception Academy and Upper Iowa University at Fayette. He received his Masters Degree from Kirksville, MO, and is principal at Lowden, IA. His family includes twins, Scott and Kristy, and daughter, Kimberly.

Michaelen Duncan graduated from Immaculate Conception Academy and from Humboldt Business Institute in Minneapolis, MN. She and her husband, Al, reside in St. Paul and have one son, Darrick.

Debra graduated from Crestwood High School and nurses training from North Iowa Area Community College. She married Terry O'Neil formerly of Elma. They live in Independence, IA, where he is currently principal. They have two daughters, Erin and Anne.

Despres Family

Maurice Despres was born in France in 1841. He came to America in 1853 and married Emma Bamberger in 1869 at New York. He entered in business and was burned out in the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. In 1873 he moved to Charles City and to Elma in 1901. Prior to moving here he was identified with the business activity. He had established a clothing store and was involved in the banking business here.

They were the parents of three sons: Albert, Sam and Irving, who joined in the banking business with their father.

Maurice died in July of 1915.

Diekmann



William—November 18, 1861-February 25, 1920—and Christine (Matthias)—February 2, 1866-July 2, 1938. William and Christine Diekmann began their married life in Klinger, Iowa, where William was a carpenter. With their four oldest children, they moved to Riceville, Iowa, where William operated a grocery store for a brief time. Then in 1893 they moved to Elma. At this time William opened a grocery store and a dry goods store in two adjacent buildings on the east side of Busti Avenue. A doorway was opened between the two buildings, and iron doors were installed in what was known as a fire wall. Since the grocery store remained open later than the dry goods store, the doors were necessary.

In 1906 the grocery store was sold to Henry Miller, a carpenter and contractor, who had moved to Elma from Waverly in 1892. This store was operated by Mr. Miller's son, Leroy.

Two or three years later, Louis Diekmann, the eldest son of William and Christine, bought the dry goods store from his father. William then opened a machine shop and a farm implement store north of the Walters Sisters' Millinery Shop in the same block. Shortly after that he also became the first automobile dealer in Elma, selling Fords and later, Buicks. In 1916 another son, William, took over this garage, which he operated until 1920, when he moved to California. William, Sr., went to California to visit his son and family and while walking down the street, was struck by a bullet fired by one of two feuding Japanese men. The injury proved to be fatal, and he died on February 25, 1920.

Christine Diekmann maintained the home in Elma for her younger children until her death on July 2, 1938. Of these younger children, only Herman and Walter remained in Elma for any length of time. Herman taught in the Elma Public High School for the twelve or thirteen years prior to his service in the U.S. Army during World War II. Following his release from the army, he moved to California.

Walter Diekmann worked at the Peoples Savings Bank for several years prior to World War II and he returned to this position following his return to civilian life in 1945. In 1947 he, his wife, Mildred (Bartels), and son, William, moved to California.

Louis Diekmann—December 15, 1886-December 31, 1943—and Laura (Haaf)—March 13, 1887-November 30, 1953. As a very young man, Louis, son of William and Christine, began his life in the business world when he operated a grocery store in Maple Leaf for a short time. Then he worked as a teller at the First State Savings Bank in Elma until he purchased the Diekmann Dry Goods Store from his father in 1908 or 1909. He operated this store until 1929 when he had a closing-out sale and retired.

A year later the building that housed the dry goods store was converted into a movie theater, and unfortunately, the building burned in 1932. Luckily, it was the only building in the block which had fire walls, and the adjoining business places—the Gross Hardware and Elma Grocery, sustained only minor damage.

After the failure of the First State Savings Bank, he, along with W. D. Enloe and Dr. F. N. Stute, was instrumental in raising the capital needed to obtain the charter for the present Peoples Savings Bank. He served on the Board of Directors until his death.

Because of his great interest in civic affairs, he also served on the local school board for probably twenty years.

In 1934 Louis was asked to reorganize the bookkeeping system at the Howard County Equity, and he continued to work in the office until ill health forced him to resign early in 1943.

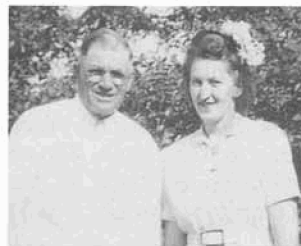
The two children of Louis and Laura Diekmann are the only descendants of William and Christine Diekmann who remain in this community. Lois (Mrs. Charles Garmen) replaced her father at the Howard County Equity when he retired, and she worked until 1948. She had previously taught at the Elma Public High School.

Then Edward became the third member of the family to work for the Howard County Equity, and he stayed with the firm until his retirement May 1, 1986.

William Diesburg Family



Carl, Florence, Bill Diesburg, Joyce and Willard.



William and Helen Diesburg.



Connie (Diesburg) Batt and Paul Batt.

Bill Diesburg, a long-time resident of Elma, was married to Helen Kohle on October 5, 1948, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Leofeld, Sask., in Canada. He was a widower with two children living and two children deceased. Mark, the oldest, died at the age of six months; Florence married Carl Deutsch and lives on a farm seven miles from New Hampton, she taught school in a little country school in the Elma area before her marriage; Clarence was accidentally shot at the age of 15 when he was checking his traps early one morning; and Willard is married to Joyce Hewling and lives

by Chancellor, SD, and was employed by Dakota Inn for many years.

After Bill and Helen were married, they lived in a three-room house on the Ed Streich farm ½ mile south of Elma until they built their home in Elma three years later. They had one daughter, Connie Marie, born in 1953. She graduated from Crestwood High School with high honors and was employed at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester as a medical secretary. She married Paul Batt in June of 1976 and they are the parents of four children: Tom, Chris, and twins, Maria and Michael.

Bill was engaged in farming most of his life. He owned and operated a farm northwest of Elma. Along with farming he had a cream route in the earlier years. Later on he rented out his farm and did carpenter work until he had a heart attack in 1963 while fishing in Canada. After this he was forced to quit work. A few years later he suffered another heart attack and spent a month in the hospital in Mason City. He died of a massive stroke at the Park Hospital in August, 1968.

After Bill died Helen worked at odd jobs until she was employed at the Shaffers Rest Home in Elma for two years. Since then she has been housekeeper and cook at the I.C. Rectory for 13 years—seven years for Father Tegeler and six years for Msgr. Reicks.

Charles Dockendorf

Charles and Julie Dockendorf moved to Elma from New Hampton, Iowa, when he accepted employment at Swift and Co. as a hog buyer, a position he had previously held there.

They are parents of three children; Michelle, Nickolaus and Nathan.

O. A. "Bert" Dunton

O. A. "Bert" Dunton was born December 11, 1876. He married Mary Fallgatter, daughter of Dan and Elizabeth Beaumaster Fallgatter. Her sisters were Mrs. Harry (Emma) Pardee and Mrs. Edward (Doris) Conway.



Mary and O. A. "Bert" Dunton.

Bert and Mary made their home in Elma from 1907 to 1926. At that time, they operated a cream separator business here, located where Ralph Biwer now lives. They sold this to J. P. Whelan and moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where they rented rooms in their home to college students.

They were parents of two sons, Dan and Don.

Mary Fallgatter Dunton, born June 6, 1884, died June 17, 1956. Her husband, Bert, died December 30 of the same year.

Joe Dusheck

Joe Dusheck married Marie Tuckek February, 1938. Marie died in 1977. Marie's family ran the Tuckek Tavern on the east side of Elma for 15 years. Everyone called Marie's mother "Ma Tuckek."

Joe worked at the Howard County Equity.

They were the parents of two daughters: Mrs. Tom (JoAnn) Burke and Darlene Nehl.

Donald Dybevik Family

Donald Dybevik, son of John and Anna Dybevik, was born in 1936 east of Elma. He attended grade school at Country School Paris 6, and graduated from Elma High School in 1954.

Donald farmed with his father until 1966. In 1967, he started work at Schley Cheese, where he is still employed.

On October 23, 1971, he married Jacqueline Klockner at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa. At that time, they made their home in Cresco, Iowa.

Jacqueline Klockner was born in 1948 in Fort Dodge, Iowa, where she lived for sixteen years, then moved to Waterloo, Iowa. She graduated from Orange High School in 1967. She is employed at Comprehensive Systems at this time.

In July of 1973, Donald and Jackie moved to the Gene Schwake farm. In November, 1973, they purchased the "Dr. Mulick" home in Elma where they still reside.

Donald and Jackie are parents of four children, Ryan, Heather, Tiffany and Brittany.

John B. Dybevik

John B. Dybevik, son of Buttolf and Inaberg Dybevik, was born in 1904 on a farm near Elma. He had ten brothers and sisters.

In 1927, John married Anna Beaston. They are parents of seven children: Oliver, JoAnn, Donald, Carol, Karen, Daryl and Gayle.



John B. Dybevik family (Back, left to right)—Donald, Oliver, Carol, Gayle, Daryl. (Front)—Karen, Anna & John, Joann.

John (Joe) farmed until he retired in 1966. He and Anna then moved to Cresco, Iowa.

John passed away in 1975.

Anna Beaston was born in 1910 on a farm near Elma. She was the daughter of Samuel and Ida Beaston.

After she and John retired from farming, Anna started working at Evans Nursing Home in Cresco in 1967. She was employed there until retiring in 1981. She then moved to the town of Elma.

Anna is active in Senior Citizens, Ladies Aid at the Lutheran Church and Colonial Manor Auxiliary.

John's father, Buttolf Dybevik, was struck by a car while walking one-half mile east of Elma on November 6, 1946. He died a few days later from injuries due to the accident.



Don Dybevik family (Back row)—Tiffany, Ryan, Jacqueline. (Front row)—Heather, Don, Brittany.

Frank Elwood Family

Frank Elwood was born in Jackson County, Iowa, on August 4, 1860, the son of Kinsey and Percey (Dawes) Elwood. When he was young his mother died and a few years later Frank left home to travel west. He pursued his education in the schools of Wyoming, Iowa. In 1881, he left Iowa, returning in the summer of 1883, settling in Elma, where he began trading and selling stock and in 1888 he turned his attention to operations in land. He was senior partner in the Elwood Land Company.

Frank married Katherine Harris on August 30, 1884. They became the parents of four children: Reed, Lee, Dale, and Frank, who died in infancy.

Frank died on May 9, 1942, and Katherine died on January 31, 1931.

Reed Elwood Family

Reed Elwood was born October 1, 1885, the son of Frank and Katherine Harris Elwood. He lived at Wheatland, Wyoming, from 1906 to 1908. In 1911 he

received his law degree and from 1911 to 1916, he engaged in private law practice in Elma. He then was associated with his brother, Lee Elwood, in the law firm of Elwood and Elwood until 1926. After that time, he conducted a private law practice. He married Goldie M. Dowd on June 30, 1915, at Des Moines. For many years he was president of Peoples Savings Bank of Elma, a position he held at the time of his death in 1952. They had two sons, Frank and Reed.

Lee Elwood Family

Lee Elwood was born December 27, 1888, on a farm southeast of Elma. He resided in the Elma area until 1926. He was the son of Frank and Katherine (Harris) Elwood. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1909 and served as state representative for Howard County from 1912 to 1918. He opened an office of law in Elma in 1910 and in 1917 was joined by his brother, Reed, forming the firm of Elwood and Elwood. In 1926, he became a partner with his brother, Dale Elwood, in a law office in Cresco.

He was married to Alice Church, daughter of Frank W. and Josephine Church on June 26, 1917, and they had three children: Fred, Mrs. William (Josephine) Landholt, and Mrs. Wm. (Alice Lee) Jaeger.

Fred Elwood Family

Fred C. Elwood was born in Elma on June 6, 1918. He was the son of Lee and Alice Church Elwood. Fred started school in Elma and graduated from Cresco High School, Upper Iowa University, and attended Drake Law School in Des Moines. He served in the Army Military Police in W.W. II.

He married Lois E. Carter, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Lowell Carter of Elma, on March 4, 1943. They had two daughters, Kathryn Lee and Barbara Claire.

Fred, with his brother-in-law William Landholt, operated the Elwood-Landholt Hardware Store in Elma for many years. He also headed a construction company that did work in Elma. Among the buildings he built was the Peoples Savings Bank and the remodeling of the Methodist Church.

Fred died in 1969.



Fred and Frank Elwood on their 50th birthday.



Lee Elwood, elected to the State Legislature.

Reed Elwood

Reed Elwood was born in January, 1920, the son of Reed and Goldie Dowd Elwood. He graduated from the Elma Public School and attended school at Fayette and Iowa City. He graduated with a law degree. He was in the service, being discharged for medical reasons. He taught in the public school until 1946 when his father needed him to help in the bank. He was president of the Peoples Savings Bank at the time of his death in December of 1976.

Reed was admired for his musical abilities and donated his talents for many church functions, weddings, funerals, and social activities.

William David Enloe

William "Bill" Enloe was born January 28, 1872, son of John and Martha Carrington Enloe in Franklin County, Illinois. He received his education there and attended Metropolis, Illinois, High School. He had two brothers, James and Enoch, and a sister, Lula.

Following his schooling, he worked in flour mills and operated a steam shovel. He was associated with Winston Bros. Co. of Minneapolis.

On November 26, 1902, he married Sarah Norton (Naughton) at Alta Vista. He was associated with H. H. Timmerman at Alta Vista in general merchandise in 1917.

In 1922, he came to Elma and purchased a garage business from Pierce Cashman and operated that business for many years. The last seven years of his life he ran a welding and mechanical shop. Later, his son "Eddie" ran a D-X service station at the same site, which is now owned by Kenneth Stevenson.

Bill and Sarah lived in a house on West Main of Elma, which in recent years was also owned by their granddaughter, Valerie, and her husband, Dale Kolbet.

In 1927, he was elected president of the Peoples Savings Bank and held that position for many years. He was councilman many times and when he died on August 4, 1945, he was serving the town as mayor.

His wife, Sarah, was the daughter of Bernard Naughton, who originally came from Ireland along with his brother.

Sarah and Bill Enloe had no children of their own, but adopted John Edmund, from a Catholic orphanage in Sioux City, Iowa, at the age of eighteen months.

John "Eddie" was raised in Elma and graduated from Immaculate Conception High School. He was called into the service in 1941, being stationed in



Sarah and William Enloe.

California. He was later sent to England during World War II, where he met and married Dorothy Genn, Cambridge, England, in January, 1944. John "Eddie" came home in October, 1945. His wife and daughter, Janice, followed on February 22, 1946, aboard the Lebulu B. Vance, docking in New York City. They lived with Sarah Enloe the first year, then moved to a house owned by August Lauck and now owned by Janice and Dean Kruger.

John "Eddie" was killed June 13, 1953.

Dorothy Enloe and her children lived in Elma until the children graduated from high school. Dorothy then did private nursing until she started employment at the Linn County Care Facility in 1971. She retired to Charles City in May, 1984.

Sarah Enloe lived with the Enloe family and then resided at Chautauqua Nursing Home until her death in December, 1971.

Three of Bill and Sarah's grandchildren and their families reside in Elma. They are: Mrs. Dean (Janice) Kruger; Mrs. Marvin (Lorraine) Pullman and William D. Enloe. Another granddaughter, Mrs. Dale (Valerie) Kolbet, now lives on a farm near Alta Vista, Iowa.

William D. Enloe

William D. Enloe and JoAnn Haskovec, daughter of Ed and Marcella Haskovec, were married at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Lourdes, Iowa, on May 5, 1974.

They are parents of: Brenda, Adam, Abbie, Joshua, and Katie.

In January, 1975, they moved into the new home they built on lots previously owned by Ben Schoenfeldt.

Bill's parents, John "Eddie" and Dorothy Enloe and his grandparents, William David and Sarah Enloe also resided in Elma for many years.

Bill is a bus driver for the Howard-Winnesheik School District.

John Francis Enright Family



Francie Enright family—Mrs. Lyle (Patty) Streich, Clara, Charles, Francis, Mrs. Bill (Alice) Gansen.

John Francis Enright was born and raised in the Elma area, the son of Patrick and Nellie Enright, and the grandson of John F. and Margaret Enright. The families were residents of Elma during the late 1800's and the early 1900's.



Clara and Francis Enright.

He married Clara Thompson and they are the parents of four children: Mrs. Lyle (Patricia) Streich, Mrs. Bill (Alice) Gansen, Charles and John Russell (deceased).

John spent four and one-half years in the service of his country. He worked for many years on county maintenance and Clara worked as a secretary for the Peoples Savings Bank.

John Francis died in 1984.

Fallgatter Family

A land entry of 1875 shows a listing of August W. Fallgatter who came to this area in 1864 from Dodge County, Wisconsin. A map of the time around 1886, shows August and Daniel Fallgatter as landholders in the area now Elma.

Daniel Fallgatter married Elizabeth Beaumaster at North Washington on October 31, 1877. She was born January 6, 1858, the daughter of William and Theresa Beaumaster. At the age of 16 she moved with her parents to the Howard County area.

She and Daniel settled on a farm in what is now Elma, their first home being the Thomas Kennedy house. (This house later burned and is now a part of the Elma Park.) They moved five years later to the farm south of town known later as the Fred Streich farm. Daniel died on June 3, 1906. She continued to live there until 1915 when she moved into Elma, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Ed (Doris) Conway. Elizabeth died on July 9, 1932.

Their children were: Mrs. H. A. (Emma) Pardee, Mrs. Ed (Doris) Conway, Mrs. O. H. (Mary) Dunton.

Kenneth Fangman Family



(Front row)—Brian and Bobby. (Back row)—Steven, Tamara, Deborah, Janice, Kenneth, and Becky.

Kenneth Fangman was born at Bancroft, Iowa, son of Quinten and Lucille Fangman. He married Janice Hoffman, daughter of Marcella and Henry Hoffman of Alta Vista, Iowa. They have farmed since their marriage, losing their farm home during the tornado of 1971. They are the parents of Deborah, Steven, Becky, Tamara, Robert, and Brian.

Quinten Fangman Family

Quinten and Lucille Fangman moved from Bancroft, Iowa, onto a farm northwest of Elma on March 1, 1954. They farmed there until March 1, 1972, selling the farm to their son, Kenneth, and his family. They then moved into a home in Elma.

Quinten and Lucille Fangman were the parents of Kenneth, James, Mrs. Francis (Marjorie) Ludwig, Mrs. Jerry (Donna) Fitzgerald, Robert (deceased June 21, 1965), David, Vincent, Bonnie (deceased February 17, 1983), and Mrs. Rod (Mary) Hansen.

Lucille died October 6, 1981.



(Back row)—Vincent, Donna, James, Kenneth. (Middle row)—Bonnie, Robert, Marjorie, David. (Front row)—Quinten, Mary, Lucille.



(Back row)—David, Vincent, James, Kenneth. (Middle row)—Mary, Marjorie, Bonnie, Donna. (Front row)—Lucille, Quinten.

Bernard Ferrie Family

Bernard Ferrie and Lucy Malone were married October 29, 1907, in our Lady of Lourdes Church, Lourdes, Iowa.

Bernard Ferrie was born near Cresco, Iowa, January 4, 1880, the son of John and Esther Ferrie. Lucy Malone was born January 6, 1884, near Lourdes, Iowa, the daughter of Bernard and Isabel Malone.

They were the parents of eight children, Durand, Virgil, Hugh, Francis, Angela, (Sister Mary Celestine), Mrs. Marie O'Donnell of Elma, Mrs. Archie (Bernadine) Dilky of Oelwein, and Viola Ferrie of Cresco. There are nine grandchildren.

They farmed in the Cresco area until 1931 when they moved to the Elma area and farmed until 1945. They retired and moved into Elma in 1945.

Mr. Ferrie passed away May 14, 1960, and Mrs. Ferrie passed away November, 29, 1960.



(Back row)—Angela (Sister Mary Celestine) Bernadine, Durand, Marie. (Front row)—Bernard, Viola, Lucy, Virgil.

Viola Ferrie

Viola Ferrie was born October 12, 1921, at Cresco to Bernard and Lucy Ferrie.

She moved to the Elma area when a small child and attended rural school and the Immaculate Conception Academy. She was employed in Osage, Oelwein, New Hampton, Cresco, and Elma.



Viola Ferrie

She is now a resident of the Howard County Care Facility.

History of the James Fitzgerald Farm— 4½ Miles NE of Elma

This 160-acre farm was originally purchased from the United States by Nathan R. Vail December 1, 1853, and was purchased by Thomas R. Carroll and James E. Carroll (brothers) in May of 1891. They bought it from Henry R. Spaulding and J. W. Ayers for the sum of one thousand forty dollars. In 1896 Thomas Carroll sold his half to his brother, James, for the sum of nineteen hundred dollars.

The farm was in the Carroll name until it was pur-

chased by James and Mabel (Carroll) Fitzgerald September 3, 1939, and is still tenanted and operated by the Fitzgerald family.

Mabel Carroll and James Fitzgerald were married October 29, 1934. They are the parents of six children: Pat Fitzgerald of Elkader, Iowa; Mary Danielson of Rochester, MN; Eddie, who passed away in 1978; Jerry of Elma; Joe of Boscabel, Wisconsin; and JoAnn Huegel of Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Jerome "Jerry" Fitzgerald

Jerome Fitzgerald, son of James and Mabel Carroll Fitzgerald, was born and raised in the Elma area. In 1963, he married Donna Fangman and, except for one year when they lived in Elkader, they have farmed near Elma.

Donna is the daughter of Quinten and Lucille Fangman. She moved to Elma in 1954 when her family moved here from Bancroft.



(Back row)—Jerry, Missy. (Front row)—Tom, Donna, Jenny.

In the fall of 1964, Jerry and Donna purchased the "Womack" farm from Dale and Jeanette Schroeder, getting possession in March, 1965. On May 15, 1968, all the buildings were destroyed by the tornado that also hit Elma. A large shed and a new house were built immediately and they have continued building and replacing trees. The only original things left on the farm are six trees.

In 1979, they purchased one hundred fifty-five acres of the James and Mabel Fitzgerald farm. James and Mabel kept five acres and the homestead where they still reside. In 1991 this farm will have been in the family 100 years.

Jerry and Donna have three children: Tom, Jenny and Missy.

Tom will be opening a mechanic shop in Elma in 1986.

Elmer Flugge Family

Elmer Flugge married Elsie Lubbert. Elsie was born June 19, 1900. They were the parents of Mrs. Leona Reetz, Mrs. Donald (Inez) Bode, Mrs. Vernon (Rosanna) LeBarge, Mrs. Cletus (Alvina) Jordan, Mrs. Clara Freebury, Mrs. Victor (Helen) Bartels, Melvin, Lloyd, Alden, Roy, Floyd, Ralph, and Donald. They also had

two children die in infancy. Elsie died May 14, 1976. She was preceded in death by Elmer.

Elsie worked at the local hospital for Dr. Rainy for many years. She always had a garden of flowers she loved.



(Back row)—Melvin, Lloyd, Alden, Roy, Floyd, Ralph, Donald. (Middle row)—Mrs. Leona Reetz, Mrs. Donald (Inez) Bode, Mrs. Vernon (Rosanna) LeBarge, Mrs. Cletus (Alvina) Jordan, Mrs. Clara Freebury, Mrs. Victor (Helen) Bartels. (Front row)—Elsie and Elmer Flugge.



Elsie Flugge

Flugge Family

Henry Flugge, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Flugge, Sr., was born in Cook County, Illinois, June 1, 1855. He was united in marriage to Caroline Westendorf in Cook County, and they farmed in the Alta Vista-Elma area.

Their children, now all deceased, were: Mrs. August (Martha) Unger; Albert; John, Alta Vista; Elmer; Arnold, Calmer; and Mrs. Fred (Clara) Brockney.

Henry died August 8, 1935, and his wife, Caroline, died January 27, 1908.

Martha married August Unger and they lived in the Elma area. They were parents of Mrs. William (Edna) Lamprecht.

Albert married Mary Patton, and they became par-



Henry and Caroline (Westendorf) Flugge.

ents of: Mrs. N. C. (Edith) Groth; Charles, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Harold, Riceville; Mrs. Ed (Dorothy) Persing, Kansas City, Missouri; Mrs. Dean (Helen) Shoars, Plymouth, Iowa; Albert O., Elma; and Caroline, Kansas City, Missouri.

John married Alma Erion and to this union was born Mrs. Abel (Myrel) Abbas, Elma; and Marlin, Waverly, Iowa. Alma and Myrel both still reside in Elma.

Clara married Fred Brockney. Their son, LaVern, is now an Elma resident.



Henry Flugge family (Back row)—Mrs. Fred (Clara) Brockney; Mrs. August (Martha) Unger and Albert Flugge. (Front row)—Arnold Flugge, Elmer Flugge and John Flugge.

Francis Fogarty Family

Francis Fogarty married Beatrice Womack and were the parents of six children. Francis worked at White Farm in Charles City and they lived on a farm by St. Cecelia. Their children are: Bob, married Eileen Bushman; Ann, married Bill Meirick and lived in the



Wilma, Roger, Judy, Bob, Ann and George.



Beatrice and Francis Fogarty.

Elma area until they moved to Protivin; Wilma, married John McGrane; George, married Donna Unga and was killed in Vietnam in 1966; Roger, married Arvonne Boeke; and Judy, married Wes Becthold.

Beatrice died in 1970 and Francis died in 1977.



The Family of John and Mary (Richards) Fogarty, Sr.

(Standing, left to right)—Hannah (Fogarty) Conley, Edward, Catherine (Fogarty) Conley, John D., Mary (Fogarty) Beaumaster. (Sitting, left to right)—Patrick, Michael and Roger.

John Fogarty

John Fogarty was born in Tipperary County, Ireland, June 24, 1843, and came to America at the age of nineteen. After spending one year in New York and three years in St. Louis, he came to Howard County in the year 1865.

In 1870, he married Mary Richards at Cresco, Iowa. They were parents of eight children, John D.; Pat J.; Mary Beaumaster; Roger; Mike; Mrs. Kate Conley; Mrs. Hannah Conley and Edward, the youngest son who made the supreme sacrifice for his country in France, killed in action in October, 1918.

John and Mary Fogarty began housekeeping on a portion of the land upon which they lived until 1910 when they moved into Elma.

Mary Richards was born in Jennings County, Indiana, December 26, 1842. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Richards, one of the first three settlers in Lourdes. She came with her parents to Howard County July 5, 1855, settling on a farm one mile north and one mile west of Lourdes.

John Fogarty died at his home May 14, 1918, and was buried in the Calvary Cemetery.

Mary Richards Fogarty died December 28, 1921. She had been an invalid for a number of years.



(Back row)—Ed Fogarty, Mike Fogarty, Pat Fogarty. (Front row)—Roger Fogarty, John Fogarty.



Pat Fogarty Family

Pat Fogarty, son of Pat and Edna Fogarty of Elma, married Linda Laue, daughter of Herman and Clara Laue of Elma. They reside in Elma, and they both work at Sara Lee in New Hampton. Linda has a daughter, Brenda, who now lives in Waterloo. Her sons, Tony and Randy, also live in Elma. Pat and Linda have a daughter, Angie, and a son, Patrick, Jr. (P.J.). They have a granddaughter, Amy, who also makes her home with them.

William G Frank Family

William G Frank was born in Germany in 1876, the son of Peter and Katherine Stuber Frank. The family came to the United States by boat in 1886. They were given a team of oxen and a cart when they arrived at McGregor, Iowa, to work their way west. They stopped at Howard Center, Howard County, Iowa.

Peter homesteaded 80 acres of land nine miles north-east of Elma. He cleared the land and built a log home and stable for the livestock.

William and Bertha Hutton, the daughter of Alex and Elizabeth Hutton, were married in 1908 and lived on the homestead farm. They were the parents of seven children—twins that died in infancy, two daughters, Euphamie and Verona, three sons, Orville, Alvin and Valden, and one foster daughter, Pearl.

Due to William's health, the family moved to town in 1920. He operated a livery stable that was located where the veterinary office is today.

In the summer months he operated a street sprinkler which was a large wooden round tank, horse drawn. The business paid a wage to have the dust sprinkled.

For a period of years he worked as a railroad section laborer and did carpenter work until his health failed. He died in December, 1945.

Bertha did practical nursing plus caring for the family. She died March, 1959.

The family attended the Methodist Church and the children graduated from the Elma Public School. The boys were good basketball players and helped get the team to the State Tournaments for three years.

Orville served in World War II. When he returned home, he worked for the Chicago Great Western and later did farm work. He married and had two sons. He died November, 1982.

Alvin (Sam) was a licensed buttermaker and managed the Haberman Creamery until he moved to the farm in 1942. Alvin married Wilma Seefeld and had two sons. They have a 20th Century Farm three miles southwest of St. Ansgar, Iowa.

Valden (Bus) served his country in World War II. He married Marion Cable and they had one son. Valden did carpenter work and later was custodian at the Elma Public School until retirement. He died March, 1981.

Verona retired from a business career after 50 years in 1974. She was a waitress at Bellis Cafe, grocery clerk for M-D Store, Geo Evans Grocery, Ken Grosser Store, and in 1955 was employed at Peoples Savings Bank until retirement in December 1974.

Edward Freidhof Family

Edward Freidhof married Helena Diederich and they lived on a farm between Elma and Alta Vista. Upon retiring, they moved into Alta Vista. Their children are: Gertrude, married Charles Lentz; Edith, married Louis Schmitt—Raymond Heit; Jerome was killed in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge; Adrian married Helen Zweibohmer; Fabian married Berenice Nibaur; Cyrus married Jeanne Loes; and Robert married Lorraine Helmers. Linus and Mary died in infancy.



(Standing)—Fabian, Gertrude, Robert, Edith, Cyrus, Adrian.
(Seated)—Helena (Lena), Jerome, Edward.

Valentine Freidhof Family

Valentine Freidhof was born in Baden, Germany, and was naturalized in Chickasaw County. On February 3, 1876, he married Margaret Zigman at North Washington, Iowa. Margaret Zigman was born in Fessenheim, Germany, on September 1, 1846. They were parents of: Mrs. Michael (Frances) Gansen; Mrs. Joseph (Lena) Huegel; Mrs. James (Mattie) McGuire; Leonard; Mrs. Frank (Mary) Huegel; Edward married to Helena Diederich; and Joseph married to Marie Lensing.

Valentine purchased 40 acres of land southeast of Alta Vista, Iowa, in 1875 for \$400 and 80 acres in 1879 for \$1408. In 1882 they moved from Chickasaw County to Howard County, living west of Elma and finally buying their farm east of Elma (where Gene Freidhof now lives) in 1890.

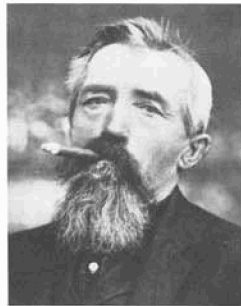
Valentine's son, Leonard, acquired the farm in 1904 and in 1925, Joe and Marie Lensing Freidhof bought the farm from his brother.

Joe's son, Gene, and his wife, Gert Heying, bought the farm from his parents in 1958 and are presently living there.

Margaret Zigman Freidhof died September 28, 1911.



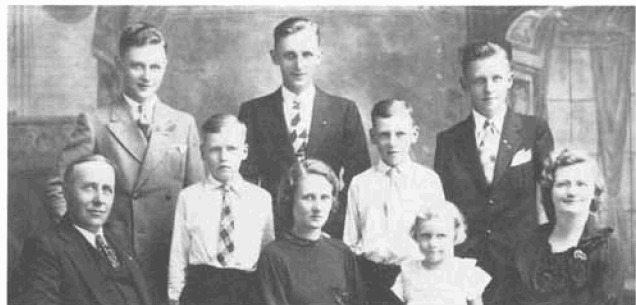
Valentine Freidhof family—Joe, Ed, Mary, Leonard, Mattie, Lena, Frances.



Valentine Freidhof, Mrs. Valentine (Margaret) Freidhof.

Joe Freidhof Family

Joe Freidhof married Marie Lensing. They farmed east of Elma and moved to Elma after retiring. Their children were: Florence, married Raymond Fitzgerald; John, married Genevieve Knox; James, married Annicetus Ferrie; Vincent, married Phyllis Burke; Raphael, married Alice Heying; Eugene, married Gertrude Heying; and Marie Catherine, married Francis Deutsch.



(Seated)—Joe, Florence, Marie. (Back row)—James, John, Vincent.
(Middle, standing)—Eugene, Raphael, Marie Catherine.

John Freidhof

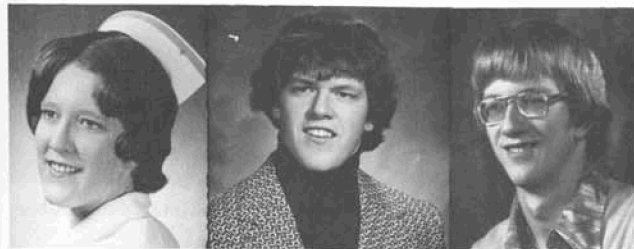
On May 16, 1940, Genevieve Knox became the bride of John Freidhof. John had graduated from the I.C. Academy, and later from the Coyne Electrical Institute in Chicago. John operated electrical businesses in Elma, Lourdes and New Hampton. He also served as mayor of Elma and was a long-time boy scout leader. The Freidhofs have resided in Elma since 1945, having purchased the Hart Oil Building for an electric and appliance shop.



Genevieve (Knox) Freidhof and John Freidhof.



Mrs. Tom (Judy) Henderson, Mrs. Keith (Joanne) Halverson, John Freidhof, Jr.



Mrs. Jim (Terri) Thayer, Leonard Freidhof, Tim Freidhof.

Genevieve graduated from the Decorah High School and Upper Iowa University. She has taught school 26 years in Winn. County, Elma, New Haven, Stacyville, and the past 17 years in New Hampton Community District (Alta Vista Center). They are the parents of six children, Mrs. Tom (Judy) Henderson, lives in Spring Grove, Minnesota, nurse; John, Jr., lives in Oelwein, is a car repair employee; Mrs. Jim (Terri) Thayer, lives in Cedar Rapids, nurse; Leonard, lives in Havelock, Iowa, teacher; and Tim lives in La Crosse, Wisconsin, grocery employee.

James Friedhoff Family

James Friedhoff, son of Joe and Marie (Lensing) Freidhof, married Annicetus Ferrie. They farmed east of Elma until he began working at the Howard County Equity until his retirement. They are the parents of 12

children: Francis, Joe, Mary, Gerard, Larry, Donald, Sister Margaret, Dennis, Sharon, Irvin, Paul and Connie. Annicetus died in 1981. Dennis was killed in Vietnam in 1968.



(Standing)—Francis, Joe, Mary, Gerard, Larry, Donald, Irvin, Paul, Connie. (Seated)—Sr. Margaret, Annicetus and James, Sharon.

Donald Friedhoff

Donald Friedhoff is the son of James and Annicetus Friedhoff. He attended Immaculate Conception School in Elma.

He married Donna Reicks, daughter of Bernie and Ruth Tupy Reicks. They have two children: Brian and Stacie.

Don is employed by Howard County and Donna is an employee of Comprehensive Systems.



Don, Donna, Brian and Stacie.

Francis Robert Friedhoff

Kenneth Friedhoff



Francis Robert Friedhoff was born December 2, 1940, son of James Friedhoff and Annicetus Ferrie. He was married to Patricia Shannon (born August 24, 1948) on April 29, 1967. They are the parents of Kenneth Francis, born April 10, 1968.

Francis is employed by the Howard County Equity and is owner and operator of Friedhoff's Saw Sharpening business. Patti is employed by Teresa and Joe Klobassa as a babysitter to Vern and Nicole. Patti is the daughter of Lee and Marion (Chihak) Shannon.

Vincent Freidhof

Vincent Freidhof was the son of Joseph and Marie Freidhof. He was a member of the armed forces during World War II. He married Phyllis Burke, daughter of William O. and Alice Bilek Burke, on April 9, 1947.

They became parents of George, Elma; Ronald, Davenport; Kenneth, deceased; Mrs. Craig (Nancy) Worple, Elma; and Kathy, Decorah.

Vince worked for many years with Otto Lentz Construction. He passed away July 21, 1979.

Phyllis was a teacher in the country schools and later employed by Sara Lee Kitchens, New Hampton.

Ernest Emil Friedrich

Ernest Friedrich, born December 3, 1861, in Smolnik, Germany. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1880, landing in Boston. From there he went to the Independence and Fairbank area, where he found employment by various farmers and the railroad near Fairbank.

Anna Marie Meyer was born in Hanover, Germany, August 2, 1865, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1882. She found work at the Independence State Mental Health Institute. During her employment, she met two girls who had a brother come to visit them. She became acquainted with him and on May 14, 1888, they were married. They lived at Fairbank for a short time, when they decided to buy 160 acres of land six and one-half miles north of Elma, which they homesteaded. In the twenties, they rented the farm to their son, Dan, with the help of his sister, Anna, and brother, Emil. Ernest and Anna established a home in Elma in which to retire. Ernest died December 23, 1945, and Anna died July 8, 1921.

They were blessed with 11 children: Ceaser, born October 31, 1889, and died April 23, 1956, was married to Hilda Bartels, born December 7, 1888, and died November 17, 1965; E. W. (Ernest), born March 20, 1891, and died October 14, 1974, was married to Linda Rimrodt, born March 22, 1896, and died October 7, 1980; Daniel, born September 2, 1892 and died April 2, 1952, was married to Mable Lauck, born January 14, 1903; William was born August 5, 1894, and died March 6, 1959, was married to Gladys Lull, born September 2, 1899, and died February 20, 1966; Pauline, born July 30, 1895, died October 13, 1967, was married to Rudolf Bueckman, born January 6, 1890, and died December 12, 1968; Martha, born December 2, 1896, died June 25, 1968, was married to Seth McCaleb, born September 13, 1892, and died October 26, 1962; Anna, born April 24, 1899, died August 5, 1970, was married to Lawrence Halweg, born February 22, 1897 and died December 25, 1975; Emil, born December 4, 1900, and died April 28, 1961; Dora was born November 12,

1901, and was married to Victor Streich, born June 4, 1906; Erich was born January 16, 1905, and died October 17, 1985; and Emma was born May 25, 1908, and died January 9, 1960, was married to Lyle Hyberger, born April 14, 1896, and died in 1972.

Dan Friedrich Family

Dan Friedrich, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Friedrich, was born September 2, 1892. He married Mabel Lauck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August Lauck. She was born January 14, 1903. They were the parents of three sons: Floyd of Elma, Dale of Phoenix, Arizona, and Don of Ankeny, Iowa. Dan died April 2, 1952. Dan and Mabel's parents were all farmers and lived in the Elma area. Mabel still resides in Elma.



(Back row)—Donald, Dale, Floyd. (Front row)—Mabel, Dan.



(Back row)—Dale, Donald, Floyd. (Front row)—Ruth, Mabel, Alberta.

Floyd Friedrich Family

Floyd Friedrich, son of Dan and Mabel (Lauck) Friedrich, and Alberta were married in 1949. They farm north of Elma in the Maple Leaf area. They are the parents of three children: Mrs. Tom (Connie) Buresh, Roger, and Mrs. Dan (Carol) Peterson.



Floyd Friedrich Family.

Ernest W. Friedrich

Ernest Friedrich was born March 20, 1891, the second son of E. E. and Anna Meyer Friedrich. He was the first of their children to be born in Howard County.

Ernest was married to Alinda Rimrodt, daughter of Fred and Engel Schwake Rimrodt. She was the third child of a family of nine, of whom Henry, Alinda, Helene, Art and Arnold spent most of their lives in or near Elma.

Fred Rimrodt's parents were Henry and Caroline Turkow Rimrodt. Engel Schwake's parents were Conrad and Marie Hasse Schwake, who had come to Elma from Germany.

Ernest and Linda were the parents of three children: Reuben, Loyd, and Orval, all living in the Elma area. Ernest died in 1974 and Linda in 1980.



(Back row)—Loyd, Reuben, Orville. (Front row)—Linda and Ernest Friedrich.



Ernest and Linda Friedrich—55th wedding anniversary.

Loyd Friedrich Family

Loyd Friedrich married Maxine Laue in 1949. They made their home on the farm where Loyd's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Friedrich, had lived.

They are the parents of five children: Larry was born in 1950 and is married to Jeanne Mai. They have three children, Eric, Jill and Ryan. They now live on the Friedrich place. JoAnne was born in 1951 and she married Greg Chambers and they now reside in Dallas, Texas, and are the parents of two sons, Ernie and Jake. Debra was born in 1952 and she married Pat Fair, son of Wally and Helen Fair of Elma, and they had three children, Darcy, Steffen and Pat, Jr. Pat, Sr., was killed in December of 1976, one month before Pat, Jr., was born. Debra married Roger Schroeder and they have two children, Kate and Willie. They and their family live west of Elma on a farm. Lonnie was born in 1953 and is married to Mary Jo Zeimetz, daughter of Nick and Lidwina Zeimetz of Elma, and they are the parents of three children, Heather, Brad and Dana and

they live on a farm north of Elma. Rodney was born in 1955 and married Toni Schroeder, and they became the parents of Leah (deceased) and Abby. They reside on a farm east of Alta Vista.



(Back row)—Larry, Rodney, Lonnie. (Front row)—Debra, Loyd, Maxine, JoAnn.

Orval Friedrich Family

Orval Friedrich, son of Ernest and Linda Friedrich, now lives in Elma as a semi-retired minister since 1982.

He is researching the large boulder of Elma which shows highly-weathered writing within a large circle thought to be of ancient Viking in origin.

Reuben Friedrich



(Back row)—Norman Friedrich, Harold Friedrich, Reuben Friedrich, Russell Grabau, Carl Friedrich. (Front row)—Susan and Tristan Friedrich, Kathy & Sarah Friedrich, Lois and Mary Lynn Friedrich, Hope Grabau, Denise Friedrich.

Reuben Friedrich and Lois Brummond were married on April 20, 1952, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Elma, and have lived on the same farm north of Elma. Their children are: Carl, married to Denise Yee, living in Evanston, Illinois; Harold, married Kathy Linkenmeyer, parents of two daughters, they farm northwest of Elma; Hope, married Russell Grabau, they live in Oelwein, Iowa; Norman, married Susan Bailey, have one son and live in Shenandoah.

Reuben and Lois are members of St. Paul's Maple Leaf Lutheran Church and the Farm Bureau.

Reuben is active in the Howard County Cattleman's Association and chairman of the Decorah Conference Cluster No. 1 of ALC.

Lois has served as secretary of Decorah Conference and Iowa District American Lutheran Church Women, is active in Coffee and Thimble Club, Elma Republican Women's Club and Colonial Manor Auxiliary.

Friedrichs hosted an A.F.S. Student, Richard Osterlund Knudsen, from Denmark for the 1976-77 school year.

William J. Gansen

William J. Gansen was born September 13, 1880, on a farm near Bankston, Iowa, the son of Jacob and Ann (Dallas) Gansen. His parents had come to this country from Germany in 1867.

William had three sisters and five brothers. In 1897 he and two brothers, John, Mike and Nick Kertles came to Elma and worked on farms in the area.

In 1902, William married Elizabeth Biwer, daughter of Matthias and Annie Biwer, in St. Bernard's Catholic Church at Alta Vista, Iowa, and they settled down to farming.

During the time they were farming, five children were born: Matthias, William L., Alphonsius B. "Ken", Anne and Lawrence.

In 1914, they moved to Elma where William had a pump repair shop and sold windmills. At this same time, he was town marshal and pumped water for the railroad in Elma and Taopi, Minnesota.

Another son, Phillip, was born in 1916 and they moved back to the farm. Their second daughter, Gertrude, was born in 1918. In 1920, a son, Jack, was born. On December 23 of this same year their farm home was destroyed by fire.

They continued to farm until 1944 when they retired and moved to Charles City.



(Left to right)—Lawrence, Will (Toots), Ann, Phillip, William, Matt, Elizabeth, Gertrude, A. B. (Ken), and Jack.

They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1952, and their sixtieth in 1962.

William died October 23, 1963, and Elizabeth on June 10, 1966. They are interred in Calvary Cemetery at Elma, Iowa.

Michael Gansen Family

Michael Gansen, the son of Jacob and Anna Cross Gansen, was born August 9, 1873. He married Julia Casey and to this union were born three children: Lucille, Arthur, and Walter. Julia died on January 1, 1911. Michael was remarried on August 12, 1913, to

Frances Freidhof. They were the parents of one son, Francis. Frances died in March of 1930.



Wedding picture in 1913. (Seated)—Michael Gansen. (Back row)—Leonard Freidhof, Elizabeth Arlen, Frances (Freidhof) Gansen.



Michael Gansen family: Lucille, Francis, Arthur, and Walter.

Art Gansen Family



Isabelle and Art Gansen.

Art Gansen was born in Dubuque, Iowa, son of Mike and Julia (Casey) Gansen. He married Isabelle Brennan, who was born in Waterloo, Iowa, daughter of Eugene and Henrietta (Myer) Brennan, in the Immaculate Conception Church in Elma on June 5, 1933.

They have two daughters, Lois (Greenlee) and Dorothy (Drilling). They have six grandchildren. The Gansens bought their home in Elma in 1934 from George Evans. The house was built by J. P. Whalen and is located one block north of the County Shop. They spend their winters in Edinburg, Texas, in their mobile home. Art and Isabelle had been in business in Elma for 38 years before their retirement in 1970.



Art, Lois, Isabelle and Dorothy.

Nicholas Gansen Family

Nicholas Gansen and Margaret Arlen were born at Bankston, Iowa, and grew up in a farming community. Nick's teenage brothers, Bill and John, and their friend, Nick Kertles, came to Elma, Iowa, where they rented a farm. Later Bill married Elizabeth Biwer and they continued to make their home here. His brother, John, and Nick Kertles then returned to Bankston, Iowa.

The Gansen farm at Bankston, Iowa, was located in a hilly area, and the home and farm buildings were situated quite a distance from the road. The land at Elma was level and the soil was rich and black, which may have been the reason for Nick to sell the Gansen farm and purchase one at Elma where his brother, Bill, had settled some years earlier.

In 1903, Nick and Margaret packed their possessions and took their two small children, George and Clarence, and went by train to their new home in Elma. The fare for their near one-hundred-mile journey was three cents per mile. Margaret's twelve-year-old sister, Mary, made the journey with them, so that she would be available to help where she was needed. The cattle, horses, pigs, etc., were taken along in large train box-cars with Nick riding the caboose to make sure all went well.

Nick and Margaret rented a farm here for some years, and in 1912 they bought a 200-acre farm here that is now owned by their grandson, Nick Gansen, a son of Clarence Gansen.

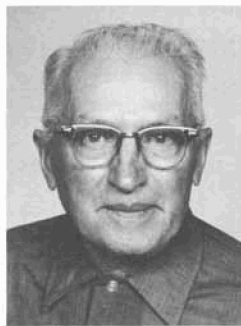
Nicholas and Margaret were parents of four children: George, Clarence, Elmer and Marcella.

Nicholas died in 1948, George in 1974, Clarence in 1974, Elmer in 1976, and Marcella in July, 1967.



George Gansen

Nick and Margaret (Arlen) Gansen.



Clarence Gansen Family

Clarence Gansen, son of Nick and Margaret Gansen, born April 29, 1902, married Geneva Jacoby on November 10, 1926. They farmed east of Elma until their retirement when they moved into Elma. They were the parents of seven children: Gerald, married Marge Shannon and are the parents of eight children; Nicholas, married Regina Praska and are the parents of nine children; Mary Gansen, married Wayne Finley and lives in Story City with their five children; Joseph married Eleanor Ludwig and lives on the family farm and has five children; Katherine Gansen married Daniel White and lives in Alta Vista and has four children; Norma Gansen married Kenneth Kolbet and lives in Naperville, Illinois, and has four children; Jeanette Gansen married Brian Glaser and lives in Kansas City, Missouri, and has four children.



Clarence and Geneva Jacoby Gansen married November 10, 1926. Attendants: Merle Jacoby and Rosella Frank Gansen.



Clarence Gansen family—1970: (Back row)—Brian Glaser, Mary Finley, Wayne Finley, Dolly Gansen, Nick Gansen, Marge Gansen, Gerald Gansen, Eleanor Gansen, Joe Gansen, Kathryn White, Dan White, Ken Kolbet. (Sitting)—Jeanette Glaser, Geneva Gansen, Clarence Gansen, and Norma Kolbet.

Geneva resides at the Colonial Manor in Elma. Clarence died January 13, 1974, of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Gerald John Gansen

Gerald John Gansen, son of Geneva Jacoby Gansen and Clarence Gansen, was born September 14, 1927. At that time the family lived four miles east of Elma. Gerald was the eldest of seven children, Nick, Mary, Joe, Katherine, Norma and Jeanette.



(Back row)—Kathy, Tim, Rose, Dale, Gerald, Dean, Marge, Ruthann, Dean Dvorak. (Center)—Michael, Betty, Tony, Becky Dvorak. (In front)—Amy and Ann.

Marjorie Ann Shannon, daughter of Clara Elgas Shannon and George Shannon, was born January 20, 1929. The family lived on the east side of town. The Shannons had six children, Jean, Paul, Jerry, Lee, Marge and Rita.

Gerald and Marge were married June 16, 1948, in the old I.C. Church, Elma. Eight children were born to this union: Rebecca, married Dean Dvorak, children, Aaron and Rachel; Timothy, married Kathy Rouchka, children, Nikki, Jared, Bradley, and Matthew; Dean, married Ruthann Gabelmann, children Jason, Jeremy, and Jeffrey; Dale, married Rose Blake, children, Elijah and Emily; Michael, married Betty Rouchka, children, Nathan, Brian, Kurtis, and Benjamin; Anthony; Amy; and Ann.

The Gansens have been farming for over 38 years on a farm six miles northwest of Elma.

Nick Gansen

Nick Gansen, son of Clarence and Geneva Gansen, married Regina "Dolly" Praska, daughter of Joseph, Sr., and Regina (Nibaur) Praska.

They are parents of Larry, Omaha, Nebraska; Regina Rooks, Nevada, Iowa; Nancy DePauw, St. Paul, Minnesota; Susan Case, Dallas, Texas; Greg, who farms at home with his dad; Beverly, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Barbara, Iowa City, Iowa; Christopher and Stephanie.

Nick is the fifth generation to live in Iowa. His ancestors arrived in America from Kuskon, Germany in 1858 and settled in Bankston, Iowa. His grandparents came to Elma in 1903 by train at three cents a mile. His grandfather, Nick Gansen, rode in the boxcar with the livestock during the near 100-mile trip.

Nick and Dolly farm and live on the farm originally purchased by Grandfather Nick Gansen in 1913.

Dolly's ancestors are natives of Bohemia in Czechoslovakia. Grandma, Emma Navratil Praska,



Nick Gansen family. (Back row, left to right)—Greg, Susan, Barbara, Larry, Chris. (Front row)—Beverly, Nancy, Nick, Stephanie, Dolly, Regina (Jeanie).

came to America in 1884 at the age of four, accompanied by her mother, Mary. Her father, Joseph, came a couple of years earlier.

Joe Gansen

Joe Gansen, son of Clarence and Geneva (Jacoby) Gansen and his wife, Eleanor Ludwig, daughter of Louis and Helen (Schmelzer) Ludwig were born in Howard County and have lived here all their lives.

They have five children: Kenneth, Mary Jo, Jayne, Robert and Richard. All their children, with the exception of Jayne who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, are residents of Howard County.

Joe's grandparents, John and Margaret Jacoby, and Nick and Margaret Gansen, and Eleanor's grandparents, Josephine and Matt Ludwig, and Mary and Al Schmelzer were all area residents.

Joe and Eleanor are dairy farmers and have lived on the Gansen family farm for thirty years.



Eleanor and Joe Gansen.

Elmer Gansen Family



Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gansen. Parents of Jim, Norb, and Tom. Elmer died in 1976 and Rosella died in 1971.



Norbert Gansen family consists of: Teresa, Doug, Joan, and Karen, standing, and Mary and Norb with Nicole, seated. Norbert is married to the former Mary Tenneson. They reside in Sioux City, Iowa, having formerly lived in Fredericksburg, Cresco, and Elma.



Tom Gansen family consists of: Ryan and Scott (in front), and Diane, Jenny, Angie, and Tom. Tom and Diane Fitzgerald Gansen resided in Washington, Iowa, for several years after their marriage, and now they reside in New Hampton, Iowa. Diane's parents were Florence and Ray Fitzgerald of Lourdes, Iowa.

Jim Gansen Family

Jim was born and raised on a farm near Elma. He graduated from Elma Immaculate Conception High School in 1955, and after graduation worked at the Rath Packing Co. in Waterloo, Iowa. He then went to the service, and after serving in the U.S. Army for two years, he returned to work at Rath.

On October 29, 1960, he married Sharon Beecher, who also was born and raised on a farm east of Elma. Sharon graduated from Elma I. C. High School in 1959 and was employed at the Waterloo Savings Bank in Waterloo, Iowa. She worked there until their first son,



Jim Gansen family (Left to right)—Edward, Ann, Jim, Sharon, Sherri, Bill, David and Steven.

Edward, was born on January 12, 1962. Their second son, William, was born on July 12, 1963.

In March of 1965, the Gansen family moved back to Elma, where Jim transferred from his job as a postal clerk in the Waterloo Post Office, where he had worked for three years, to the job of Rural Route Carrier Job No. 1, east of Elma.

On December 7, 1965, their daughter, Ann Marie, was born. On August 16, 1969, the twins, David and Steven, were born.

The new home they had built and moved into in December of 1966 was one of the houses that was destroyed in the May 15, 1968, tornado that struck the Elma area. They then rebuilt their home and moved back into it in December of 1968.

Edward is a 1980 graduate of Crestwood High School, Cresco, Iowa, and a 1985 graduate of U.N.I., Cedar Falls, Iowa.

William is a 1981 graduate of Crestwood High School and a 1985 graduate of I.S.U., Ames, Iowa. Bill married Sherri Banwart at West Bend, Iowa, on December 28, 1985.

Ann is a 1984 graduate of Crestwood and is a sophomore at U.N.I., Cedar Falls, Iowa.

David and Steven are sophomores at Crestwood High School.

Richard Gansen

Richard Gansen, son of Joe and Eleanor Gansen, married Suzan Lembrick, daughter of John and Carole Lembrick, on November 15, 1980.

They are parents of Bradley and Melissa.

The farm they operate and make their home on was purchased and farmed by Richard's grandparents, Clarence and Geneva Gansen.

They also recently purchased the farm from the Howard Watson Estate, which was settled by Arthur Watson, great-great-grandparents of Suzan.



Rich, Sue, Bradley and Melissa Gansen.

William B. Gardner Family

William B. Gardner and Mamie C. Butler were married October 21, 1907, and resided on a farm northeast of Elma. Mamie was a school teacher for many years and was one of the first teachers of the Alta Vista school.

William and Mamie were the parents of eight children: Linus, Frank, Joseph, John, Fred, Sister Mary Lenore, Marie (deceased), and George (deceased).

Fred Gardner

Fred Gardner was born in 1921, the son of William and Mamie Gardner. On November 28, 1945, he married Frances (Joey) Kelly and they resided on the same farm his parents lived on.

Fred and Joey were the parents of four children: Mrs. Tom (Kay) Flaherty, Larry, Mrs. Roger (Patsy) Lepa and Dan.

Dan Gardner Family

Dan Gardner, son of Fred and Joey Gardner, farms his father's farm. He and his wife, Diane, were married on April 12, 1980. They live on a farm near his father's place. They are the parents of one daughter, Jennifer, who was born July 16, 1984.

John Gardner Family

John Paul Gardner was born January 16, 1917, to William and Mamie (Butler) Gardner. He was the fifth child of eight. He attended a local country school for several years and then transferred to Immaculate Conception High School in Elma where he graduated in 1934. He particularly remembers being taught to dance by the sisters, and times driving the priests to their many functions.

John's father died in 1931 at the age of 52 of pneumonia, leaving him and his brothers to handle the responsibility of running the farm in the midst of a depression. In January, 1942, John enlisted in the Army. He served in the Army Air Corp until he was shot down over Germany in August of 1944. He remained a prisoner of war until April of 1945 when he was liberated. In October he was honorably discharged and moved back to Elma.

Upon his return from the Army, he married Vivian Hermanson of Waterville, Iowa. Together they raised twelve children: James, Ann, William, Thomas, Leon (Rick), Gregory, Charles, Patrick, Mary, Kevin, Nick, and Randy. They are also grandparents to 24 grandchildren.

John retired from farming in 1980. Vivian, who had worked for over 25 years for Klobassa's Grocery,



John and Viv Gardner.

retired in 1985. They plan to spend their golden years in Elma enjoying the small town hospitality.

Greg Gardner Family

Greg Gardner, son of John and Vivian Gardner, married Louise Heying, daughter of Jerome, Sr., and Mary Heying, all of the Elma community, in 1972. Greg spent two years in the Army at Ft. Hood, Texas. He is purchasing agent for David Mfg. in Mason City and Louise is a spotwelder at Donaldson Co. in Cresco. They are the parents of three children: Christy, Becky and Michael.



Christy, Louise holding Michael, and Greg holding Becky.

Daniel Garmen

Daniel Garmen was born in Wisconsin on April 27, 1866, and came to this area. Here he met his wife, Tena Biwer, daughter of Mathias and Mary Ann Thoma Biwer.

Tena Biwer was born in Wisconsin on December 29, 1870, and had moved here.

Daniel and Tena farmed at Busti.

They were parents of eight children: Mrs. Joseph (Kathryn) Showalter; Mrs. Jack (Anne) Merten; Mrs. Leo (Lena) Showalter; Mrs. Frank (Minette) Ahmann; Margaret; Matt, who married Ada Dugan; John, married to Matilda Thies; and Mrs. Clarence (Ellen) Gott.

Daniel died April 25, 1934, and Tena died April 25, 1951.



(Back row, left to right)—Kathryn, Anne, Lena, Minette. (Front row)—Jack, Dan, Matt, Ellen, Tena, Margaret.