

Joe Mohrfeld Family

Joe and Sedona Mohrfeld moved to the Elma area in 1937 after buying their farm in 1936. They were married February 15, 1927. They moved to the Elma area from West Point, Iowa. Joe retired from farming in 1954. They built their present home in 1962. They are the parents of six children: Leroy "Mort" of Elma, Lester of California, Marlys Clark of Austin, Minnesota, Rosemary Prado of North Carolina, Jerry of Austin, Minnesota, and Mary Kay Tvedt of Duncan who died August 29, 1983.



(Back row, left to right)—Mrs. Dave (Mary Kay) Tvedt, Jerry, Mrs. Rick (Rosemary) Prado, Marlys Clark, Lester, Leroy. (Seated)—Donie and Joe Mohrfeld.

Leroy Mohrfeld Family

Leroy moved with his family from Ackley in 1937 to Elma. He married Luva Mae Richmond in 1948. They are the parents of three daughters: Linda, LuRae, and Laureen (Dovolos).

Linda and LuRae are registered nurses, and Laureen is employed doing secretarial work. After graduation, Leroy went into the service. In 1947 he went into business with his brother, Lester, at the DX Station as the Mohrfeld Brothers. They burned out in 1951. He then worked as county assessor, drove gravel truck, and



Linda (left) and LuRae (right).



Luva and Leroy Mohrfeld.



Bridal picture: Laureen and George Dovolos.

worked at Oliver. He and his family moved to Seattle, Washington, but returned to Elma where he drove a transport out of Moline, Davenport, and Rock Island for Jerry Shannon. On April 7, 1954, he started working for Standard Oil and started his stock truck business. In 1971 he bought the Skelly Station, then added to it in 1981. It is now known as Mohrfeld Amoco.

He purchased the business from Standard Oil after he was employed by them for about 21 years. He also purchased the blacksmith shop building, which is used for storage. There is also a convenience store with the station. He also provides a wrecker service. Besides taking an active part in the family business, Luva was also a school bus driver for the Howard-Winneshiek School District for twenty years.

John B. Mulick

John B. Mulick was born July 11, 1888, east of Riceville, Iowa, the son of John F. and Bridget (Burns) Mulick. He attended the district schools and helped at home.

On November 25, 1913, he married Margaret Morrissey. They farmed east of Elma for some time and then moved west of Elma where he lived on different farms until the time of his death, June 25, 1965.

Margaret Mulick passed away July 27, 1938.

They were the parents of four children: Mary, Joseph, John Mark and Robert.

John Mark was killed at Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941.

They were members of St. Patrick's Catholic Church at St. Cecelia.

Joe Mulick Family

Joe, son of John and Margaret (Morrissey) Mulick, was born in 1916. Joe married Mary (Carroll) Weber and is a retired farmer. They were married April 4, 1967.

Mary was married to Gerald Regan and they were the parents of one son, Daniel of Charlotte, North Carolina. Gerald died in France in 1944 while in service.

Mary married Al Weber, who operated a clothing store in Elma and also managed the Iowa State Liquor Store until his death in 1964. They were the parents of three children: Colleen Gardner of Bloomington, Minnesota, Creighton of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and Gary of Decorah, Iowa.

Joe also worked at the Howard County Equity until his retirement. Mary also was a foster grandmother at the Elma Attendance Center for many years.

Murphy Family History

James Murphy was the son of Joseph and Mary Ann (Quigley) Murphy; he was born June 15, 1888, one of eleven children. On April 14, 1913, James married Lena Graf, who was one of seven children of John and Margaret (Apel) Graf. She was born June 15, 1891. The Grafts were of Luxembourg descent. Lena had been living north of Maple Leaf with her parents on the present-day Norb Burke farm when she married Jim. She taught school until she married.

James and Lena began their married life farming six miles northwest of Elma on the farm where James had been born. During their lifetime, they raised seven children: Jerome, the oldest, never married and passed away on October 6, 1980; Donald, married Eileen Bigley and is now retired and living in Cresco; Russell was killed during WW II on March 16, 1944; Robert married Katherine Klassen and is presently retired and living in Waterloo; Luverne married Lucille Stevens and is presently living in Elma; Darlene married Larry Weber and is retired and living in Waterloo; and Leon, the youngest, was killed December 17, 1953, while serving in the military during the Korean War. James died May 5, 1970, and Lena Murphy died July 3, 1977.

Luverne Murphy and Lucille (Stevens) Murphy were married October 16, 1948. Her parents were Paul and



James Murphy family. (Back row, left to right)—Bob, Vern, Don, Russ, Jerome. (Front row)—Darlene, Lena, James, Leon.



Vern Murphy family. (Back row, left to right)—Steven, Teresa, Dennis, Russell, Colleen, Erin. (Front row)—Jeffrey, Lucille, Vern.

Marian Stevens. Vern and Lucille farmed a mile north of Elma until 1954 when they were both stricken with polio (1954 was the last of the polio epidemic years). Lucille returned to normal but Vern never recovered the use of his legs. A change of occupations was necessary, so Vern attended a business college.

About this same time, Goldie Elwood was thinking of retiring from her tax service business that was then located in the Elwood Building on the east side of town. Vern and Lucille began in Goldie's office and continued there until 1960 when they moved into a new home with the great benefit of an attached office. They added insurance and Lucille became city clerk. They had seven children: Russell, the oldest; Dennis; Therese; Steven; Colleen; Erin; and Jeffrey, the youngest, who was age six at the time of his mother's death. On April 17, 1975, at the age of 46, Lucille was electrocuted while hosing down the basement walls of her home.

Russell Murphy Family

Russell Murphy was born the son of Vern and Lucille (Stevens) Murphy. He attended area schools and graduated from the University of Iowa. He married Suzanne Heying, the daughter of Jerome and Mary Heying. They are the parents of five children: Terrell, Wendy, Audrey, Shane and Amber.

Russell is employed as an auditor with the IRS.



Russell Murphy family. (Back row, left to right)—Russell, Terrell, Wendy and Suzanne. (Front row)—Audrey, Shane and Amber.

Dale & Jo Nilges Family

Dale and Jo have lived in the Elma area since 1972, where they farm north of Elma. They have three children: Bruce, Lora and Lisa.



(Standing)—Dale and Jo Nilges. (Front, left to right)—Daughter, Lora; daughter, Lisa. (Seated, center)—Gemima Nelson, mother of Jo Nilges; son, Bruce, with his wife, Deanna; their sons, Jason and Matthew.

Richard and Ruth (Bartels) Nolda

Richard and Ruth (Bartels) Nolda are the third generation of Bartels living on the present farm located in Howard Township. Ruth's grandfather, Ernest F. Bartels bought this farm in the year of 1889. He and his wife, Sophia Eikoff Bartels moved here from Bremer County. Upon their retirement, moved to the town of Elma, Iowa, where they resided the remainder of their lives.

Paul, one of Ernest's sons, purchased this property in 1911. Shortly thereafter on September 28, 1916, Paul was united in marriage to Wilhemina C. Prinz of Saratoga, Iowa. They became parents of two children, Reuben K. Bartels and Ruth I. Bartels. Together, they farmed here until Mrs. Bartels passed away in 1944. Reuben, their son, was serving overseas in the United States Army of World War II, having enlisted the early part of 1944.

In 1945 Ruth, the daughter, bought this farm from her father, moving to this area in 1946. Richard Nolda having completed an enlistment in the United States Navy, serving in the African, European and Pacific theaters in World War II, arrived north of Elma with his parents, Jacob and Mollie Nolda.

January 17, 1947, Richard W. Nolda and Ruth I. Bartels were united in marriage. Two daughters joined the family. Both are married. Regina S. Nolda Elliott, living at Prairie Home, Missouri; and Rebecca E. Nolda Hogan, living at Los Lunas, New Mexico.

Their proudest achievement is their grandchildren—three granddaughters and one grandson.

Besides farming, Richard is an Inspector at Hydro-tile Machine Co., Nashua.

Patrick Noonan Family

John Noonan, Sr., and his wife, Bridget Donahue, were born in Ireland and migrated to Washington, D.C., where Patrick Nicholas was born. The family of three came to Howard County and located on a farm

east of Elma, where the rest of the family was born, sons: Thomas, Daniel, Martin, John and William; and a daughter, Mary.

Patrick Nicholas married Ellen Catherine Owens of Clermont, Iowa, and farmed near Elma. To this union, seven children were born: William, Sadie, John, Mae, Loretta, Esther, and Ambrose.

Later, the family moved to New Hampton where Patrick purchased a meat market and after two years, moved back to the family farm.

William received his degree in medicine from the University of Illinois. He married Emma Blaska in New Hampton. They made their home in Chicago, where he practiced medicine for forty-five years.

Sadie resided in Elma for many years and was a teacher in the Elma school.

John married Rose Duffy of Pontiac, Illinois. He was an X-ray technician at Mercy Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.



Patrick and Ellen Noonan.



Patrick Noonan children. (Left to right)—Mae, Sadie, Loretta and Esther. (Front)—John, William, Ambrose.



Patrick Noonan family. (Left to right)—Ambrose, Mae Bladel, Sadie, John, Loretta Richmond, Bill.

Mae was a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Dubuque, Iowa. She married Edgar Bladel of Rock Island, Illinois.

Loretta, a registered nurse at St. Josephs Mercy Hospital of Dubuque, Iowa, married Lloyd Richmond.

Esther, after two years of nursing school, married Ed Richmond of Elma.

Ambrose operated barbershops in Chicago, Illinois. He married Frances Brady of Dixon, Illinois.

Patrick Nicholas retired from farming in 1922, and moved into the town of Elma. He served as mayor of Elma and enjoyed the honor.

The Patrick and Ellen Noonan family are all deceased with the exception of Sadie, who resides at the Riceville Community Rest Home; and Loretta Richmond, who lives in Riceville, Iowa.

A family farm purchased years ago by William J. Noonan is still owned by his daughters, Patricia Letcher, Wisconsin; and Dorothy Deppen of Illinois.

Sadie Noonan

Sadie Noonan was born in Elma, the daughter of Patrick and Ellen Owens Noonan. Her thirty-seven years as a teacher endeared her to the hearts of many. Twenty-nine of those thirty-seven teaching years were in the Elma Schools. Prior to that she taught from 1911 to 1919 in rural schools in Howard County. As a girl, she had attended school in Elma.

Because of ill health, Sadie decided in April of 1959 not to complete the school year as teacher of the combination third and fourth grade—the grades she "liked best."

Sadie admits to being a "perfectionist" and an "idealist," and Elma admits that upon her retirement, we lost a "rare, once-in-a-lifetime teacher."

Sadie now resides at the Riceville Community Rest Home.



Sadie Noonan

Frank Novy

Frank and Barbara Novy lived in Elma for years, operating a shoe store, selling and repairing shoes.

They had four daughters: Anna, Mary, Bessie and Mrs. Walter (Emma) Gebel.

For some time Bessie was employed at the Elma Bank and also was grocery store clerk.

When Frank retired he moved to New Hampton, Iowa, and Bessie then worked at the New Hampton Chevrolet Garage.

Emma Novy Gebel is the only living member of the family. She makes her home in one of Elma's Elm-Go apartments.



Frank Novy family. (Back row)—Anna, Mary, Bessie, Emma. (Front row)—Frank and Barbara.

William J. O'Brien

William J. O'Brien was the son of John and Kathryn O'Brien of the Lourdes vicinity. He lived on the farm until he went to North Dakota to look for work. While there, he met and married Anna Evelyn Hunt. They lived there a few years and in 1912 they returned to Iowa.

In the early 1920's they moved to the Elma area. They were engaged in farming until they retired in 1949 and moved to Riceville.

Mrs. O'Brien died in November, 1961, and Will O'Brien died in March, 1962.

They were the parents of Myrtle, William, Jr., Marguerite, Cecelia Bernice, Frances Elizabeth, and Edward.



Mr. and Mrs. William O'Brien.

Edward O'Brien

Edward J. O'Brien, son of William and Evelyn O'Brien, was born in 1924 in the Lourdes vicinity.

In 1947 he married Anna Shock in the Immaculate Conception Church in Elma.

They are the parents of four children: Patricia Ann; Janiece Nadine; Dennis Edward; and Daniel Rodger. They have eleven grandchildren.

They farmed near Acme until 1966 when they moved to the Earl Kelly farm west of Elma, where they still reside.

Ed also does custom sheep shearing.



Ed O'Brien family. (Back, left to right)—Daniel, Janiece, Patricia, Dennis. (Front row)—Edward and Anna O'Brien.

Daniel O'Connell Family

Daniel O'Connell was married to Catherine Cashman. They were the parents of 14 children: Ellen O'Connell, Margaret Warthan, Josie McCracken, Anne Egan, Kathryn Murray, Nora McPeek, Mary Ann Neebe, Bridget Barrett, Alta Leversee, Abigail McGrane, married to Thomas McGrane; Daniel, Will, John, and Elizabeth Conway.

Elizabeth Conway was born in Howard County August 29, 1881. On October 15, 1928, she married A. D. Conway, who preceded her in death in 1946. Prior to her marriage, she was employed for several years at Blacks in Waterloo as a sales clerk. They had no children, but A.D. had children from a previous marriage—Paul Conway, Donald Conway, Urban Conway, Norbert Conway, and Willard Conway.

Al O'Donnell

Daniel and Garfiela Cole had a restaurant in Elma where the Bluebird now stands, with rooms overhead. When daughter, Edith Cole, was sixteen years of age she worked in the telephone office. At that time, there was just one operator with some relief operator, so the operator slept in the telephone office. Smith Cole, Edith's brother, was line man; Bert Addy was their boss.

Daniel Cole also operated a roller skating rink on the west side of town.

Al O'Donnell came to town a widower and worked for C. W. Chapman Lumber Co., working under his brother, Gus O'Donnell, who was manager at that time.

Al O'Donnell married Edith Cole and they had three children in Elma. They then moved to Rugby, North Dakota. They didn't live there too long before they were moved to Graceville, Minnesota, where three more children were born.

Garfiela Cole passed away in 1911 and Daniel went to Graceville to live with the O'Donnell's, and while there he worked as janitor in a hospital.

The Al O'Donnell family again went back to C. W.

Chapman Lumber Co., this time in Fairbanks, Iowa. After five years, in 1921, they returned to Elma, where Al was made manager of Chapman Lumber. At this time, they had ten children including Charles, from Al's first marriage. Three more were born in Elma, Tom being the youngest. Al managed the Chapman Lumberyard until they sold to Eclipse Lumber Co. in 1940.

In 1941, the Al O'Donnell family moved from Elma to Independence, Iowa. Al died there on April 21, 1945.



Al O'Donnell

Robert E. O'Donnell

Robert E. O'Donnell was born April 4, 1874, in New Diggins, Wisconsin. He moved to Iowa in the fall of 1900, and was employed on a farm near Alta Vista for Dennis Tierney. Dennis Tierney was to become his father-in-law, for he married Catherine Tierney on October 15, 1901. They farmed in Chickasaw and Howard County. The family farm, which is known as the St. Cecelia Lime Quarry, is still owned by the youngest son, Melvin.

They were the parents of four sons, Francis, Michael, Raphael and Melvin.

Robert passed away in 1965, preceded by Catherine "Kit" in 1960.

Michael O'Donnell farmed in the Cecelia area and operated a custom-grinding business. He was well-known in the area for his shop, which was located on his pride, "The Forty." Michael died in 1975.

Melvin farmed on the home farm until his retirement. He moved to Elma, where he is presently living.



Bob O'Donnell with his sons. (Back row, left to right)—Melvin and Raphael. (Front row)—Mike, Bob and Francis.

Francis O'Donnell

Francis O'Donnell, son of Robert E. and Catherine O'Donnell, married Marie Ferrie June 4, 1935.

They became parents of eight children: Jerome, who died at the age of three months; Russell of Elma; Mrs. Joseph (Ann Marie) Neubauer; Gerald; Mrs. Donald (Lois) Recker; Gene; Mrs. Galen (Lavon) Fye and Mrs. Thomas (Mary Kay) Bucheit.

They farmed in Howard County until retirement, when they moved into the town of Elma. Their home farm is presently owned by Russell and his wife, Margaret.

Francis passed away in 1983.



Francis O'Donnell family. (Seated)—Francis and Marie (Ferrie) O'Donnell. (Standing)—Mrs. Joseph (Ann) Neubauer, Russ, Mrs. Thomas (Mary Kay) Bucheit, Gerald, Mrs. Don (Lois) Recker, Gene, Mrs. Galen (Lavon) Fye.

Russ O'Donnell Family

Russell and Margaret Kienan were married in 1961. They are the parents of four children: Michael, Patrick, Catherine and Mary. They have farmed in Howard County and have been in the trucking business, and presently are contractors for U.S. Mail.

Michael married Trudy Fox in 1985. They are living in Elma.



(Left to right)—Kathy, Mary, Mike, Trudy (Fox), Margaret, Russ and Pat.

Raphael O'Donnell

Raphael O'Donnell married Loretta Mahoney in 1943. They became the parents of three children: Mrs. Gail (Mary Joyce) Ives, Ronald of Elma, and Mrs. Raymond (Sharon) Stover.

They farmed until retirement and Loretta still lives on the farm which is now owned by their son, Ronald, and his wife, Linda.

Raphael passed away in 1973.



Raphael O'Donnell family. (Standing)—Sharon Stover, Ronald, Joyce Ives. (Seated)—Loretta and Raphael.

Ronald O'Donnell

Ronald O'Donnell, a son of Raphael and Loretta Mahoney O'Donnell, married Linda Lewis, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Lewis in 1970. They lived in New Hampton, Iowa, until they built a new home on the farm. Ron is employed at Allied Equipment in Charles City, Iowa, and farms. Linda is employed at Sara Lee.

They are parents of five children: Rachael, Megan, John (deceased), T. J. and Molly.



(Back row, left to right): Linda, Molly, and Ron O'Donnell. (Middle row): Rachael, Megan. (Front): T.J.

Christian Oelberg Family

Christian Eckert Oelberg was born October 19, 1928, in Allamakee County, Iowa, the son of Albert Juneo Oelberg and Emma Almira (Leppert) Oelberg. C. E. Oelberg lived in Allamakee County. He spent five years in the U.S. Air Force as a Veterinary Technician, and six years at Iowa State University, where he received a Doctor of Veterinary Degree in 1959. He moved to Elma, Iowa, in 1960.

Arlene Beverly (Anderson) Oelberg was born July 31, 1933, in Polk County, Iowa. She is the daughter of Oral Anderson and Edna (Flint) Anderson. Arlene and C. E. Oelberg met at ISU and were married in 1958. Arlene works in the office of her husband's practice.

They have three children: James Fredrick, a hair stylist; Edith, journalist; and Karen, housewife.

Dr. Oelberg has been in Large Animal General Prac-

tice in Howard County since 1960. The practice was purchased from Dr. W. C. McGrath, a well-liked and well-known veterinary practitioner in the Elma area for 45 years.

Cletus Offerman Family

Cletus Offerman was born November 11, 1910, near Alta Vista, Iowa, the son of John and Rose Offerman. Cletus was a WW II veteran and was wounded in 1948 in Italy. He married Josephine Hughes, a daughter of Andrew and Nellie Hughes of New Hampton in 1948. He operated the Farm Service tank wagon route and later was employed by Howard County as a maintenance man. Cletus died October 16, 1985. His wife, Jo, is retired after ten years employment with Comprehensive Systems of Elma. They are the parents of Dr. Michael, wife Terri, and son, Nick, who live in Tuscon, AZ. Michael is assistant director of Continuing Education at the University of Arizona.

Tom, wife Jane, and daughter Keli Rose, live in Charles City. Tom is production supervisor of Comprehensives Sheltered Employment Center. His wife, Jane, is supervisor of the Elma Work Activity Center.

Richard Offerman and wife, Karen, live in Oakland, California. He and his wife work in the engineering field.

Ann is a bilingual teacher at D'Zevalous School, Fort Worth, TX.

Jane is a registered nurse in the surgical intensive care unit, University Hospital, Iowa City.

Mary is a special education teacher at the Roosevelt Elementary School, Mason City, Iowa.

Harry O'Neil Family

Long-time residents of this area were Harry and Kate O'Neil. Harry was born August 8, 1892, the son of Charles and Elizabeth (Doyle) O'Neil. On November 26, 1919, Harry and Catherine Buckley were married in the St. Cecilia Church.

Harry and Kate were the parents of six children: Dale, Vern, Mrs. Rolland (Rita) Kelly, Mrs. Fred (Pat) Worple, Mrs. Frank (Ruby) Gonzales, and Mrs. Larry (Jean) O'Neil. They also raised two grandchildren: Mrs. Clem (Janis) Havlik and Terry O'Neil.

Harry died on May 18, 1982, and Kate now resides at Colonial Manor in Elma.



Kate and Harry O'Neil, pictured at their 50th wedding anniversary celebration.

Mrs. Joe (Clara) O'Neil

Clara and her late husband Joe farmed in the Elma area since 1951. Clara was the daughter of Clem and Ida Recker. Joe was the son of Vern and Rosina

O'Neil. He graduated from Immaculate Conception School in 1937. He was retired from farming at the time of his death. They were the parents of four children: Kathleen, Betty Jo, Mike and Pat.

Michael O'Neil

Michael O'Neil, son of Joe and Clara (Recker) O'Neil and his wife, Margie, farm east of Elma. Mike was born and raised here and Margie is from Fairbanks, Iowa.

Margie is an LPN. They are parents of a daughter, Amanda Ann.



Mike and Margie O'Neil and Amanda Ann.

John and Ella Palmersheim



Ella and John Palmersheim.



Ella Palmersheim (seated). (Back row, left to right)—Joe, Anna (Chambers), Matt.

John Palmersheim, born July 5, 1878; died in 1959 and Ella Biwer Palmersheim, born September 16, 1887, and were married October 14, 1908.

John came to Iowa from Wisconsin with his brother, Joe, in 1906. They lived on a farm now occupied by Gary Klobassa.

Ella moved to Iowa in the spring of 1892 from Wisconsin and settled in the home now occupied by her

sister-in-law, Elizabeth Biwer. In 1899, she moved to their new home with her parents, Mathias and Anna Biwer, and her brothers and sister. The house was across the road where John Biwer resided until his death.

The couple lived within five miles of Elma for their entire life, except seven years when they farmed north of New Hampton. In 1944 they retired to their present home in Elma, where Ella lives. She is Elma's oldest resident.

They are the parents of three children: Matt, Joe and Anna Chambers.

Matt J. Palmersheim Family

Matt J. Palmersheim, son of John and Ella (Biwer) Palmersheim and Dolores McGrane, daughter of Thomas and Abigail (O'Connell) McGrane, were married April 22, 1937, at the Immaculate Conception Church in Elma. They are the parents of five sons: Robert, Richard, Francis, Kenneth and Pat, and twelve grandchildren. They are proud of having had four sons in service.

Matt and Dolores farmed in Chickasaw County for a few years, but returned to Howard County in 1948 and continued to farm until 1975 when they moved to town. Matt was employed by Ludwig Plumbing and Heating for two years and Dolores was employed by Colonial Manor Nursing Home. She is currently the public librarian.

They are both very active in church affairs, where Matt serves as Extraordinary Minister.



(Back row)—Robert, Richard, Francis, Kenneth and Pat.
(Seated)—Matt and Dolores.

Patrick J. Palmersheim

Patrick J. Palmersheim, son of M. J. and Dolores (McGrane) Palmersheim, married Nguyen thi Kim Loan of Saigon in September, 1971. She became a U.S. citizen October 19, 1976, when she changed her name to Sandy Ann. They have two children, Tim and Michele.

Pat spent nine years with the U.S. Air Force as a flight engineer, spending 26 months in Viet Nam, part of which was on the U.S. Embassy aircrew for Ambassador Bunker.

He has sponsored 16 individuals through the refuge



Michele, Patrick, Sandy and Tim Palmersheim.

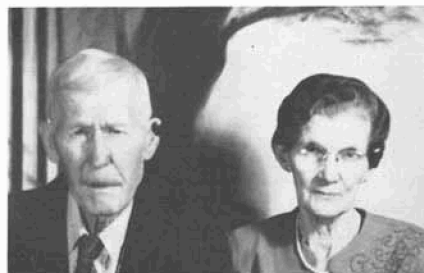
program since 1975, and has worked with the National League of Families for the Missing in Action in Viet Nam.

Pat and his family are presently living in Elma. He is employed by Kitchens of Sara Lee in New Hampton. He also farms east of Elma and is currently serving Elma as mayor.

The Peter H. Palmersheim Family

Peter H. Palmersheim came to Howard County, Iowa, about 1883 at the age of 18 years from West Allis, Wisconsin. He worked on a farm for his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Jacoby, at the edge of Busti, Iowa, one mile north of Elma. Elwood Meese lives in the house now.

Peter worked on farms until he purchased the farm now owned by Ivan Schroeder. In 1897 he was united in marriage to the former Annie Biwer, daughter of Mathias Biwer. They made their home on his farm until 1908 when they purchased the farm where Marvin Nielson lives now. They were life-long farmers and became the parents of seven children: Mathias, Esther, Christine, Marie, Gertrude, Earl and Peter J.



Peter and Anna Palmersheim.

Earl and Delberta Palmersheim Family



(Back row, left to right)—Roger, Dorothy, Tom, Mary, Pete. (Middle row)—Joe, Dan, Delberta, Earl, Deanne, Ed. (Front)—Mike, Jerry, Tim.

Earl Palmersheim was born and raised near Elma, the son of Peter and Anna (Biwer) Palmersheim. He graduated from I. C. School in Elma, after which he farmed with his parents.

Delberta was born at Mapleton, Iowa, to John and Loretta Joerger, who moved to Elma in 1933. She graduated from I. C. School and attended Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids for a year.

Earl and Delberta were married in 1939 and were engaged in farming until their retirement in 1974, when they built a home in Elma.

Their children are Tom, Deanne Webb, Peter, Dorothy Weida, Dan, Roger, Mary Wenzel, Mike, Jerry, Joe, Ed, Earl (deceased) and Tim.

Harry and Emma Pardee

Harry Pardee married Emma Fallgatter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Fallgatter, on January 13, 1913. She was born in August of 1878. Harry is remembered by many because of all the years he spent in Elma as a painter.

Harry and Emma were parents of one son, Harry Jr., who died in the service of his country in 1943.

Emma Pardee was educated in the Elma Public School, Iowa State Teachers College and the University of Minnesota. She began her teaching career in the rural schools of Howard County when she was seventeen years old. She then taught in the Elma Public School and was appointed County Superintendent, a position she held for four years. She then returned to teaching, retiring in the fall of 1938 due to poor health.

In recognition of her more than thirty years of faithful and loving service to the youth of this community, the fourth volume of the "Gold and Black School Annual" was dedicated to her.

Her other activities included being an active member of the Immaculate Conception Church, Howard County Board of Education and Royal Neighbors of America.

Emma Pardee died in June of 1947.



Emma Pardee

Ned A. Parker

Ned Alpheus Parker was born in Stanhope, Iowa, on August 20, 1878. He married Emma Knight of Stanhope. It was in 1912 that they moved to Elma where Mr. Parker was associated with Frank Connor in the operation of the Connor-Parker Store, a large department store, which he managed until the late 1920's. Following that he spent several years in various in-

surance positions, engaging in the real estate and insurance business in Elma.

His first wife died in 1927 and on July 8, 1933, he was married to Alice Schroeder in Elma.

His four children were Dr. Eugene Parker, Mrs. G. G. Robison of Elma, Mrs. Don Young and Mrs. Ralph Young.

Ned Parker was a member of the Howard County Board of Supervisors; the three-man selective service board; and the Maple Leaf Masonic Lodge. He was active in the Elma Commercial Club and was instrumental in organizing and acted as Scout Master of several Boy Scout troops. He was a loyal member of the Methodist Church, was on the board of trustees as Sunday School Superintendent and was a choir member.

He died on February 17, 1941.

Elmer Lawrence Pickar

Elmer Pickar was born in Elma February 5, 1925, to Joseph W. and Elizabeth Boehmer Pickar. His mother passed away in 1930 and Elmer was raised by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Boehmer.

He attended school in Elma and served in the Army from 1945 to 1946.

He was married on January 22, 1946, to Anna Mae Spradling in Mineral Wells, Texas.

After his discharge from service, they returned to Iowa, and he was employed on the Harold Schultheis farm east of Osage.

In 1954, Elmer and his family moved to the Art Gansen farm west of Elma.

They were members of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Elma, and Elmer was a member of the American Legion Post here.

Elmer and Ann are parents of one daughter, Mrs. Marshall (Cathy) Knowles and five sons, John, Mike, Randy, Kenny and Alan.

In 1976, Elmer and Ann moved to Osage and later that year, Elmer passed away. He is buried in the Calvary Cemetery in Elma.

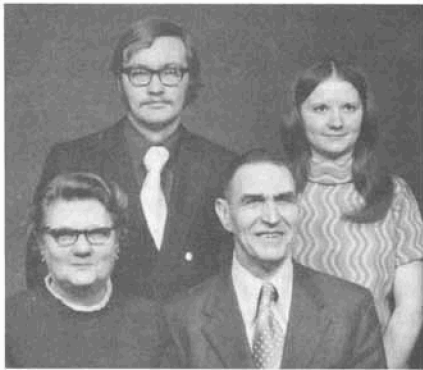


Elmer and Ann Pickar

Fred Pierce

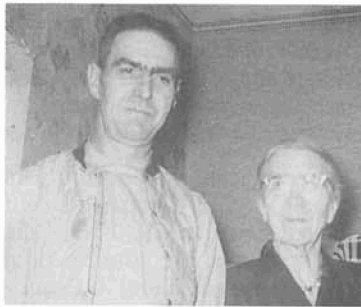
Fred Pierce, the son of Augusta and Frank Pierce, was born in Elma January 11, 1910. He grew up in Elma and graduated from Elma High School, class of 1929.

Fred was known as the "man in the Standard Station," a business he owned for over thirty years. The station was more than "two dollars worth of regular



(Back row)—Kent Cook, Linda Cook Sass. (Front)—Margaret and Fred Pierce. (Not pictured, Jean Cook Fountain.)

Augusta Pierce (1881-1966), mother of Fred Pierce, with Fred.



and check the oil." Probably he gave away more candy and pop than he ever sold. How many people sat on the radiator in front of the window while they warmed up and drank ice cold Coke! Many farmers of the area had dry feet thanks to Fred's boot patching.

In 1966 he was married to Margaret Cook. He enjoyed the deep affection of his family, which also included three stepchildren, Jean Fountain, Linda Sass and Kent Cook.

Fishing, hunting and just being outdoors meant much to him, as well as traveling with his family.

His death in 1977 was caused by an automobile accident.

He is survived by three sisters, Hazel Messerlie, Kenosha, Wisconsin; Ruth Reinhart, Austin, Minnesota; and Frances Erion, Nashua. Another sister, Esther Leo, Dysart, Iowa, preceded him in death.



Fred Pierce, Hazel (Pierce) Messerlie, Esther (Pierce) Leo, Ruth (Pierce) Reinhart, Frances (Pierce) Erion.

Dr. Alvin Ray Peterson

Dr. Alvin Peterson came to Elma in 1969 from Marshalltown, Iowa. He has served the Elma area in the veterinarian service.

Dr. Alvin and Charlotte were married in 1983. They have two daughters, Christine Denise and Amanda Rae.

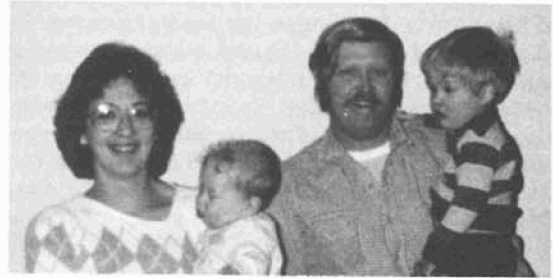
Dr. "Pete" has served on Elma's City Council for six years. He is a member and past-Master of Maple Leaf Lodge AF & AM.

The August Lauck house has been his home since 1973.

Charlotte Peterson is an Optometric Assistant.

Merle Pitz Family

Merle Pitz, son of Dennis and Phyllis Pitz of Cresco, married Patricia Heying, daughter of Leander and Gerry Heying of Elma, on June 1, 1974. Merle worked on road construction as a semi-driver (owned and operated his own from 1977 until 1985), and currently drives semi for Croell Redi-Mix. Pat worked at the Peoples Savings Bank from 1975 until 1982 and is now employed at the Colonial Manor of Elma. They have two children: David and Jennifer.



Pat and Merle Pitz, Jennifer and David.

Ray Pollock Family

In 1920, or thereabout, Ray I. Pollock, a banker, and his wife, Annette (Hepner) Pollock and two children, moved from Nora Springs, Iowa, to the farm presently owned by Irene Lund, located about five miles northwest of Elma, Iowa.

Ray's son, Howard, was born to Ray's first wife, Florence Smith, on August 7, 1912. Florence died the day of her son's birth at Nora Springs, Iowa.

Later, Ray married Annette and they became parents of four children: Mrs. Matt (Florence) Kinney, Elma; Larry Pollock, Hemet, California; Harriet Duran, Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania; and Thomas, killed while vacationing in Mexico in February, 1978, of Northwood, Iowa.

Howard Pollock resides in Portland, Oregon.

Ray and Annette sold their farm and retired to Osage in 1960.

Annette died on July 3, 1969, and Ray passed away in August of 1976.

Bruce Popken Family

Bruce, of German descent, was born at Hawarden, Iowa. Pauline, Swedish and Danish descent, was also born at Hawarden. They farmed at Hawarden for seven years before buying the Ed Streich farm in 1974.

They are the parents of five children: Terry, Tina, Teresa, Tim and Travis.



(Back row, left to right)—Tim, Terry, Teresa Watson, baby Joni Watson, Tina Leib, Randy Leib. (Front)—Bruce Popken, Pauline Popken and Travis.

The Praska Family History

Joseph Navrital came to America in 1882 from Svetnov, Czechoslovakia. He was a soliker in the army and came to this country where he heard work was plentiful and the land fruitful. Joseph came by ship to Baltimore, Maryland. He then went by train to Chicago, Illinois, where he worked for one year in a lumberyard. In 1883, Joseph moved to Iowa and bought 40 acres of land in Section 26, Howard Township. Later he bought land to total 240 acres. Joseph's wife, Mary, and daughter, Emma, came to join him on the farm in Iowa.

Their home was a wood two-story house. In 1918, a new two-story house was built. Almost all the food was raised at home, canned or stored in crock jars. The meat was all canned and smoked in the winter to preserve it for the summer. They bought mostly sugar, flour, salt and some seasonings. They had to go to Elma or Alta Vista for supplies by horse and buggy, which was about seven miles away. Mary died in 1945 and Joseph died in 1946.



Praska—Four generation.

Their daughter, Emma married Frank Praska from Deerfield in Chickasaw County. They were married on February 13th. They lived in Howard Section 33 for ten years or so and then moved to the Navrital farm. Emma and Frank were the parents of Joseph, Sr., Emma Clynch, Beatrice Havlik, and Beata Kubik.



Frank and Emma (Navrital) Praska.



Joseph Praska, Sr., Family



Joseph Praska, Jr., family. (Back row, left to right)—Renee, Paula, Karen, Ronnie, Francis, Daniel. (Front row)—Shirley, Michael, Joseph, Jr.

Joe, Sr., married Regina Nibaur in October of 1930. They lived in Howard Section 33. They are the parents of Regina Gansen, Joseph, Jr., and Marie Rosonke.

Joe, Jr., married Shirley Vrba in October of 1957. He served in the armed forces and then went into farming. They are the parents of eight children: Randy, de-

ceased; Francis, serving in the U.S. Air Force in Utah; Renee, a student at UNI, Cedar Falls; Karen; Ronnie, farming; Paula; Daniel; and Michael, all of Elma.

All the Navritals and Praska families belong to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

Priebe Family

Julius and Justine Priebe settled in Howard County in the 1870's. They built a log cabin two miles south and a half mile west of Elma. They built there by a spring, which is still flowing. A lime kiln was north of the building site and a sawmill was south of the building. A cemetery was east of the building and a railroad once was started.

The family consisted of the following children: Edith, Herman, Matilda, Emma, Rudolph and Minnie. Rudolph lived on the family farm most of his life. He married Celia Boehmer and their children are Florence, Roland, Leo, Clifford and Robert. All four sons served in the Army.

Leo is still a resident of Howard County, living about seven miles north of Elma. His wife, Edith, grew up in North Dakota. Their children are: Linda, Connie, Donald, Richard, Joyce, Gail, Kristal and Scott. All have moved from this area.



Rudolph Priebe family. (Front row)—Rudolph, Bob, Celia. (Back row)—Roland, Florence, Leo, Clifford.

Clement Ptacek

Clement Ptacek was born and raised at Elma on the same farm on which he now resides. His parents, Anton and Almie Ptacek, came to this area over 60 years ago from Duncan, Iowa.

Clem married Shirley Kramer. She was born and raised on a farm near Alta Vista, graduated from St. Williams High School in Alta Vista, and attended Briar Cliff College, Sioux City, Iowa, majoring in art.

Clem and Shirley are parents of four children: Mrs. Ken (Julie) Balk, Remsen, Iowa; Rick, married to Lynn Kuennen, Mason City, Iowa; Dennis, who lives near Elma and farms with his father; Jolene, Dyersville, Iowa.

Joseph Ptacek Family

Joseph Ptacek was born in February of 1922, the son of Anton and Almie (Vonasek) Ptacek. He grew up on a farm northeast of Elma. In 1942, he married Rosalia (Meier), the daughter of Frank and Veronica (Kanies)

Meier. She was born in March of 1923 near Alta Vista.

Joseph and Rosalia farm northeast of Elma and they are the parents of five children: James, Paul, Diane, Linda and Michael (deceased).

James Ptacek was born in September of 1944 in Elma. He attended country school. In 1966 he married Cynthia Zweibahmer, the daughter of Elias and Dorothy Zweibahmer of the Cresco area. They are the parents of four children: Robert, Vicky, Debra and Daniel. He and his wife farm east of Elma.

Paul Ptacek was born in July of 1947. He attended area schools and graduated from the I. C. Academy in 1965. He served in the Army, with a tour of duty in Viet Nam. In 1966 he married Mary Macklenberg, the daughter of Herman and Edna Macklenberg of the New Hampton area. Paul and his wife farm northeast of Elma. They are the parents of two children: Jeffrey and Nancy.

Diane Ptacek was born in May of 1949. She attended area schools and graduated from the I. C. Academy in 1967. She is currently employed in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Linda (Ptacek) Deutsch was born in June of 1952. She attended area schools and graduated from Crestwood High School in 1970. In 1971, she married Leon Deutsch, the son of Carl and Florence Deutsch of the New Hampton area. Leon and Linda are the parents of three children: Mathew, David and Allison. They are currently residing in Waverly, Iowa.

Dr. C. W. Rainy Family

Dr. Curtis W. Rainy was born in South Dakota, and Caroline Ashley was born in Georgia.

They were married in North Carolina and are the parents of two children, daughter, Christine Ashley, who married Douglas Lipscombe. He is in the United States Navy. They are currently living in California. Their son, Charles Ashley, is in the United States Army, married to Catherine Ayshford. They are the parents of a son, Richard William Rainy. After recently returning from Turkey, Charles and his family are living in Iowa.



C. W. Rainy family. (Left to right)—Charles A., Catherine, Caroline and Dr. Rainy, Christine A. and Douglas Lipscombe.

Ms. Muriel Reetz Family

Muriel Reetz's parents, Alvie and Gertrude Johnson, moved to the Elma area about 1946. She resided in Elma until her graduation from the Elma High School in 1958. She then moved to Charles City and married. They had five children. They were divorced in 1975 and

Muriel and her children moved back to Elma at this time.

Her children are: Michael, in the Air Force; Deanne, a nurse's aide; LeAnn, Bradley and Stacy, are students in Howard-Winneshiek School.

John and Josephine Regan

John Regan's parents came from Ireland to Waukon, Iowa; later, moving to Busti on the site where Cliff Kutzbach's house now stands.

Josephine's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Irvin, lived in Busti (just east of the present Lidwina Zeimetz home).

They were married in 1912 by Reverend Gunn in the chapel of the Immaculate Conception School.

They were parents of Floris Womack Haugen (deceased in 1978), Gerald (killed in Normandy, France, 1944), Mrs. Harold (Kathleen) Thiele, rural Charles City, Iowa.



John and Josephine Regan—Golden Wedding Anniversary—February, 1962.

Mrs. William Regan

Mrs. William (Kate) Regan at home in Busti. Mother of William, Jr., Joe, Nora, Katherine and Gladys.



Mr. and Mrs. Earl Reinhart

Earl Louis Reinhart, son of Anna and Albert Reinhart, was born January 13, 1899, on a farm east of Elma. He lived there until March 27, 1921, when he married Esther Mildred Young, daughter of Clara and S. D. Young. She was raised on a small farm just one mile south of Elma. She graduated from the Elma Public School in the class of 1921. Earl and Esther farmed near Elma until September, 1923, when he received a civil service appointment to carry mail on Rural Route 3 out of Elma Post Office. They moved to a small acreage just south of the Elma city limits.

They had two children: a daughter, Lois Mason of Lime Springs; and Raymond, who lost his life in World War II on August 8, 1945, when he was 19 years old. He was a Radioman in a Navy bomber based on Okinawa when his plane was lost at sea.

Earl retired from the postal service in November, 1965, after serving 42 years. They celebrated their



Earl and Esther Reinhart—50th Wedding Anniversary—1971.

Golden Wedding Anniversary in June, 1971, at a reception given by their daughter. It was held in the parlors of the Elma Methodist Church where more than 200 friends and relatives came to wish them well and share the special day.

Esther passed away November 19, 1977, after a lingering illness. Earl still resides at their home at the south edge of Elma and still thinks his home town is a very special place.

Ronald Retterath Family

Ronald Retterath and wife, Terri, moved to the Elma area in 1977. They have a hog operation and Ronald is also employed as a factory worker. Terri is an LPN at the Colonial Manor, Elma, Iowa.

They are parents of David, Daniel, Melissa and Amy.

Charles Henry Richardson

Charles H. Richardson was born in August, 1874, the son of Henry and Mary Marlow Richardson. They lived in Butler County, moving to Howard County when Charles was a small child.

He married Nellie McAuliff in Davenport, Iowa, on April 1, 1907.

They had one son, James D.

Charles died April 2, 1942; Nellie had preceded him in death on August 11, 1939.



The Richardson Brothers. (Left to right)—Charles, Frank, William, James and Edward.

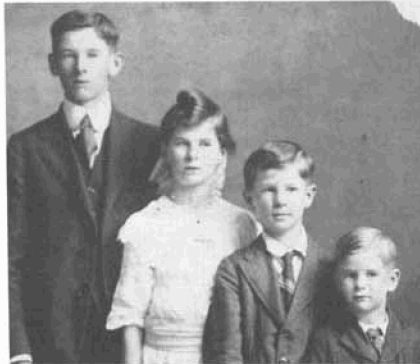
James Richardson

James Richardson married Manda Weakland. They moved to Elma in 1906 and lived here the rest of their lives.

They were parents of Arthur, Loretta, Charles and Raymond.



James and Manda Richardson.



Children of James and Manda Richardson. (Left to right)—Arthur, Loretta, Charles, and Raymond.

Mary and Ralph Ries

Life began for Mary, daughter of Lambert and Barbara Schwickerath, and Ralph, son of Ed and Ann Ries, in the community of North Washington.

Mary and Ralph grew up on nearby farms, attended the same school, and were members of the same church, Immaculate Conception.

The two were destined to marry each other November 26, 1940, in the same church. During the early years of their married life, they farmed in the same community. They became the parents of two daughters and four sons.

In 1947 they purchased a 160-acre farm located west of Elma from Henry Rink. They moved to the farm the following year.

In 1975 they moved into their newly-built home in Elma located on Ninth Street. Mary began her employment at Colonial Manor Nursing Home in September, 1978. Ralph continued to help on the farm. Mary continued membership in Friends and Neighbors Club and the Rosary Society, and developed an interest in raising roses. Ralph maintained an interest in Knights of Columbus and Order of Foresters.

Together they have traveled through Florida, the Ozarks, Black Hills, Washington, D.C., and Canada.

Asked about highlights in their lives, Mary promptly responded, "Our 17 grandchildren—8 boys and 9 girls."



Ralph Ries family. (Back row, left to right)—Ed, Mary and Ralph, John. (Front row)—Gary, Marilyn Schaudenecker, Elaine Laures, Mike.

Raymond Ries Family

Raymond M. Ries was born the son of Ed and Anna (Nosbisch) Ries. In May of 1945 he married Ardell Brus of Alta Vista. He and his wife farmed many years in the Elma area. They retired, having built a new home in Elma.

Ray and Ardell are the parents of six children: Shirley (deceased), LeRoy, Sister Phyllis, Lyle, Dale and Mrs. Don (Rosalie) Weber.



Ray Ries family—1985. (Back row)—Phyllis, Dale, Rosalie, Lyle and Leroy. (Front row)—Ardell and Ray.

John Ries Family



(Left to right)—Janae, Mark, Cathy, Kent, Deb and John.

John and Cathy Ries farm west of Elma. John married Cathy Ball on September 24, 1966, at Sumner, Iowa. They rented and farmed the Lee Riley farm and in 1971 bought the Frank Riley farm. They bought the Emmett Roche farm in 1974, remodeling the house and moving into what is now their present home.

John first came to the Elma area in 1948 with his parents, Ralph and Mary Ries, and graduated from I. C. School. Cathy's parents are Robert and Carolyn

Ball of Fredericksburg. She graduated from Fredericksburg High School and Gates Business College in Waterloo, working as a secretary until her marriage. She has one brother living in Iowa City.

John and Cathy's family consists of Janae, Mark, Deb and Kent. The family is active in 4-H. John is a 4-H leader of the Elma Niners and Cathy is on the 4-H Youth Committee. Their children are members of 4-H clubs. Cathy also teaches Religion classes (4th grade) at the I. C. Church in Elma.

Gary L. Ries Family

Gary L. Ries, son of Ralph and Mary Ries of Elma, married Mary Jo Chihak, daughter of Vincentia and the late Rudy Chihak of Lourdes, on September 9, 1972, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. After living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for six months, the couple moved to the Emmett Roche Farm near St. Cecilia, owned by Gary's brother, John, where they lived until moving to Gary's home place in October, 1975. In 1978, Gary and Mary Jo bought the farm from Ralph and Mary Ries. Only a portion of the farm is the same as it was when Gary was growing up because in 1971 the tornado cleared out most of the farm buildings. The barn was replaced with a hay shed and the hog house and garage were replaced.

The couple have three children: Nicole Ann, born February 19, 1974, Jessica Jo, born May 5, 1976; and Patrick Lee, born May 2, 1983. Mary Jo began her employment at Colonial Manor in 1979 in the dietary department. In 1982, she became the Activity Coordinator.



Gary and Mary Jo Ries

Gary Ries Children.
(Left to right)—Patrick, Nicole, Jessica.



Edward S. Riha

Edward S. Riha and MaeAnne Thayer were married February 26, 1958. They became the parents of three children: Laine, John and Toni.

Laine was married to the former Lisa Pacovsky May 8, 1982. They are the parents of a daughter, Amanda Joann.

Edward and MaeAnne own and operate the Sunnyside Cafe, which they purchased February 1, 1985.

Other business enterprises which they have operated are the Cresco Roller Rink for 25 years; the Starlight Roller Rink (Osage) for four years; Ed's Construction and House Moving for 20 years; and a 92-acre farm near Protivin for ten years. They will be long remembered in Elma for being former skating rink operators.

Charles Riley

Charles Riley, son of Willis and Evelyn Riley of Elma, married Annie Smith, daughter of Clem and Mabel Smith of Lourdes, on December 2, 1972.

Charles farms in the Elma area and Annie is a beautician.

They are parents of David, Gina, Mary, Amy and Willie.



(Back row, Left to right)—Annie, Charles. (Middle row)—Mary, Gina, David. (Front row)—Willie, Amy.

Art Rimrodt Family

Arthur Rimrodt was born September 24, 1908, the son of Henry Rimrodt and Engel (Schwake) Rimrodt. He married Bessie Kruger on January 15, 1938, at St. Peters Lutheran Church at Riceville, Iowa. Bessie was the daughter of Fred and Anna (Rieken) Kruger and was born June 16, 1913.

Art and Bessie lived in Elma where Art was employed at the Farmers Cooperative Creamery. He was a buttermakers helper from 1933 until 1940. He was buttermaker from 1940 to 1961. He also made ice cream and prepared coffee for many sales, church suppers and bazaars and weddings.

From 1961 to 1968, he owned and operated the Elma Locker. He was also a substitute mail carrier for a few years.

Art was a member of the Sportsman Club, helping to prepare and serve the fish and turtle suppers.

Art died November 7, 1982. Bessie still lives in Elma.

Art and Bessie have two sons, Duane and Gary, both

of whom served in the U.S. Navy for four years. Duane enlisted on July 16, 1959, and Gary enlisted November 10, 1962.

Duane married Sharon Peak, December 21, 1963. They have two children, Sherrie Renee and Shane Allan. They live in Santa Maria, California.

Gary married Rita Isenberger on August 25, 1967. They are parents of three children: Tara Lynn and twins, Kirk Michael and James Anthony. James died the same day, December 25, 1973.

Bessie's parents, Fred and Anna Kruger, were also the parents of Mrs. Harold (Eileen) Dishinger; Elmer; and Irvin "Pete" Kruger (both deceased).

Henry Rimrodt's family also consisted of Mrs. Ernest (Alinda) Friedrich, Helen, Edgar, Ernest, Arnold, Henry, Fred, and Louie.

Gaylord Robison Family

Gaylord Robison lived in Elma as a boy and a man, and the only time he left Elma was to go and fight in World War I. After returning from the service, Gaylord started the grocery business in August of 1919.

On July 6, 1920, he was married to Leona Parker. Leona was born September 15, 1899, to Ned and Emma Parker. The Parker family came to Elma from Oelwein in 1912. Ned Parker was part of the firm of Connor-Parker, which operated a dry goods store on Main Street.

In 1939, Leona started working in the grocery store and was a faithful partner and co-owner of the business. They spent many busy days and years working together. In August of 1969 they celebrated their 50th year in business. A year later, in 1970, at the age of 79, Gaylord and his sparkling wife Leona decided to close the doors of the Elma Grocery after being in service to the Elma community for 51 years.

Gaylord was a member of the American Legion, and had served on the town council and as mayor of Elma.

Gaylord and Leona were the parents of three children: sons, Richard and James, and one daughter, Mrs. Kenneth (Elizabeth) Jacoby.

Gaylord died May 3, 1972, after two good years of retirement and Leona died December 1, 1982.



Leona Robison

Keith Roethler Family

Keith Roethler, son of John A. and Hazel (Rohde) Roethler, and Avis Balk, daughter of Andrew S. and

Leona (Kinney) Balk, were married August 24, 1949, in the Immaculate Conception Church in Elma.

After living in Kansas for a few months while Keith was in the Army, they moved back to Elma where they now reside. They have one son, Creighton (August 24, 1950) and two grandsons.

Keith was employed by Fred Pierce at his Standard Service Station for 13 years, managed a fertilizer business, and for the last 17 years has been employed by the Iowa State Department of Agriculture. Avis is a part-time employee of the Elma Post Office.

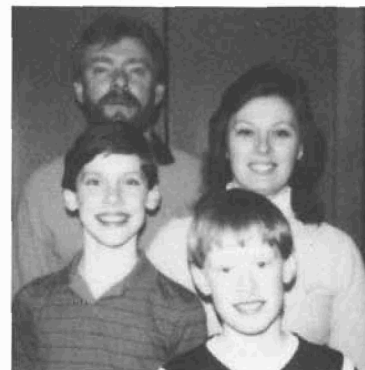


Avis, Creighton and Keith Roethler.

Creighton Roethler

Creighton Roethler, son of Keith and Avis (Balk) Roethler, was born August 24, 1950. He married Mary Jo Benson, daughter of Merrill and Mary (Rouchka) Benson on August 7, 1971. She was born July 15, 1951.

They are parents of two sons, Andrew, born October 23, 1973; and Christopher, born March 24, 1976.



Creighton Roethler family—Creighton, Mary Jo, Andrew, Christopher.

Hazel and John Roethler And her father, mother, brother

Mrs. John Roethler's father, Gus Rohde, born June 17, 1863, came from Germany with friends at the age of nine years. The trip was made in a sailboat. The trip took approximately 14 weeks.

Gus Rohde was an engineer for the Chicago Great Western Railroad, was responsible for helping to build the railroad and at one time was hired to pump water for the engines of trains that passed through Elma. He served as a mail carrier for 29 years on a rural route out of Elma, retiring from the postal service in 1928 at the

age of 65. Gus and Mame Rohde were parents of Mrs. John (Hazel) Roethler, Joel and Ray.

Hazel's oldest brother, R. A. Rohde, moved a store building from the former town of Busti using horses and rollers. He located the building at the site once occupied by Joe Weiland's tailor shop and later occupied by Leroy Mohrfeld's Service Station.

Hazel graduated from high school in 1916 and later graduated from Cedar Valley Seminary in Osage. Subsequently, she taught school for 23½ years.

In 1925 Hazel married John Roethler, who originally came from Staples, Minnesota. When his family moved to this area, his mother came on the train with the baby of the family. His father moved the rest of the family and possessions in a covered wagon except for "Johnny" who led the family cow.

John attended school in North Washington, but to do this he had to walk six miles each way.

John was a World War I veteran and served 9 months in Germany.

John and Hazel became parents of four children, Keith, Wanda, Betty and Robert.

John and Hazel were well known for their ability to do old-time country dances. At one time they accepted an invitation to dance on an Austin, Minnesota, television show.

Organizations: Hazel—World War I Auxiliary, American Legion Auxiliary; 50-year member Order of Eastern Star. John—American Legion and Masonic Lodge.



Mr. and Mrs. John Roethler.

Rosonke Family

The Rosonke family in Howard County is descended from Stephen Rosonke and Mary Brincks.

Stephen was born in the province of Posen in Germany in 1872. He came to the United States around 1895, at about 23 years of age. His passage over here was paid for by a cousin, Pete Kauch. This was known as a "free card." Steve worked for Pete Kauch at Kent, Minnesota to repay his passage over here. He received \$9 per month during seven months of the year, and room and board during the winter months. This took about three years to pay off.

In 1900, Stephen came to visit Ferrie Mishak at Alta Vista, Iowa. He stayed to work for Mike Gilbert at North Washington, Iowa, and worked three years for him. While working there, he met Mary Brincks. Ferrie was Steve's cousin and Mrs. Mishak was Mary's aunt.

Mary Brincks, the daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth Galing Brincks, was one of eleven children.



(Left to right)—Stephen, Lawrence, Mary Rosonke.

Her parents were born in Westfalan, Germany, and came to this country. They homesteaded on a farm midway between Ossian and Festina, Iowa. Records show they paid \$7 per acre for this land.

Steve and Mary were married February 17, 1903, and on March 1 they bought a farm four miles east and two miles south of Alta Vista. This consisted of 100 acres that cost \$54 per acre. Elizabeth, Joe, Theresa and Henry were all born here. In 1915, they sold this farm for \$122.50 an acre and purchased a farm two miles west of Elma, paying \$120 an acre for 160 acres. Lawrence was born here.

In 1938, Steve and Mary retired from farming and moved into a house in Elma. They lived there with their son, Lawrence (Fritz). Mary died April 18, 1955, and Steve died December 26, 1961.

Elizabeth married Phil Biwer on May 31, 1927. They became the parents of seven children. They farmed near Elma all their lives. Phil died January 22, 1982, and Elizabeth still lives on their farm, now owned by their son, Al.

Joe married Leone McGrane in 1931. They were parents of one daughter. Joe and Leone farmed west of Elma. Leone died September 16, 1980, Joe still resides on his farm.

Theresa became the wife of William (Bill) Biwer on November 19, 1935. They were parents of six children. They farmed northwest of Elma, moving into Elma in 1978. Their son, Dan, now operates their farm.

Henry "Heinie" married Bernetta "Nettie" Weber September 19, 1933. They purchased the "homeplace" and farmed there until retiring in 1975. They became the parents of five children. Nettie died in September, 1985, and Heinie still makes his home on the farm.

Lawrence "Fritz" never married. He was stricken with arthritis at the young age of 12, which crippled him for life. He sold seed corn at one time, and for many years he repaired watches and clocks; but has discontinued this in recent years. He has an active interest in managing his farm of 80 acres, which he rents to an area farmer. He enjoys the many visitors that stop to see him in his home in Elma.

Joseph H. Rosonke

Joseph H. Rosonke was born on June 1, 1905, to Stephen and Mary Brincks Rosonke. In 1915, he moved with his parents to a farm two miles west of Elma. He was baptized in the Catholic Church in Alta Vista, Iowa, and received his grade school education in the Immaculate Conception School in Elma.



Wedding day for Joe Rosonke and Leone McGrane.

In 1929, he purchased the farm on which he still lives. On June 29, 1931, he married Leone McGrane, daughter of Thomas and Abigail McGrane. They had one daughter, Joanne, born March 10, 1933. She is now Mrs. Donald Frost of Addison, Illinois.

In 1931, Joe was elected, one of three persons in the Afton Township, to help with the Farm Program, which was started at that time. Their first duties were to explain the Farm Program to farmers. Meetings, held chiefly in the country schools, were held evenings and on Saturdays. Later it was their duty to fill out the necessary forms and get the signature of the farmers who had joined the program. In the summer, he measured the allotted corn acres in the south one-third of Afton Township. Joe served on this committee until the late 1940's. In 1969, Joe was appointed Afton Township trustee, has been re-elected and is still serving at the present time. Along with Howard and Paris Township, they purchased a rural fire truck, which is manned by the Elma firemen. They also share in Elma's new fire station.

Besides raising crops of corn, beans, hay and oats and caring for horses, Black Angus cattle, hogs and laying hens, Joe also owned a threshing machine and threshed grain for the neighborhood ring for a good many years.

Joe has been a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in St. Cecelia since 1929. He served as parish trustee for many years and was custodian of the St. Cecelia church cemetery for 20 years.

Joe retired from farming in 1968 and had a sale of his machinery, livestock and grain on January 20, 1969.

Joe has two brothers, Henry and Lawrence, and two sisters, Mrs. Phil (Elizabeth) Biwer and Mrs. William (Theresa) Biwer, all of Elma.

Joe's wife, Leone, passed away September 16, 1980, and is buried in the Calvary Cemetery, Elma. Joe still resides on his farm west of Elma.

Henry Rosonke Family



Henry Rosonke family. (Front row, left to right)—Lois, Henry, Nettie, Carol. (Back row)—Ronald, David, Donald.

Henry, the son of Steve and Mary Rosonke, married Nettie Weber, daughter of Joe and Mary Weber of Alta Vista. They farmed in the Elma area, Henry living on the same farm for 71 years. They were the parents of Carol, Lois, twins, Donald and Ronald, and David.

Corneilus A. Rubly (1881-1924) Elizabeth A. Rubly (1877-1971)

Cornelius Andrew Rubly (better known as Neil), son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rubly, was born in Dubuque, Iowa, on July 6, 1881.

Elizabeth A. Rubly (better known as Lizzie or Aunt Lizzie), daughter of Peter and Caroline Kurtenbach, was born on October 26, 1877, in North Washington, Iowa.

On October 14, 1903, Neil and Lizzie were married in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and moved to Elma and engaged in the hotel business. A year or so later, Neil took a course in watch repair and bought the jewelry stock in the Richmond Drug Store. In about the year 1910 after the death of Neil's sister, Martha Rubly Phelps, they adopted her two sons, Harold and Edwin, and made a home for them. He continued in the jewelry business until February 8, 1923, when he was appointed Postmaster of Elma. He served about a year and a half and was taken ill and expired on November 28, 1924. After his death, Lizzie was appointed postmaster.

In about the year 1929, Lizzie moved to Chicago and lived there for 37 years; and returned to Elma in 1965 with her son, Edwin and his family. Lizzie was happy to return to her many friends with whom she enjoyed playing cards. She was an excellent bridge player and played in several groups. In January, 1971, while she was playing cards she suffered a stroke. Death came to her on March 14, 1971.

Ed and his family continued living in Elma where he worked for the county spraying thistles and also worked as a bartender for Tuckek's. In 1974 they moved to New Hampton, Iowa, where Ed expired on November 18, 1975. Presently his wife, Jeanette, and daughter, Mary Beth, and her family, are residing in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Ed's son, Neil and his family reside in Wheeling, Illinois, and his brother, Harold, and his wife, Bette, resided in Lincolnwood, Illinois. Death came to Harold on March 29, 1985.

Frank W. and Pearl R. Schieffer Family

Frank William Schieffer was born in Streator, Illinois, on October 29, 1896, to John and Frances Schieffer. John and Frances met on the ship coming over and were married on arrival in the U.S. At an early age, Frank moved with his parents to Turtle Lake, Wisconsin, where he grew up on a farm. As a young man, he learned telegraphy in St. Paul, Minnesota, where his first job was with Western Union. In February, 1918, he began working for the Chicago Great Western Railway in Devon, Iowa.

Pearl Rosalie Carter was born April 12, 1900, on a farm near Jackson Jct., Iowa, to James and May (God-

dard) Carter. She grew up on the family farm and later worked at the Miller Hotel in New Hampton, Iowa, where she met Frank.

They were married in St. Paul, Minnesota, December 15, 1919. After their marriage, they lived in Devon, where he was depot agent. They had two children, Shirley in 1921 and Leone in 1922, both born at Devon. Frank then transferred to the depot in Sumner, Iowa, and stayed there until about 1925 when he transferred to the depot at New Hampton. When Elma became a bustling town for freight, he took over the depot agent's job here in 1926. In 1943, he received his 25-year pin from the railroad. The card accompanying the pin, signed by C. G. W. President W. N. Deramus III, noted: "A quarter century of unbroken employment with one railroad is a record of which you may be proud." When illness forced him to retire in 1962, he had 44 years of unbroken service with the Chicago Great Western. Shirley and Leone grew up in Elma and went to I. C. Academy until they graduated from high school.



Frank and Pearl (Carter) Schieffer.



Shirley and Leone Schieffer.



Leone Kramer and son, Sam Kramer.

Shirley worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, after high school, and later married Ray Heineman of Elma, the son of Leo and Victoria Heineman. They lived in Elma, then Canada, and later St. Paul, Minnesota. They had two sons, Ron and John Heineman. Ron is living in Colorado, and John is married and living in Minnesota. Shirley died March 10, 1958, and was buried at Calvary Cemetery at Elma.

Leone married Samuel Kramer of New Hampton, Iowa, during World War II, and they had one son, Samuel L. Kramer. Leone lived briefly in Florida and Hawaii, and in California from 1951 until 1974, when she retired from U.S. Civil Service with the Navy. She moved back to Elma in 1974, and is presently working at Colonial Manor in Elma.

Samuel L. Kramer returned to Elma in 1963, after graduating from high school in Pasadena, California. Elma has been home since, except for college, graduate

school, and law school. Having practically grown up in the Elma depot, he began working for the Chicago Great Western right after high school. He also worked for the Southern Pacific, Illinois Central, and Milwaukee railroads, accruing 12½ years of service. He presently has a tax service and computer supply business in Elma. He and Leone both reside at the Frank and Pearl Schieffer family home.

Frank died September 13, 1962, and Pearl died April 4, 1971. Both are buried at Calvary Cemetery at Elma.

Louis Schmelzer Family

Louis and Mary (Miller) Schmelzer moved from Cresco to Elma in June of 1921. They were the parents of five children: Mrs. Louis (Helen) Ludwig of Elma, Francis, Paul, Jim and Mildred.

Louis Schmelzer worked for Albert Francis, a local blacksmith. Later, he opened his own blacksmith shop in the Weber Bros. Garage in Elma. During the war years, he worked in the shipyards in California as a machinist.

Schmidt Family

Gottlieb Schmidt emigrated from Germany to this area in 1888. His wife, Abbie Bauer, was reared in the Alta Vista area.

They are parents of Mrs. Otto (Lenora) Boderman; Mrs. Fred (Hazel) Rimrodt, deceased, 1964; Max, Elma; John, deceased; and Olga, deceased, 1981. Gottlieb Schmidt died in 1944.

Max R. Schmidt

Max R. Schmidt, son of Gottlieb and Abbie Schmidt, married Ava Beth Mealy on April 21, 1941. She is the daughter of Henry and Jessie (Tidgewell) Mealy.

Max and Ava Beth are parents of eight children: James of Tipton, Max S., Jr., Edward, Mary, all of Elma; Alice Pelley, Iowa City, Iowa; Rhonda Sands, Dallas, Texas; Daryl of Elma; and Mark of Hampton.

They farmed north of Elma until retiring to the town of Elma.

Ivan Schroeder Family



Ivan Schroeder family—Ivan and Alma, Tom, Dean, Mike, Sandra, Ronald, Ramona, David, Diane, Debra.

Ivan Schroeder was born and raised in Arcadia, Iowa. He attended St. John's School in Arcadia, graduating in 1941. His wife, Alma Koster, came from Breda and graduated from St. Bernard's School of that area in 1943. In 1958, they purchased a farm northeast of Elma and moved here. In 1967, they purchased the "Jacoby" farm, part of which is "Busti." On May, 1968, a tornado struck the farm and they worked very hard to make a comeback. They have now built a new home in Busti and their son, Tom, and his family live on the farm.

Ivan and Alma are the parents of ten children: Tom, Dean, Loran, Mike, Sandra, Ronald, Ramona, David, Diane, and Debra.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schwake

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schwake of Elma, Iowa, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 28, 1951, with an open house from 2 until 5 p.m.

Miss Frederika Bayer, daughter of William and Maria Bayer of Denver, Iowa, and Henry Schwake were married March 28, 1901, in St. John's Lutheran Church in Denver, Iowa. They began their married life on their farm northwest of Elma, living there until they retired from farming and moved to Elma, Iowa. Their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Frahm, also lived on their farm before retiring to Cresco, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Schwake were members of the Maple Leaf Lutheran Church for 15 years and then members of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Elma.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schwake—50th wedding anniversary March 28, 1951.

John H. Schroeder

John H. Schroeder was born August, 1850, near Cincinnati, Ohio, (on the site later known as the Ohio Match Co.). He moved with his parents, Henry and Sophie Schroeder to Clayton County, Iowa.

He married Effie McKinlay and they farmed near the community of Clayton. In March, 1896, the family, consisting of a daughter, Alice, and four sons, Scobey, Earl, Ray and Homer, moved to a farm southwest of Elma.

In January 1901, a tragedy struck the family when 24-year-old Scobey was killed in a hunting accident.

Earl Schroeder married Lollie Watson. They lived on the Watson farm east of Elma.

Ray attended a traction school in Indianapolis and worked for the Rumley Oil Pull Co. as advance agent in Canada. He married Isabelle Robertson there. They

lived in Des Moines, Iowa, before moving back to Elma to farm.

Alice and Homer continued to farm and raise Hereford cattle. After Homer married Myrtle Diestler, Alice and Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder moved to Elma, while Homer stayed on the farm. The land is still in the Schroeder family.

Death came to John H. Schroeder September 26, 1923, and Effie died in May, 1926.

Alice married Ned Parker in 1933.

Dean Schroeder Family

Dean Schroeder, son of Homer and Myrtle Schroeder of Elma, and Alice Laue, daughter of Herman and Clara Laue of Elma, were married and for several years lived on the Schroeder home place west of Elma before moving to the Chester area in 1967. They are the parents of five children: Leann was born in 1957 and married Jim Thomas of Lime Springs, and they live at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, where Jim is serving with the air force. David, born in 1958, is now serving in the air force at Rhine Mainze, Germany. He was married to Darla Derry of LeRoy, Minnesota. They are the parents of two sons, Ryan and Aaron. Lori was born in 1960 and she is married to Keith Johnson of Alta Vista and has one son, Drew, and they reside in Elma. Daniel was born in 1962 and works for Hunting Elevator in Cresco, where he resides. Lavonne was born in 1964 and is married to Bruce Speer of LeRoy, Minnesota, and they are the parents of two children, Lacey and Cody. They live on a farm in the Chester area.



(Left to right)—Herman Laue, Clara Laue, Alice Laue, Dean Schroeder, Myrtle Schroeder, Homer Schroeder.

Merle Schroeder Family

Merle was born in Des Moines, Iowa, to Ray and Isabelle Schroeder. He married Edna Webb, daughter of John and Iona Webb. He operated the Farm Service Station before and after returning from service during WW II. He retired from White Farm of Charles City after working 28 years. They are the parents of Muriel Rahlf and Patricia Exline.

Lud and Anna Semerad Family

Ludvik Anton Semerad was born November 10, 1896, on a farm near Elma, the son of Frederick and Anna Semerad. He spent his entire life in Howard County farming.

On July 9, 1924, he married Anna Kuhn. She was born in 1900 in Ft. Atkinson, Iowa. They lived on the

farm north of Elma until retiring to a home in Elma in 1972.

They are parents of ten children: Mrs. Steve (Bernice) Kvidera, Mrs. Robert (Ione) Stodola, Mrs. Milo (Inez) Pelley, Robert, Richard, Alfred, Art, Leonard, Dennis and Paul.

Lud died March 27, 1986, of cancer. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Elma.



Lud Semerad family. (Back row, left to right)—Dennis, Richard, Bernice, Robert, Inez, Paul, Leonard. (Front)—Art, (Father) Lud, (Mother) Anna, Ione, Alfred.

George and Clara Shannon

George Shannon, son of Thomas and Annie Farrell and one of eleven children, was born in Charlotte, Iowa, (Clinton County) on February 8, 1895. He attended Clinton County Schools and was graduated from Clinton Business College. In 1911, Thomas and Annie and their family—George, Patrick, Walter, James Maurice, Grace, Evelyn, Ruth, Lewis, Irene, Robert, and Adrian—and several other families of the clan; namely, the John Shannons, John Showalters and Patrick Farrells moved to northern Iowa. Thomas and Annie lived near Elma until 1917, when after two years of hog cholera and three successive years of early frost which ruined the corn crop, Thomas was forced to sell out; and he moved the family to Lawler, Iowa. Two sons died in infancy of diphtheria.

George, the eldest son, farmed with his father until they left the farm, then was appointed rural mail carrier with time out for Army service when he served in World War I as a Private First Class.

Clara Elgas, fourth born in a family of twelve children, was born in Watertown, Wisconsin, on February 8, 1894. Her parents were Michael and Margaret Biwer Elgas. She came to this area in the early 1900's from Cedar Rapids. She attended Immaculate Conception Academy in Elma, and completed her schooling at Upper Iowa in Fayette, Iowa. She was a rural school teacher for seven years prior to her marriage to George L. Shannon in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 8, 1919.

Before moving to Elma, she worked at Quaker Oats Co. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She and her sister, Isabelle, had a millinery shop in Elma on East Main Street where they designed and sold many fancy hats. Clara also worked in Connors Clothing Store.

George and Clara became parents of seven children,



(Back row, left to right)—Rita Boos, Jerry, Jean, Paul, Lee. (Front row)—George Shannon, Marge, Clara Shannon. Family picture taken in 1943.



Clara Elgas and George Shannon Wedding.



Clara and George Shannon

Elizabeth, who died in infancy; Jerome (Jerry) of Texas, deceased March, 1985; Jean; Paul; and Mrs. Robert (Rita) Boos, all of New Hampton, Iowa; Lee Shannon; and Mrs. Gerald (Marjorie) Gansen of Elma.

The Shannon family were lifetime members of the Catholic Church.

George retired in 1965 after 47 years of service as a rural mail carrier. He worked under several postmasters: John Cannon, George Evans, Harry Conway, Loretta Stapleton and Tom Smith.

George was fire chief in Elma for many years and was responsible for delivering Elma's first fire truck, which was purchased in 1939 in St. Louis, Missouri. George was also Legion Commander for many years and a write-in candidate for mayor. Later years he served as Justice of the Peace. His son, Paul, was appointed mayor of Elma in 1949. At that time, he was the youngest mayor in the state of Iowa at age 26. Paul and his brother, Lee, also served as town marshalls on night duty.

George had an ice business in 1938-1940. The ice was cut from a pond on the farm on the north edge of town and was stored in a building north of the old Elma Creamery by the Equity, and was delivered to homes around town by Tom Sullivan.

In the early 1930's, a stone quarry was opened on the family farm where lime and crushed rock were produced for area farms and roadways. Many local laborers were employed; namely, Ed McAvoy, Frank Spoden, Clarence (Doc) Mulick, Jerome Foley, Vince, Melvin and Adrian McGrane, Alvie Johnson, Joe Showalter, Alphonse Clear, Alfred Roethler, Gus O'Donnell, Jim Darrah, Bill Kach, Harold Grattop, Ben and Emil Schoenfeld, Harlan Hyberger, Frank Berka, Tom Barry, Frank Bilek, Francis Enright, Wm. Beaumaster and Gerald Gansen. Gansen has rented the farmland since 1970.

The Shannon farm, purchased from First Joint Stock Land Bank of Chicago in 1935, was sold in 1972 to Bruening Rock Products of Decorah.

Jean A. Shannon

Jean A. Shannon was born in Elma, Iowa, eldest child of George and Clara Shannon, on September 27, 1921. Her brothers and sisters are Paul Shannon, Lee Shannon, Marge Gansen and Rita Boos. A brother, Jerry Shannon, died in March, 1985. He was cared for by his sister, Jean, during his last illness in Texas.

Jean graduated from the I. C. Academy in Elma in 1939. Her first employment was at McGrath Manufacturing in St. Paul, Minnesota, a company which made cigarette lighters for servicemen during World War II.

Under the tutelage of Genevieve O'Brien Austin, Jean mastered the art of being a telephone operator in the Elma office. Frank Fencl was the manager for the North Iowa Telephone Co. at that time.



Jean Shannon

In 1947, Jean accepted employment as an operator with the United Telephone of Iowa in New Hampton, a position she held for 33 years until the office closed, forcing her early retirement. She has made her home in New Hampton, Iowa, since that time.

Jean also cared for her parents in their later years when they were in poor health.

Since 1980, Jean has joined the northerners who lay claim to the title, "Winter Texans," spending the six winter months in Harlingen, Texas. Jean has received her five-year pin as a volunteer tutor for the H.O.S.T.S. (Help One Student To Succeed) program in the Harlingen School System.

She has also been a volunteer many years in a program called "Food 4 the Needy," which caters to the "poorest of the poor" in the Rio Grande Valley.

Lee Shannon Family

Lee Patrick Shannon, son of George and Clara Shannon, was married to Marion Chihak, daughter of Adolph and Clara Chihak, November 19, 1946. They are the parents of Mrs. Francis (Patricia) Friedhoff, Mark, Kaye Roske, Mrs. Jerry (Susan) Haar, and Barb.

Lee has been employed as a road construction worker; one project being Interstate 80. Marion is employed by Comprehensive Systems.

Joseph Shimek Family

Joseph Shimek was born August 8, 1867, to Wencil and Johanna (Zak) Shimek. They lived on a farm near Calmar, Iowa. Caroline Kubesh was born December 26, 1869, to Andrew and Johanna (Valenta) Kubesh. Joseph and Caroline were married February 9, 1892, in Spillville, Iowa. On March 2, 1892, Joseph bought a tract of land owned by his father near Maple Leaf, Iowa. He and his wife lived there for 45 years, retiring to Schley. He sold this farm to his son, Edward, in 1946. Edward farmed it until his retirement in 1974.

Joseph also bought another piece of land across the road from his farm. This land was sold to his son, William. William then sold the farm to his daughter, Virginia, and her husband, Anthony McBride. Joseph was a farmer and also a carpenter.

Ten children were born to Joseph and Caroline. They were: Louise (Maravetz), 1892-1960; William, 1894-1976; Mary, 1894-1898; Jesse (Svestka), 1898; Johanna, 1900-1979; Lucy (Carroll), 1902; Helen (Ingraham), 1905-1974; Edward, 1907-1984; Bernadette (Burke), 1910; Joseph, 1913-1913. Joseph Shimek died in 1946, and Caroline Shimek died in 1964.



Joseph and Caroline Shimek's wedding day, February 9, 1892.

Caroline's wedding dress was made of heavy silk and was Alice Blue in color. She wore a long white veil.

Edward Shimek Family

Edward Shimek was born the son of Joseph and Caroline Shimek on the farm near Maple Leaf, Iowa. He and Helen Drtina, daughter of John and Anna (Kubicek) Drtina, were married at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on June 9, 1931. To this union, two children were born, Gloria in 1933, and Carl in 1936.

Edward was a farmer and a custom butcher serving



Helen and Edward Shimek

the rural Elma community. He was an active Scout leader, collected rocks and was a lover of nature. Helen was a school teacher before her marriage, teaching in the rural Howard County Schools. Edward farmed until his retirement in 1974. In 1981, Ed purchased a little house from the Tom Zobeck estate, living there until 1983, when he made his home at the Colonial Manor until his death.

Edward Shimek, 1907-1984; Helen (Drtina) Shimek, 1907-1975.

John Shock, Sr.

Joseph Shock and Vincentia Zobeck came to America from Moravia, Czechoslovakia, in their teenage years. They were married in Howard County and then settled on a farm nine miles northeast of Elma. They farmed there until they retired in 1927, and then moved to Elma where they lived for twenty years.

They were the parents of seven children: William, Anna, John, Mary, Joseph, Jimmy, and Frankie.

They are both buried in the Saratoga Cemetery.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shock, Sr.

John Showalter

John Showalter, son of Elihu and Alice Gordon Showalter, was born in Pennsylvania September 21, 1865. He married Elizabeth Farrell February 8, 1888. They farmed in Clinton County until 1911 when they

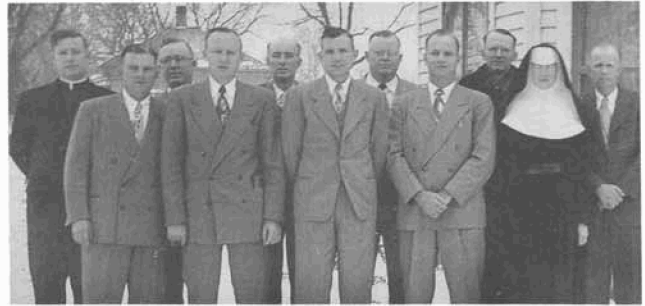


John Showalter family. (Back row)—Edwin, Cyril, Leo, Rosita (Sr. Madonna), Mary, Frank, Joe. (Front)—Harold, Linus, John and Elizabeth, Norbert, Albert, Earl.

moved to Howard County, moving into Elma in 1935.

They were parents of 13 children: Mary Hanrahan, Joseph, Francis, Leo, Cyril, Edwin, Earl, Sister Mary Madonna, Albert, Harold, Linus, Rev. Norbert, and George, who died in infancy.

John died in 1944; his wife, Elizabeth, lived in Elma until 1945 when she moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She died December 17, 1951.



John Showalter Family

Harold Showalter

Harold Showalter married Bernice Riley, daughter of Frank and Florence Roche Riley, on June 7, 1932, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in St. Cecelia.

Harold, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Showalter, was born June 19, 1910.

Harold and Bernice became parents of Jim of Waterloo, Marie Hurd, New Hampton; and Mike of Milton, Vermont.

Harold worked for Prudential Insurance of Mason City, Iowa, for six years. He was a Moorman Feed Representative for seventeen years. They opened the "Dew Drop Inn" in Elma in 1959 and operated that business for five years.

Harold served on the Howard County Conservation Board and was responsible for getting the well, shelter house and soil cement dam at Lylahs Marsh. He was instrumental in getting the land around "Meirick's Pond," which was donated by Paul Meirick, purchased, and developed; and his efforts aided in getting



Harold Showalter family. (Back row, left to right)—Jim, Marie, Mike. (Front)—Bernice and Harold.

a full river-mile for the "Elma Wild Life Area" at the old "Dick McGrane" landsite.

Harold has been manager of the Elm-Go apartments for fourteen years. He served on the original committee that set the groundwork for Elma's nursing home.

Harold is State Director on the State Ass'n of County Conservation Boards and Director on the Upper Explorerland Board for N.E. Iowa.

He has served his community as mayor and as councilman, and has served on the Immaculate Conception Church Board.

Joseph Showalter

Joseph E. Showalter was born on October 9, 1892. As a child, he moved here with his parents from Scott County, Iowa, to a farm in the Cecelia area. On June 5, 1917, he married Kathryn M. Garmen, daughter of Daniel and Tena Biwer Garmen. Kathryn was born March 5, 1893.

They farmed until the depression years and in 1934, Joe obtained employment at the Howard County Equity Coop in Elma, where he worked from 1934 until his death.

They were parents of seven children: Mrs. George (Eileen) Marr; Mrs. Bernard (Marcene M.) Hughes; Daniel, married to Lucille J. Rogers; Everett, married to Marjorie Dodge; F. Dale, married to Elaine Carter; Robert, deceased November 9, 1980, married to Alice Joan O'Rourke; Mrs. Jerome D. (Madonna) Fox.

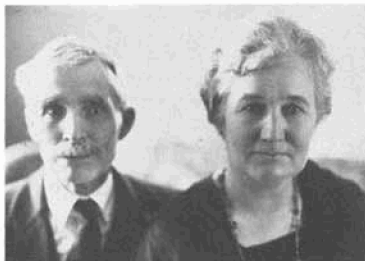
Joseph died on November 4, 1960, and Kathryn makes her home at Colonial Manor in Elma. She is still enjoying her favorite hobby—painting.

Maurice Silver Family

Maurice Silver was married to Elizabeth Greenwood in January of 1884. They homesteaded in South Dakota for three years before returning to Iowa to farm for many years on a farm three miles southwest of the Cecelia Church. In 1910 they moved to Elma and, in 1913 Mr. Silver, along with his son, Frank, established the Elma State Savings Bank. The elder Mr. Silver acted as president of the institution and Frank as cashier.

Maurice Silver died November, 1936. Elizabeth died in 1961.

Their children were: Mrs. Bert (Blanche) Keefe, Mrs. Tom (Anna) Kelly, Frank, Mrs. Vincent (Alice) Kennedy, and Mrs. Syd (Clara) Daly.



Maurice and Elizabeth Silver

Roy Simon Family

Roy Simon was born near Winterset, Iowa. When about three years old, his family moved to a farm near New Hampton, Iowa. Later moving to a farm remembered as the John Mulick farm, across the road from Homer Schroeders. Roy worked as a farm hand for other farmers for board and room and spending money. When he neared the age of 19, he joined a crew that harvested winter wheat from the Texas border to the Canadian border. They fished during the winter months, making their way back by helping plant the crops on the way. After two or three years of this work, he went to work near Floyd and Charles City, Iowa. In late 1932, he went to live with his brother, Ralph, and met his future bride, Grace Hendry of Osage, Iowa. They married on August 10, 1933, at the Elma Methodist Parsonage.

They had three children: William, married Phyllis Boehmer; Mrs. Henry (Ruby) Galing; and Carolyn Zobel.

When they first married, Roy and Grace worked near New Haven. They then moved with his sister, Effie Weiland (her husband was always called "Joe the tailor," as that is what he was). They then farmed until poor health caused Roy to have a sale in 1957, when they purchased an acreage east of the Elma Laundromat.

In 1956, Grace Simon went to work as a night telephone operator, quitting in 1957 to help care for Roy. She did housework for Elma families and indoor painting.

Roy died in February, 1963. In the summer of 1964, Grace sold the acreage and moved. She presently lives in Charles City, Iowa.

Henry Smith

Henry Smith married Veronica Polansky in 1935. They are parents of Monica Komarek, Texas; Margaret George, Texas; Henry W. Smith, Evansdale, Iowa; Jeanette Dickhoff, Des Moines, Iowa; Marie Smith, New Hampton, Iowa; Mrs. Tom (Sue) Miller, Elma; Mrs. Joe (Teresa) Klobassa, Elma.

Henry and Veronica are now retired after being in the tavern and restaurant business in Elma for almost half a century. They also operated a cement block business for a few years and farmed for a time.



Henry and Veronica Smith's 50th wedding anniversary.