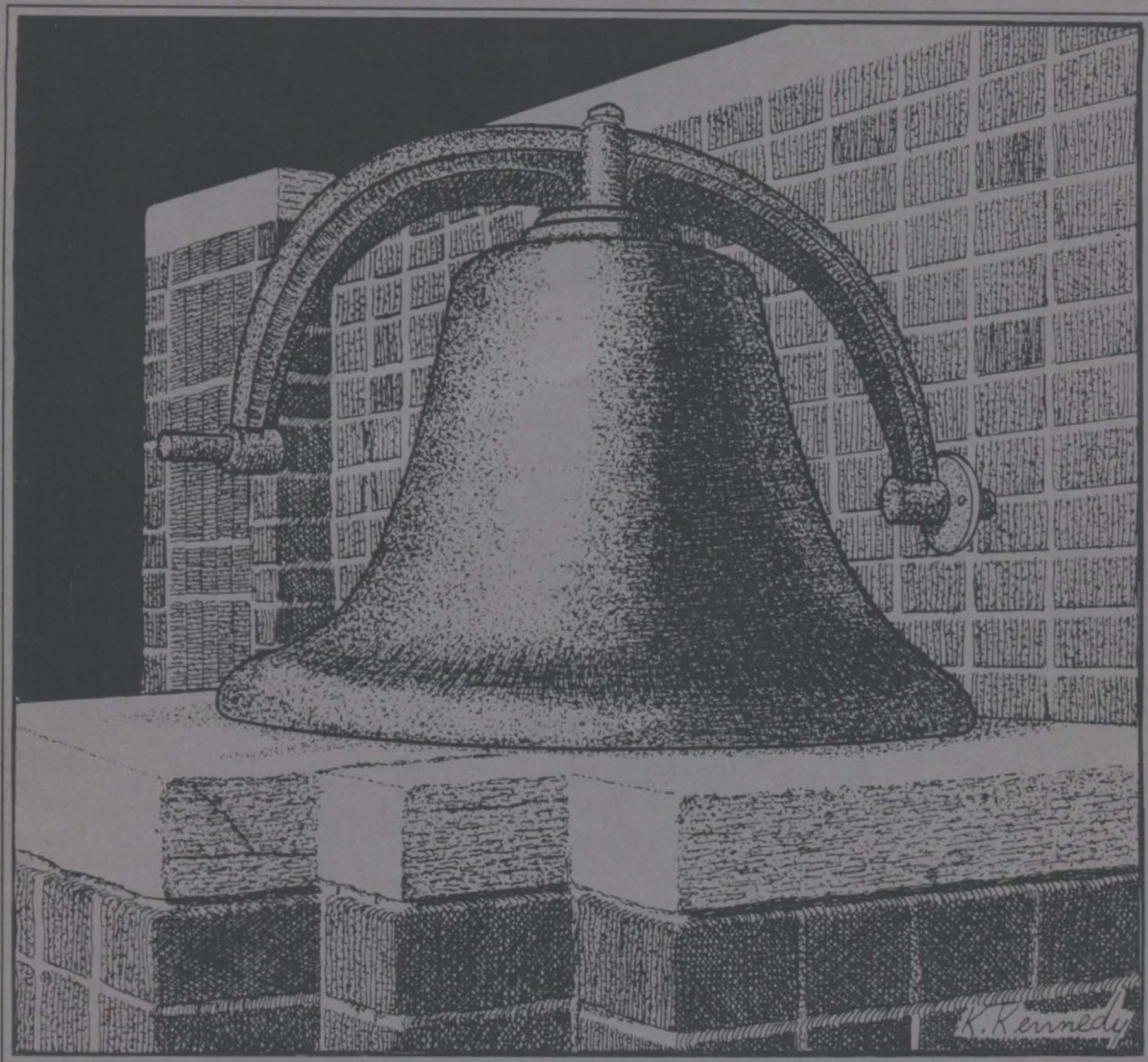


# CLASS OF 1939

*Alvin J. Mariska*



## DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL



## The Year's Top Story

Britain and France at war with Axis powers; Hitler won't stop attack on Poland.

## News of the Month

Sunken submarine Squalus 240 ft. down near Portsmouth, NH; 59 men await rescue. Rescue of the Squalus completed with tragic results; 24 deaths and 33 saved. The first Food Stamp Plan goes into effect in Rochester, NY.

PRESIDENT Franklin Roosevelt  
VICE PRESIDENT John Nance Garner

## And the Winner Is...

Best Movie	Gone With the Wind
Best Actor	Robert Donat
Best Actress	Vivien Leigh
Radio	Silver Theatre Blondie
World Series	NY Yankees over Cinc. Reds
Rose Bowl	So. Cal. 7, Duke 3
Boxing (Heavyweight)	Joe Louis

## Tunes of the Times

And the Angels Sing ... God Bless America ...  
The Beer Barrel Polka ... In the Mood ...  
Moonlight Serenade ... Over the Rainbow ...  
South of the Border ... Three Little Fishes  
... Wishing ... Good Morning

## Famous Firsts

Fluorescent lights by GE ... DDT  
pesticide invented ... FM radio  
receivers & Pocket Book paperbacks  
marketed ... First commercial  
transatlantic passenger service  
began ... Polyethylene invented ...  
1st American-made helicopter flown  
... Baseball's Hall of Fame founded

## Life in the U.S.A. - Then & Now

	1939	1989
Population	131,028,000	248,900,000
3 Br. Home	\$3.850	\$88,100
Avg. Income	\$2,163	\$30,453
New Ford	\$680	\$11,398
Gas, 1 gal.	\$.19	\$.99
Bread, 1 lb.	\$.08	\$.71
Milk, 1 gal.	\$.48	\$2.32

## Fun Facts & More

Judy Garland starred in THE WIZARD OF OZ ... Grandma Moses, Anna Robertson,  
became famous ... BATMAN AND ROBIN debuted in comic strip ... Baseball's Lou  
Gehrig gave tearful farewell in Yankee Stadium: "I am the luckiest man on the  
face of the earth" ... Johnson Wax tower, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright,  
completed ... Fashion trends: defined waistlines ... DINAH SHORE SHOW debuted



Clarence W. Randall



Anna Belba



Oliver Mariska



David G. Gusman



Lavinia Glava



LeRoy Krutz



Betty Jean Horner



Buffy Grosscup



Ellen Grace Widge



Harold Kirschke



Delores Wharck



Spencer Bitchard Virginia Bardin



Betha Duranek



Norman Stehler



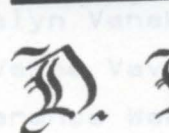
Lorain Piser



Arvon Tepiaka



Marjorie Bitten



Walter Rejchert



Lorain Piser



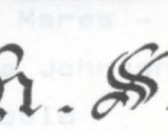
Kenneth Haskin



Marjorie Bitten



Marjorie Bitten



Warren Miller



Katherine Weber



Ansel Reed



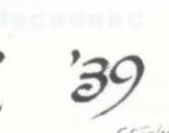
Kathleen Kopp



Gladys Stoboda



Gladys Stoboda



Laura All



Keith Kennedy



Edna Kael



Yvonne Wheeler



Edna Ramsey



Edna Ramsey



D. H. S. '39

Anderson Studio  
Lynch

DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1939

Laura Ahl Brt  
Anna Belka Sysel  
Margaret Britton Franzen  
Ila Mae Conner Clark  
Bertha Dusanek Zak  
Kenneth Frahm  
Darlene Gausman Bastian  
Buford Grosscup  
Betty Jean Horner Walberg  
Helen Kasl Halada  
Keith Kennedy  
Harold Krivohlavek  
LeRoy Krutz  
Alvin Mariska  
Warren Miller  
Kenneth Moneypenny  
Delores Nohavek Trivett  
Lavina Pizar Melichar  
Edna Ramsey McCord  
Virginia Rardin Leach - deceased  
Gordon Rasmussen - deceased  
Ansel Reed  
Melvin Rezabek - deceased  
Norman Stehlik  
Gladys Syoboda Workman - deceased  
Aron Tobiska  
Karolina Vajgrt Schipper  
Evelyn Vanek Mares - deceased  
LaVerne Vavra Johnson  
Clarence Wambold  
Katherine Weber Cole  
Yvonne Wheeler Cline  
Ellen Grace Wielage Smiley



After I graduated from high school, I was employed by the Citizens State Bank in Dorchester for several years. There is where I learned all the phases of banking which I would say was the start of my career.

Moving to Ocala in 1941, I was employed by the Ocala State Bank. It was there that I met Robert Birt. We were married in 1949 and moved to Long Beach, California.

Robert and I have three children, a son, Terry, and twin daughters, Karen and Kay. We are the proud grandparents of four grandsons. Our children and families all live in the Long Beach area.

After our children were of school age, I started working part time for a Savings & Loan Association, going full time a few years later. I was employed by them for 25 years, eventually becoming vice-president, LAURA AHL BIRT, and manager which position I held when I retired.

2821 Forman Avenue

Bob is also retired now and is free time and occasionally traveling. We have toured the Western States and have taken trips to Hawaii and the East Coast. Our most interesting was in Williamsburg and Monticello, VA where we toured the home of Thomas Jefferson and many other historical places.

We have a mobile home near the Colorado River in Bullhead City, Arizona, and enjoy spending much of our time there. Across the river is Laughlin, Nevada, which is getting to be a little Las Vegas. Needless to say, we do go over there occasionally.

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After studying Normal Training and graduating from Dorchester High School, I began a teaching career at Dist. 43 southeast of Dorchester before my 17th birthday. I taught there for two years. In 1943 I moved to Dist. 11 at Pleasant Hill for almost two years, and was married on October 8, 1942 to Leo Syse.

Leo was in the Navy so then I lived in Norfolk, VA and worked at the Norfolk Naval Station as a PSY operator until June of 1944. Leo was injured in an accident aboard ship and was hospitalized and sent to New York St. Albans Naval Hospital so I returned to my parent's home. Our son, Leo Douglas was born in Friend, NE, Aug. 7, 1944. Leo was assigned limited duty at the Hastings Naval Depot in 1945 so we moved there. He was discharged there and we moved to Crete, NE where our son, Joe Dennis was born Jan. 13, 1948.

We moved to the family home south of Dorchester in 1948 where the children grew and attended school in Dorchester. Leo was an avid fisherman and boys enjoyed skiing and traveling.

ANNA BELKA SYSEL  
220 W. 12th, Apt. 5  
Crete, NE 68333

I spent 33 years in the Dorchester community as a mother and teacher. The last 14 of which were in the Dorchester Community Dist. 44. I traveled under an economic scholarship in England, Scotland and France which I enjoyed although my family did not share the trip with me.

I graduated from Concordia Teachers College in Seward with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education December 15, 1972 - the same year that my grandson Jonathan was born to Douglas and Robin. I had special training in Montessori and Children's Process Science which I was able to do because it was arranged for me by the School Board of Dist. 44.

In Sept. of 1977, I became very ill following a trip to Ocean City, MD to visit Doug and family. I had lost my vision completely for a short time. Upon our return I made an appointment with the Optometrist which was delayed until Sept. 27. The month I taught was trauma for me as well as the children. I would go to the board to write but I could not see. I remember how kind and helpful the students were. These classes have since graduated without recognition but my thanks goes out to them in my prayers.

I spent 8 months in the hospital after an operation which removed a pituitary adenoma at the base of my brain. It had almost destroyed my optic nerves. The surgeon, Dr. Baglio of Lincoln, came many times during my stay at the hospital and assured me I would regain my sight which I did, but only in my right eye.

We had just established our home in Garland at this time where our son Dennis was working as a front man for the John Kennedy

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We had just established our home in Garland at this time where our son Dennis was working as a front man for the John Kennedy campaign while attending Wahoo College and also raising Arabian horses. He developed a strain that is still placing in "top ten" at the National Shows in Scottsdale, AZ every year.



Douglas attended University of Nebr and later got his Veterinarian degree at Columbia, Missouri and a graduate degree at Fort Collins, CO. His wife, Robin also got her graduate degree there.

Douglas now has the Broadway Animal Hospital at Tucson, the Sysel Animal Hospital in Phoenix, The Sysel Veterinary Clinic in Mesa. He and his wife, Dr. Carol Mellon Sysel, reside in Mesa with their three children--Jonathan Sysel, Steven Mellon and Barbara Mellon. Carol has her Psycology Clinic in Tempe, AZ. Jonathan attends Jr. College in Mesa, Steven is in college in Tucson and Barbara is employed in design in Mesa.

In 1978 Dennis took me to Riverside, CA where he was a publisher of "The Show Horse Review". I made my home there and he nursed me back to health. I had a small apartment behind his home. I bless him for my care and gradual recovery.

One day I walked to a shopping center and purchased 3 paint brushes, 2 canvases and the three primary colors. Before evening came I had painted 2 paintings which I still own. I guess the Lord gave me a sign that I was to return to normalcy. I still paint every day and have my paintings throughout the United States. I have had showings in many places and have received many honors.

Dennis has just been appointed to work as an aide to Senator Paul Coverdale of Alabama to work on projects for World Youth for the Bush administration. This will involve spending time in Greece and a Conference for Youth.

Doug is involved with government control of Mustangs. He has purchased a beautiful ranch near Steamboat Springs, CO where he is completing a lodge to make a center for his work and also a place for the family to enjoy.

I am now living in Crete. My brother Bernard and his wife Louise are great support for me, as are my many friends and relatives. My sister Delores, who lives in Kansas City, helped me establish my life here. (She graduated from Dorchester a year before me.)

I enjoy life fully now and I bless every day I drive and am able to do anything I try, only at a slower speed. I spend time with my families and feel I owe thanks to many.

after graduation from GHS, I stayed in Dorchester and lived with my parents and son, Bob. It wasn't long until Pearl Harbor Day came along and it seemed everyone's lifestyle changed.

On November 7, 1942, I was married to Delbert Franzen who was at the time working at the Fairmont Creamery in Crete where we resided. In March of 1943 Delbert received his letter of greeting from the President of the United States and he was inducted into the Army. In April of 1943. He was sent to Camp Blanding, Florida for basic training and from there to Camp Robinson, Arkansas, O'Reilly General Hospital at Springfield, Missouri and then to Camp Rucker, Alabama and from there to Germany. When he went to Germany in 1944, I returned to Dorchester and lived with my parents until the war was over in Germany and Japan surrendered. After careful consideration, Delbert decided to re-enlist and make a career of the Army. He was in the Medical Corp which he liked very much and worked mostly in Orthopedics. His first assignment after re-enlistment was at Ft. Polk, Louisiana but that was for a short time and he was then sent to Army-Navy Hospital in Arkansas. I joined him there in October of 1948 and we immediately fell in love with Arkansas and enjoyed it very much. In February of 1949, I joined a new member of the family, a girl, Linda. It wasn't long until the Korean war came along and Delbert was once again sent overseas. I stayed in Arkansas with our two children and also my mother, Sarah Jarrett, who made her home with us. After a tour of duty Delbert returned to Arkansas but this time it was Camp Chaffee near Ft. Smith. Our son graduated from high school in Hot Springs and was married to a local girl in 1959. Delbert remained at Ft. Chaffee until it closed and then he was sent to Ft. Sill near Lawton, OK, until his retirement from the service in 1956. Our lives were terribly saddened in 1957 with the death of our son who was only 28 years of age and had cancer. Following retirement from the Army we remained in Lawton and Delbert went to work as a Civil Service Employee at Ft. Sill with the computer division and remained there until his second retirement in 1985 with a combined total of 43 years of service with the government.

MARGARET BRITTON FRANZEN

5402 Cottonwood Drive  
Lawton, OK 73505

My employment consisted of working at the Fairmont Creamery, the Crete Mills and then as housewife and mother for several years. I entered the work force again in 1952 and retired in May of 1957. During that time I worked as a bookkeeper and then went to work as a secretary for the State of Oklahoma with the Department of Rehabilitation. Our division worked with the Blind and Visually Handicapped and I found this a very interesting as well as rewarding area. We had two blind employees in our office most of the time. It was a challenge to work for them and to be the eyes for the blind employee.

Since we have retired, we have really led a relaxed life. We have done some traveling to Nebraska, Colorado, Montana, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and many states in-between. We haven't been able to do as much traveling as we would like on account of health problems but we hope they will get better so we can continue on our way.



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Our daughter Linda was married in 1972 and lived locally for about 1½ years when our son-in-law was employed by Kodak. They lived in Oklahoma City, Enid, Dallas, Rochester, NY and just recently were transferred to Allentown, PA. He has a fabulous job for which we are grateful and each transfer has meant a promotion for him. We have two precious granddaughters, Kathy is 9½ and Jennifer is 6 3/4. Both love school and are very good students-- which they certainly didn't inherit from their grandparents.

We have no relatives in the State of Oklahoma and many have wondered why we continue to live here. We feel a need to live close to an Army Post in order to receive PX, commissary, hospital and medical benefits. Having lived in Lawton 30 years, we have a lot of friends and also a very close church family. We have a Keenager Group in church that is very active and we enjoy bus trips, choir trips and many other activities that keep us "Young at Heart".

We have returned to Dorchester nearly every year as we still have several relatives in the area and of course we enjoy seeing many friends as well. Whenever we think or refer to home, it is always Dorchester.



I took normal training in high school as I had always wanted to be a teacher like my sister. In fact, I started teaching in the same school where she started her teaching career 11 years before. No doubt it was because she was a good teacher that I was hired from 1939-1941. The third year (1941-1942) I taught 4 miles north of Dorchester which, incidentally, was the school I attended from 1927-1931 when we moved from the farm to town.

I met Bill Clark in September of 1941. He had come to Dorchester to work in the bank. Since he took ROTC in college, he had spent 1 year in the Army. Of course, that meant he would be called back into service after Pearl Harbor. He came to Dorchester in January, 1942 and eventually was assigned to the 1st Marine Division in Maryland.

ILA MAE CONNER CLARK

4825 South 69th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68516

We were married in Baltimore on July 5, 1942 and lived there until the Army started moving us around. Bill got his overseas orders in May of 1944. It was then I and our son, Bill, of 7 months went to Dorchester to live with my folks. I received a Missing in Action telegram in mid-September. I heard not another word until just before Christmas. The War Department sent another telegram telling us he was a Prisoner of War. He was liberated in April and returned to the states in June.

We lived in Dorchester where Bill worked in the bank. Our second son, Jim, was born in 1947, our daughter Susan was born in 1952, and our youngest son was born in 1956. I spent my time caring for the children, working in the Methodist church, Women's Club, Grange and was a member of the school board for 8 years.

In 1958 I entered the National Grange Sewing Contest. I made a dress and jacket (which I have outgrown). I was thrilled to receive a phone call to tell me I had won the first place. The prize was a trip for 2 from New York to Brussels, Belgium where the World's Fair was held. Then on to Paris for 2 weeks at a hotel on the Champs Elysees. We rented a car and drove to Nancy, France--Bill was captured near there--on to Germany, Switzerland and Italy, including Venice. We returned to Paris via Monaco and the French Riviera.

In 1975 the Clark Family sold the bank and Bill, I and our youngest child moved to Lincoln.

After a time, I decided to work part-time at Miller and Paine. I worked on call for over 10 years and really enjoyed it.

We are active members of Christ United Methodist Church. Bill is a member of Sesostris Shrine Temple. You may see him in parades driving his 1973 Eldorado convertible in the Reg Top Unit. I am proud to be a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Shrine and also Daughters of the Nile which are connected to the Shrine and the wonderful philanthropic work the Shrine does for burned and crippled children. We have visited several of the hospitals and see first hand how these children are cared for solely by the Shriners and the two ladies organizations.

Our oldest son, Bill, lives in Santa Cruz, CA. He is a landscape contractor. Son Jim lives in Wakefield, NE. He and his wife, Carol, both teach in Laurel. Their two sons, ages 18 and 15, go to school in Wakefield. Stuart, the older, will graduate this May. He has a Full R.O.T.C. scholarship to UN-L.

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Our daughter, Susan and husband, Dick, have two boys, 12 and 9 years of age. They live in Des Moines where Dick is a District Manager for State Farm. Susie teaches Pre-School.

Scott lives in an apartment here in Lincoln and is a Computer Programmer for Information Technology.

In January of 1980 we went to the Holy Land, Greece and Egypt on a tour sponsored by our minister and his wife.

In 1984 we went to Austria, Germany and Switzerland, a trip that was also church sponsored.

We took a cruise to the Bahamas and also one to the Panama Canal which included Costa Rica, Columbia, S.A. and Aruba Island.

We are planning to drive to the Northwest States this summer. We will then have been in 48 states. If our health holds out maybe we can make it to Alaska and Hawaii too.

After graduating from high school, I went to Omaha and graduated from business college. I met Jim Zak in Omaha and we were married. We had two sons. During that time we also had Jim's widowed brother John and Jim's divorced brother Frank live with us. Also during that time our niece, Joyce, 3 months old, lived with us for 64 years. She was born blind. She was Jim's sister's daughter. She was a joy. When she left our home she was prepared to attend the School for the Blind in Colorado Springs.

After 12 years in Omaha, we decided city life was not for us and the children--we wanted to learn farming. Neither Jim or I had ever lived on a farm. A big cattle feeder near Winer, NE took a chance on us. From there we moved to Leigh, NE on a hay, corn, and hog farm. Our nephew Marty came to live with us at that time. Jim's one brother was still with us. We were really pioneers there--no indoor plumbing, no conveniences, kids attended a country school, and to this day we still have fun reminiscing about that time. During this time, BERTHA DUSANEK ZAK married and moved back to Omaha.

Dorchester, NE 68343

In 1935, soon after my dad passed away, we moved to the farm northwest of Dorchester. In 1936, I went to work at Forcett Rogers in Grate as secretary and later as office manager. I worked there until the fall of '32 when the plant closed and moved to Mexico.

The three boys graduated from Dorchester High School. Our oldest son, Jim, works for Burlington Northern in Havelock. His wife, Vicki, is involved with the Lincoln Community Playhouse. Vicki has 2 sons by a previous marriage. Jim has 4 children.

Son Ed married Floyd and Bernice August's daughter, Carol. Ed manages the ASCS office in Frontier County and Carol works in the Curtis Bank. Their two children attend Medicine Valley School in Curtis, NE.

Our nephew Marty, wife and two children live in Fontana, CA. Both are teachers in the public school.

I'm still involved with organizations. I enjoy reading, fishing, crocheting, embroidery, quilt making and sewing. Jim is a pig-see addict and does a lot of reading.

Every summer we take an automobile trip or two. We are retired now. My Mom lives with us on the farm where she grew up as a girl. She also graduated from Dorchester High School. She is 80 years old. We enjoy our retirement. We can do as we please--that is--if I don't have a meeting.



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In 1955, soon after my dad passed away, we moved to the farm northwest of Dorchester. In 1956, I went to work at Formfit Rogers in Crete as secretary and later as office manager. I worked there until the fall of '82 when the plant closed and moved to Mexico.

The three boys graduated from Dorchester High School. Our oldest son, Jim, works for Burlington Northern in Havelock. His wife, Vicky, is involved with the Lincoln Community Playhouse. Vicky has 2 sons by a previous marriage. Jim has 4 children.

Son Ed married Floyd and Bernice August's daughter, Carol. Ed manages the ASCS office in Frontier County and Carol works in the Curtis Bank. Their two children attend Medicine Valley School in Curtis, NE.

Our nephew Marty, wife and two children live in Fontana, CA. Both are teachers in the public school.

I'm still involved with organizations. I enjoy reading, fishing, crocheting, embroidery, quilt making and sewing. Jim is a jig-saw addict and does a lot of reading.

Every summer we take an automobile trip or two. We are retired now. My Mom lives with us on the farm where she grew up as a girl. She also graduated from Dorchester High School. She is 90 years old. We enjoy our retirement. We can come and go as we please--that is--if I don't have a meeting.

After graduation, due to the lack of jobs, I joined the CCC for one year and was stationed at Franklin, NE. I came back and drove a truck for Steele Bros. Const. for about a year, when Uncle Sam insisted I go to work for him in the Army.

This turned out to be quite a trip. From Basic Training in Kansas to Texas where I joined the outfit I was with most of the time I was in the service. We then went to Louisiana for a short while and then on to New York. As most of the guys knew from there you run out of land. My first boat ride took about 12 days and our first stop was Africa. We stayed a short while and then on to Sicily where we stayed almost a year. One year there seems like forever and I felt like applying for citizenship. Finally we got out and went to Italy, then on to France and Germany. After about two and a half years of sight seeing in Europe, they finally brought me back to New York and then home.

After returning home, I worked for Ray Miller in a service station in Dorchester. I didn't **KENNETH L. FRAHM** as during that time I renewed my friendship with Jean Brick and we were married April 20, 1946.

Hill Top Trailer Court  
Crete, NE 68333

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After Fairmont Foods, I worked at a tire store, then for the City of Crete making electricity. After that I went to Douglas Mfg. making election equipment right here in Crete.

In 1964, I was unfortunate to have an accident and lost all four fingers on my right hand. At this time I was almost 62 years of age, so decided to retire. Since that time happenings have slowed to a trip to Nashville, Tenn., a right hip replacement and a trip to Hawaii.

Jean and I are still speaking, so it looks like it's going to last.



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My life's ambition was to be a school teacher. This was a dream of mine early in my life. No doubt I was influenced in this direction because I was the youngest of eight children, six of whom were in the education field. Also our parents realized the need of a college education and gave us the desire to be successful at whatever goal we were to pursue.

I graduated from high school having taken Normal Training two years which enabled me to teach in a rural school. I was hired to teach in my home school where I had spent eight years in the elementary grades. This was Golden Rod School District 92 in Seward County. I had around 10 children in grades 1-8. Those three years spent there were very good. I was just 16 when I started which meant I was only 4 or 5 years older than some of my students, but that was no problem. Reports were excellent. I enrolled in summer school at the University of Nebraska in 1940. After the three years at Dist. 92 I attended UN-L for one full term. I was then sent to

DARLENE GAUSMAN BASTIAN

100A Box V  
Edgemont, SD 57735

school. My first position was at Dechler, NE. I had grades 6, 7 and 8 for the school year '42-'43. The boys had been detained at least 3 times so they were younger than I was. I had about 30 children. This year was probably the least liked of all my years of teaching as it was predominantly a German settlement and our superintendent and some teachers even spoke German at times. Since our country was soon to become involved in World War II and that fall a dear friend of mine was killed in the service I found it difficult to enjoy the situation at that school. I accepted a position as a teacher of grades 5 & 6 in Mitchell, NE. This was a beautiful area and my four years there were very enjoyable and rewarding. I had experience in Departmentalized Education and also grade 3. One of the teachers, Josephine Bissell from Kearney and I became life long friends. In December of the first year there my brother Virgil was killed in action in the Battle of the Bulge. At that time there was still passenger train service so I used that mode of transportation to and from my parent's home. I had a sister living in Alliance so visited her often. Social activities were prevalent and western hospitality was super.

After teaching in Mitchell, I taught in Grand Island. The first year there I was placed in a 4th grade room with 44 children. I had a co-worker so I did not teach all subjects however since I felt one of my strongest subjects to teach was reading I did have that area. The next year I had a smaller group. Music was also one of my favorite subjects so I was selected to have a concert and other smaller instruments band as an experiment for pre band for the Jr. High. It was a very successful program. I felt that Grand Island had a superior school system. The teachers had much supervision which was definitely helpful. We had an Elementary Supervisor. We often kept watch at our windows and alerted each other when we sighted his car! He was well liked and single too! We also had supervisors in music and art. I served on numerous committees and gained much professionally. A retired teacher told us we should very our careers not staying in one grade all the time as she did. I was well on the way taking her advice as my career so far had been varied and enjoyable.

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It was divided into two classrooms by accordion type doors. My room had the stage. I graduated from high school having taken Normal Training two years which enabled me to teach in a rural school. I was hired to teach in my home school where I had spent eight years in the elementary grades. This was Golden Rod School District 92 in Seward County. I had around 10 children in grades 1-8. Those three years spent there were very good. I was just 16 when I started which meant I was only 4 or 5 years older than some of my students, but that was no problem. Rapport was excellent. I enrolled in summer school at the University of Nebraska in 1940. After the three years at Dist. 92 I attended UN-L for one full term. I was then certified to teach in a city school. My first position was at Deshler, NE. I had grades 6, 7 and 8 for the school year '42-'43. Several of the boys had been retained at least 3 times so they were just a few years younger than I was. I had about 30 children. This year was probably the least liked of all my years of teaching as it was predominantly a German settlement and our superintendent and some teachers even spoke German at times. Since our country was soon to become involved in World War 2 and that fall a dear friend of mine was killed in the service I found it difficult to enjoy the situation at that school. I accepted a position as a teacher of grades 5 & 6 in Mitchell, NE. This was a beautiful area and my four years there were very enjoyable and rewarding. I had experience in Departmentalized Education and also grade 3. One of the teachers, Josephine Bissell from Kearney and I became life long friends. In December of the first year there my brother Virgil was killed in action in the Battle of the Bulge. At that time there was still passenger train service so I used that means of transportation to and from my parent's home. I had a sister living in Alliance so visited her often. Social activities were prevalent and western hospitality was super.

Edgemont is located at the edge of the Black Hills, a beautiful place for a home. Along with a husband, After teaching in Mitchell, I taught in Grand Island. The first year there I was placed in a 4th grade room with 44 children. I had a co-worker so I did not teach all subjects however since I felt one of my strongest subjects to teach was reading I did have that area. The next year I had a smaller group. Music was also one of my favorite subjects so I was selected to have a tonette and other smaller instruments band as an experieiment for pre band for the Jr. High. It was a very successful program. I felt that Grand Island had a superior school system. The teachers had much supervision which was definitely helpful. We had an Elementary Supervisor. We often kept watch at our windows and alerted each other when we sighted his car! He was well liked and single too! We also had supervisors in music and art. I served on numerous committees and gained much professionally. A retired teacher told us we should vary our careers not staying in one grade all the time as she did. I was well on the way taking her advice as my career so far had been varied and enjoyable. Teacher of the Year Award and was given many gifts along with a reception. In the fall of 1953, I accepted a position in the Lincoln City



Schools. I had been offered a position there before I taught at Grand Island, but at that time the salary was much better in Grand Island. I never regretted the experience I had and the professional growth there. My first school in Lincoln was at College View where I spent the next three years. One year I was in a room that had been a small auditorium. It was divided into two classrooms by accordion type doors. My room had the stage. I had third grade and we made good use of that stage for plays, etc. One of my boys later became an actor at Wesleyan University plays. I felt I had an influence on his choice of careers. The Lincoln School system was excellent also. We had supervision in several areas and were encouraged to be on committees and further our education which I had been doing. I was attending summer school sessions and taking correspondence courses through the years. I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1954.

After three years at College View I was asked to teach the Gifted and Talented program at Saratoga grades 4, 5 and 6. I was presented a scholarship at that time from the Lincoln City Schools so with night classes and summer sessions I received my Master of Education Degree from UN in 1958.

Next I was asked to be the Assistant Principal at the largest elementary school at that time which was Pershing School. There were over 900 children enrolled. This was an interesting assignment and I will always remember the lunch times supervising three sessions daily with approximately 300 in each session. I usually had only one teacher assisting. I cannot say I enjoyed that part of the position of assistant principal. I still preferred classroom teaching and I had no desire to become a principal. When I met Dr. James Bastian in 1961 he had other plans for me. We were married June 17, 1962.

Our wedding took place in the First Methodist Church in Lincoln and our honeymoon trip took us to the west coast and Canada. After that we returned to Edgemont, South Dakota where he had a Veterinary Practice. Edgemont is located at the edge of the Black Hills, a beautiful place for a home. Along with a husband, I acquired a step-son and two step-daughters. I love children and felt truly blessed when our son Tracy Lyndon was born January 29, 1964. My prayers were answered when we realized he was musically talented as well as academically. I started giving him piano lessons when he was 4 and he continued with other teachers throughout the years including college.

I really had thought my teaching career would end when I was married but the old adage "Once a teacher, always a teacher" prevailed. I accepted a position as part-time teacher of Remedial reading in the Edgemont school system and I continued with that until in 1986 I was enticed to teach full time second grade. It was difficult to adjust to full time work again, but that year was one of my most enjoyable. However being away from home all day was too much as I enjoyed being with my husband and helping in the clinic along with other activities, etc. So I decided to take early retirement in 1987. I had received the Teacher of the Year Award and was given many gifts along with a reception. At the present time I am still involved with school and children



as I tutor children who have difficulties in reading. But I do like the freedom to travel, be a homemaker and whatever else I desire.

My husband is still active in his veterinary practice. Although it is an entirely different practice than when we were first married. Most clients bring their animals into our clinic for treatment which eliminates long calls into the country. Jim graduated from high school in Chugwater, WY. He was in the army in WW 2. He graduated from Colorado State College of Veterinary Medicine in 1956. We attend veterinary conferences in a number of states each year, a requirement to keep his certification. He has not felt a desire to retire as yet. We keep a small herd of cattle and have a beautiful Samoyed dog named Princess Diane. We are thinking of raising Samoyeds in the future.

Our son graduated from Edgemont High School in 1982 as valedictorian. He received a BA degree from Evangel College, Springfield, MO in 1985 having completed in 3 years cum laude. He has a major in communications and minor in music. He received numerous awards in piano and organ contests throughout his school years. He continues to make use of his musical talents in many ways. He met Valerie Gilliland a former Wood, SD resident who attended Evangel also. They were married in July 1985. She also has a degree in communications and at the present time they are the owners and managers of radio station KZMX in Hot Springs, SD. Tracy also has his own business which he started in high school, that is installing automatic sprinkler systems. He is a certified piano tuner.

The past 50 years have flown by very fast. I have traveled to most of the 48 mainland states and to Hawaii. In 1982 I enjoyed a trip to England and Germany. Music is an important part of my life. I enjoy my grand piano and I am the organist at our church. My husband is well known for his singing so we have participated in many social events, weddings and funerals in the area. We are active in our church and thank God continually for His many blessings. I have been superintendent of the SS besides holding numerous offices on the church board and ladies' groups. I am a member of the NE and SD State Education Associations and the National Teacher's Assoc., Delta Kappa Gamma and the SD Veterinary Auxiliary.

My mother died in 1955 and my father in 1971. Two of my sisters live in Lincoln and one in Alliance. Two brothers live in Dorchester and one in Custer, SD. My husband's mother celebrated her 95th birthday in January. She lives here and is in good health. Tracy and Valerie live only 23 miles away in Hot Springs. My step-son lives in Miles City, MT. He and his wife own a clothing store there. One step-daughter and her husband are in the education field at Montana State Uni. The other step-daughter lives in Hood River, OR with her husband and two children. They are teachers.

My hobbies include decorating specialty cakes, oil painting, music, hand work and reading. This is a beautiful area to live in with plenty of places for hiking and picnics. I may be a former Nebraskan but I am a staunch Big Red fan. I listen to or watch all the games and have been able to attend some games.



After our "common" graduation, I went to Doane college for 4 years graduating with a B.A. degree in 1943. With the attack on Pearl Harbor, I enlisted in the U.S. Navy and their V-7 program which enabled me to graduate from Doane in the spring of 1943. From Doane I was sent to "90 day wonder" school to become an "officer and a gentleman." I received my Ensign commission in October of 1943. I then proposed (via telephone), was accepted, returned to Nebraska, and married Jane Skokan on November 5, 1943.

During my training I was interviewed and assigned to the Motor Torpedo Boat training camp at Newport, RI. While in Newport I developed one of my many "marriage skills." Since it was the days of rationing and shortages, I began to buy our groceries at the base commissary. From that time on I have done the shopping (mostly) for our family. My next stop was New Guinea in the Southwest Pacific. I left Newport late in 1943, traveled with Jane to San Francisco, spent a few days there, and left for the Pacific while Jane returned to Nebraska.

#### BUFORD GROSSCUP

Navy duty included most of the naval combat along the North coast of New Guinea and Dutch New Guinea. There was a hazardous trip to the Philippines, combat return to the U.S. in March of 1945. Jane and I returned to Newport where I was stationed as a training officer for future P.T. Boat skippers. By this time the war was in its final stages. In August of 1945 I was re-assigned to the Pacific but the Atom Bomb was dropped and the war was over. With all of that and a pregnant wife, my orders were cancelled and I was sent to Great Lakes, Illinois, where I was discharged in February of 1946. I then returned to Nebraska to prepare to teach and coach. During that year our first child, a girl whom we named Lynn, was born. I also interviewed for and was hired to teach and coach as an assistant at Norfolk Sr. High in Norfolk, NE. After 1 1/2 years in Norfolk, the head coach in football, basketball and track resigned and mid year in 1947-48 I became the head basketball and track coach at Norfolk Sr. High.

It was during that time that I began an avocation which lasts to the present: officiating. I am not an active official any longer but after working several football championship games and 14 years of basketball tournaments, I have been helping the N.S.A.A. In this capacity I have been evaluating officials in football and basketball, supervising the officials in the state basketball tournaments and holding rules meetings for basketball throughout the state. You might be interested to know that Dorchester has a bunch of "Hell Birds" in the northeast corner, "E" section, of the Devaney Sports center at every state basketball tourney. Most (or all?) of them are here for our re-union.

During the time I taught and coached at Norfolk our second child, Bryan, was born on June 5, 1950. In the spring of 1951, I applied for a teaching job, was accepted and moved to Lincoln where I taught and coached at Lincoln High School for the next 32 years. When I retired in the spring of 1983 I had been an assistant coach in football, basketball, track, and baseball. In 1986 I became baseball coach and was the head coach for 18 years. During that time my teens won 2 state tournaments. Our third child, Paul, was born on March 27, 1955 and he completed our

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family. ~~John walks, grows flowers, baby-sit, never interfere in~~  
~~our kids' lives, and generally are actively lazy. I also play~~

Now for our kids. Lynn, our first child, graduated from the University of Nebraska Teachers college and has taught at Fullerton, St. Paul, and presently in the Lincoln public school system at Pound Jr. High where she heads up the English department and teaches and developed the gifted program. While at the University she was a member of Mortar Board. This past year she received 2 awards for outstanding teaching. One of these awards was the Scottish Rite Award as the outstanding teacher in Lincoln for 1987-88. The other was a state Cooper Award for teaching excellence. Lynn married Claude Wingrove Jr. (also an English teacher) in 1968. They have a teen-age (13) daughter, Jill, who is in the eighth grade at Pound Jr. High.

Bryan, our second child, went to Lincoln High School and also went to the UN-L where he majored in Math (B.A.) with the intention of becoming an actuary. While attending the University he began to work part time for Security Mutual Life Ins. Co. When he graduated they offered him a full time position and he accepted. He has been with Security Mutual since then. In 1975 he began to work on his Master of Business Administration and graduated with honors in 1978. Since then he has moved up to a Vice-President in the company. Bryan married Ruth Hunsaker in 1978 and they have 2 children: Gretchen, 8, and Bradley, 5. An interesting side light is that Bryan also became a basketball official. Although his career was shortened because of degenerative arthritis in his knees, he became very successful in officiating. He worked the state boys tourney several years and also became a Big 8 official which took him all over the U.S.

Last, but certainly not least, was our third child, Paul. As with our other two, Paul graduated from Lincoln High School and attended UN-L. He majored in Business (accounting) and became a C.P.A. graduating in the top 10 of his business administration class. Paul also officiated with me but found that C.P.A.'s can't do much else except work in December, January, and February; so he had to give it up. In 1976 he and Gail Damkroger were married and moved to Denver where they have both pursued careers in business. Paul worked for the Big 8 firm of Coopers and Lybrand where he rose to become a manager. He left Coopers in 1986 and became a partner with two other people in their own accounting firm. Paul is an avid game hunter and both he and his wife train their own Labradors for show and hunting purposes. Presently they live in the mountains near Morrison, CO.

Two other things which I have done have been very enjoyable. During the summer months from 1954 to 1967 I was a summer supervisor for the Recreation Dept. of Lincoln. In that capacity I ran a baseball program for kids from ages 11 to 14. In 1967 the city phased this program out and I became a crop hail adjuster for State Farm Insurance. When I took early retirement in 1983 I became the crop hail claim supervisor for State Farm in Nebraska and South Dakota. Last year I returned to just adjusting after seeking out and training another supervisor from 1986 to 1987.

That's it for us. Jane and I are relaxed and happy. We both



bowl, take walks, grow flowers, baby-sit, never interfere in our kids' lives, and generally are actively lazy. I also play a lot of golf and do a lot of fishing and hunting. Jane is our tour director and we frequently take a 7 to 10 day trip as well as vacation in Colorado each summer for "R & R" and trout fishing.

HELEN KASL HALADA

1043 Sycamore  
Grete, NE 68333

After graduating from Danchester High School in May 1938, I went to work for the Fairmont Creamery in the Egg Breaking Department where the eggs were dried into a powdered form.

On June 8, 1943, I married Edward Halada of Crete. He was drafted into service and served in the Army Airforce as 1st Sergeant. I joined him when he was stationed in Fort Wayne, IN; St. Louis, MO; and Kansas City, KS.

During Ed's two years service in the European Theatre of Operation, I worked at the Crete Mills at Crete, NE.

After the war ended in Europe my husband returned home, after two years of active duty flying missions over Europe, on a 30 day leave reporting back to Fort Wayne, IN where I joined him. The war then ended with Japan and in two weeks he was discharged as of October 1945.

We bought our home in Crete where we still live. Our family consists of three daughters: Carolyn of Lincoln, "Twins" Carolyn Walvears of Lincoln and Carol Oliver of Crete. We have 10 grandchildren--5 boys

HELEN KASL HALADA

1043 Sycamore  
Crete, NE 68333

In May 1955 my husband opened up an Independent Auto Repair Shop near our home. I helped him with the business and we still are doing the same work on a part time basis, as we are semi-retired.

We took a trip each summer when the girls were home and still do ourselves. Last year in October, 1988 my husband had a 43rd Squadron Reunion at El Paso, Texas so we attended, also went to Acapulco, Mexico in July 1978.

One of the major incidents was when we had an ammonia explosion, train derailment too blocks from our home, which we were fortunate to survive.

I do volunteer work for different organizations. Am an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary of Crete, also a member of the Catholic Sacred Heart Parish and member of the Alter Society of the Catholic church.

We do lots of fishing and camping. I enjoy gardening, raise lots of flowers, enjoy cooking for my family, do lots of sewing, go dancing to good polka music. We celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary June 2, 1988. Granted with all this plus family activities, I don't have much spare time.

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KEITH KENNEDY

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I enlisted in the Army Signal Corps in 1942 with Warren (Doc) Miller. After basic training in California he was sent west to the Pacific and I was sent east to several camps and then to Europe. I served with the 78th Infantry Division in Patton's third army. We crossed Europe into East Germany and stopped a few miles from the border of Czechoslovakia Russian territory. When the war was over we came home on the Queen Mary in the summer of 1945. After being discharged from the army in 1946 I returned to Grate and enrolled at the University of Nebraska.

While attending art classes at the UN, I taught commercial art at Boone College. After graduation from the Uni. of Nebr. in 1951 I went to work as an illustrator at the Boeing Co. in Wichita. While working at Boeing I taught a night class in illustration at Wichita State University. Later I taught classes in watercolor and commercial art at the Wichita Art Association. After 25 years at Boeing I took early retirement in 1976 and became an instructor at Wichita State University in drafting and illustration. In 1983 I retired from the Business College and now spend my time painting watercolors. 6413 E. 15th St.

KEITH KENNEDY

Wichita, KS 67206

In 1958 I was married to Eleanor and we have three children and one granddaughter. My son Robert is a chemist and works for Environmental Laboratories in Wichita. My daughter Maurven is a social worker in Austin, Texas. My daughter Kathleen supervises a computer lab. in an Austin school.

I am a member of the Artist's Guild of Wichita, the Kansas Watercolor Society, and have an oil painting in a collection at the Wichita Art Museum. The Guild exhibits annually at the Wichita Art Association Galleries. While serving on the board of directors of the Artist's Guild, I have been president and am now the treasurer.

I am an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and have served on the board of trustees, the Christian education committee, and have taught adult classes.

In May of 1967 my daughter Maurven and I toured Europe. We visited art museums in London, Amsterdam and Paris. Europe has changed since I was there in WW II.

In May, 1986, Boeing called, wanting me to do some illustrations on the new Air Force One. It was a rush job and I had a couple of trips planned so I declined. Keeping busy painting watercolors and delivering Meals on Wheels helps me enjoy my retirement.

I enlisted in the Army Signal Corps in 1942 with Warren (Doc) Miller. After basic training in California he was sent west to the Pacific and I was sent east to several camps and then to Europe. I served with the 76th Infantry division in Patton's third army. We crossed Europe into East Germany and stopped a few miles from the border of Czecho-Slovakia in Russian territory. When the war was over we came home on the Queen Mary in the summer of 1945. After being discharged from the army in 1946 I returned to Crete and enrolled at the University of Nebraska.

While attending art classes at the UN, I taught commercial art at Doane College. After graduation from the Uni. of Nebr. in 1951 I went to work as an illustrator at the Boeing Co. in Wichita. While working at Boeing I taught a night class in illustration at Wichita State University. Later I taught classes in watercolor and commercial art at the Wichita Art Association. After 26 years at Boeing I took early retirement in 1976 and became an instructor at Wichita Business College in drafting and illustration. In 1983 I retired from the Business College and now spend my time painting watercolors.

In 1952 I was married to Eleanor and we have three children and one granddaughter. My son Robert is a chemist and works for Environmental Laboratories in Wichita. My daughter Maureen is a social worker in Austin, Texas. My daughter Kathleen supervises a computer lab. in an Austin school.

I am a member of the Artist's Guild of Wichita, the Kansas Watercolor Society, and have an oil painting in a collection at the Wichita Art Museum. The Guild exhibits annually at the Wichita Art Association Galleries. While serving on the board of directors of the Artist's Guild, I have been president and am now the treasurer.

I am an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and have served on the board of trustees, the Christian education committee, and have taught adult classes.

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Upon returning home to Nebraska, I resumed my farming operation south of Dorchester, living with my parents. After the loss of my brother, Richard, in 1968, my parents moved to town to retire.

Virginia and I were married in June of 1968. With this, I gained an immediate family--Sue, Ruth, and Keith by Virginia's previous marriage. Life for all of us was new and very challenging. In 1970, we were blessed with a daughter, Karen, and this made our family complete.

HAROLD KRIVOHRAVEK

Sue married Tom Shaw in 1966. They have two daughters--Tred, age 13 and Tony, age 10. They live in Dorchester, NE 68343. For many years, they received much of our love and attention. They live in Bartlett, NE and are associated with the Wagonwheeler Ranch.

Ruth is a cosmetologist in Graham, TX. Since moving there 8 years ago, she has established her home and made many friends. She and Eddie Mayo were married in 1963. Eddie is in the oil properties business. Although she lives many hours away, it is not hard for our family to stay close.

Keith married Deb Hosolke in 1961. Deb and Keith are expecting their first child in July, so we are very excited. Keith has taken over most of my farming operation and has since purchased a farm of his own. Debbie works at Suburban Air in Omaha, and they live in our farm house.

Our daughter, Karen, is a freshman at Deane College, where she is a member of the theatre company. She recently had the opportunity to visit the Soviet Union, which was a very stimulating experience. Karen is considering careers in either teaching or interpreting for the deaf.

Four years ago we designed and built a new house in Dorchester. This was challenging, but mostly fun because we had a chance to learn from the foundation to the finishing touches. By now it has become our home, and we've already begun to make many pleasant memories here. We are semi-retired now, but that hasn't stopped us from filling our days with fresh projects. For example, for the first time, I purchased some cows that will soon calve, but I still farm some of the land that I have owned for many years. Virginia enjoys filling what free time she has with a challenge--flower arranging, canning and freezing, and classes in sign language. Not to mention the fact that she always has an oil painting in the making. Together, Virginia and I like to fish on our farm ponds, garden, travel and attend various functions and social gatherings. Every 2 years we attend my army reunion and get a chance to renew old friendships. Through the years, this has kept me in touch with my past--I won't ever forget the good times, but I will always look forward to the future.



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Sue married To Shaw in 1974, and they have two daughters--Traci, age 13 and Tory, age 10. Being the only grandchildren for many years, they received much of our love and attention. They live in Bartlett, NE and are associated with the Wagonhammer ranch.

Ruth is a cosmetologist in Graham, TX. Since moving there 9 years ago, she has established her home and made many friends. She and Eddie Mayo were married in 1982. Eddie is in the oil properties business. Although she lives many hours away, it is not hard for our family to stay close.

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ALVIN J. MARISKA

We have two daughters, Joyce and Judy. Joyce and husband live  
in Dorchester and have a son. Judy and husband live on a farm near Milford,  
NE -- they have two boys. Judy taught school in Dorchester  
two years and is now teaching at Geneva, NE.

I retired from farming in 1966, but I still have my work shop.  
I do cabinets and craft work and we still live on the farm.



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We have two daughters, Joyce and Judy. Joyce and husband live in Dorchester and have a boy and girl who attend Dorchester High School. Her husband has taken over the farming since my retirement in 1986. Judy and husband live on a farm near Milford, NE -- they have two boys. Judy taught school in Dorchester two years and is now teaching at Geneva, NE.

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Since that day in 1939 when we all said goodbye to OHS and to each other, many interesting things (mostly good) have happened in my life. In August '39 I left home with \$15 in my pocket, hitchhiking into the West and South. Gravel roads with no traffic, into the heart of the recent dust bowl. Not being brave or smart enough to head for California, this vagabond got to Amarillo, TX where he worked as a night man in a mortuary answering ambulance calls, and during the day taking tickets in a girly show at the Tri State Fair. During the winter my Dad became ill, so I returned to Oronochester to help on the farm, my dreams of Fame and Fortune shattered.

Since some of my relatives had attended Ocone, I spent the next two years commuting the old Crest road (four 90 degree turns of gravel) and sharing rides with Rex Stehlik, Aron Tobolsky, Evelyn and Lee Frasouff. We rolled our own cigarettes as we were too poor to buy Luckies or Camels.

#### WARREN R. MILLER

On Dec. 7, '41 our lives changed. Our resolve became firm! Whip those Japs!!! Since 12 Driftwood Drive too near sighted, I was unable to get into Box 454 Corps or the Naval Air Program. So I enlisted in the Sig. Columbus, NE 68602-0454 and I joined together. My service included two plus years in the Pacific. Honolulu was fine except for the blackouts and martial law, but I didn't care much for the rice in Kawaiaele, Eniwetok, Ulithi, Saipan or Okinawa. In early May '45 I caught some flux and ended up on a Hospital Ship headed east. I was certain this would be my ticket home, but after two months in a hospital all I got was a Purple Heart (worth 5 points) and another trip back to Okinawa. There we sweat out a couple of typhoons while cheering the Atom Bomb!!! We were part of the occupation forces in Korea. When I returned home after Christmas '45 my goals were firmly set...I returned to Ocone...I studied and surprise --- got good grades!

Berdeen Witfeth (fros Friend) and I were married in Nov. '46. She worked to help us get through Medical School. We spent 3+ years in post graduate training, in general surgery. We opened a new medical office in Columbus with two other classmates in 1953. We practiced general medicine and surgery. I fully enjoyed surgery and Obstetrics, but did not relish diabetes or hypertension or drunks at 3 or 4 a.m. But we did our best for all that came our way. Before the days of super specialists, we were called upon to do procedures that I wouldn't think of doing today. During my surgical training I had the good fortune of being the first assistant on the first open heart operation in the State of Nebr. (repair of an Atrial septal defect), a procedure that is now commonplace.

Our three children were born, Dan in '54, Holly in '55, Patty in '58. They are the lights of our lives. Healthy, smart and never in any serious trouble. Dan exceeded all of our expectations, he is tall, blonde, handsome and personable. He was president of his senior class, captain of the Class A Nebr. State basketball champion team in 1972. He graduated from UN-L with High Distinction! Phi Beta Kappa! He was designated a Chancellor's Scholar (cumulative 4.0 GPA for 4 years!!) He graduated from UN Medical College with Honors (Alpha Omega Alpha), and has done specialty training



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in Pathology and Nuclear Medicine.

The two girls are also tall willowy, blonde and gorgeous. Holly played clarinet, was very popular and did gymnastics. She attended UN-L, was an Alpha Lambda Delta Honorary. She graduated from Bryan Nursing School. She married Kevin Stout of Colorado Springs, a career Army man. They loved Berlin, lived next to the Wall for a year where grandson Michael was born. They now live in the Washington D.C. area where my granddaughter Kaitlyn was born. Granddad was present at this birth!

Patricia is extremely vivacious and pretty. She was also in the band and was a cheerleader in HS. She attended UN-L but decided school was not for her--so she did what many of us would have liked to do, she joined 4 other girls and worked the Ski Slopes of Colorado. She then returned to Columbus and married her boy friend. They live very close to us. She works in the commercial loan dept. of our local bank. They raise Samoyed Huskies. She had a major back operation in 1981 (Harrington Rods for scoliosis), and was in a full length body cast for 9 months.

Berdean was Secretary of the United Way of Columbus for many years as well as being active in many other church groups and civic activities. In 1981 she was honored by the Chamber of Commerce by being chosen as Queen Isabella VI for our Columbus Days Festival!

I finally fulfilled my ambition for flying by earning my pilots license, and joined a flying Club with 4 airplanes. I got to fly a moderate amount and have been to places from Florida to Mexico and Canada and Alaska. During this period I was elected to the local airport Authority, where I served for 14 years. I have been active in all of the local, state and national medical organizations, serving as secretary, vice-president and president and as a councillor at the state level.

In 1974 after having been on crutches for nearly a year, I had a total hip replacement. In 1980 my second hip was also replaced, both resulting from unrecognized slipped capital epiphyses at puberty. In 1981 severe angina necessitated a triple coronary artery bypass procedure. These infirmities reminded me of my mortality, so in 1985 I retired from Medical Practice.

We bought a condo on a golf course in Fort Meyers, FL that we might be close to my brother Paul Miller (DHS '31) and his wife Helois Whitcomb Miller (DHS '33) my only relatives. So we live there about half of the time.

I am pleased that my life has centered around a rural Nebraska setting growing up with the values and mores instilled by good parents and fine friends and relatives and classmates. I have tried to return some of my debt to society by giving back to rural Nebraska some measure of repayment in the form of Medical Services to our people!

I treasure all of our Friendships.



After graduation I needed a job, so I went to work in the home of a lawyer in Lincoln, NE, till I could be accepted into St. Elizabeth's Nursing Program. I graduated from St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing in 1943. I held my Nebraska Nurses license for forty years. I worked 23 years as Staff Nurse at the Crete Hospital.

In 1943, I married Leonard Melicher, (class of 1937 Crete High and Coane College class of 1942). Leonard passed away August 10, 1967. Leonard was a heart patient and had heart by-pass surgery in 1952.

Three children:

Marcia Melicher Elder - teacher at Imperial, NE

Dianna Melicher Bender - teacher at Nebraska City, NE

LAVINA PISAR MELICHAR

Byron Melicher - Crete, NE - employed at Alpo Pet Foods for 19

1035 Crestline

Crete, NE 68333

Six Grandchildren.

I enjoy Eastern Star, Sokols, and love to Tour and Travel, --- and collect Bohemian Crystal.

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Following graduation from Dorchester High School, I attended Osage College. In the spring of 1942, I enlisted in the US Navy Air Corps, serving 4 years as a pilot in the Pacific Theater of War.

After my discharge from the Navy in 1946, I returned to Osage, graduating in 1948. In the summer of 1948, I moved to Lincoln and purchased a grocery store. Here I met Dorothy Rogers whom I married in March of 1950. We sold the Lincoln store in April and began looking for another store location throughout the state. In July of 1950, we moved to Nebraska City, where we purchased a store. We liked the community and the people.

Our first store was very small. During our years in this location our first three children were born, Fritz, Mitzi and Steve.

In 1957, we moved to a new location and doubled the size of our store. During the next 11 years, we had two sons, Jim and Bill, who were born.

NORMAN STEHLIK

1017 5th Ave.  
Nebraska City, NE 68410

In 1968 our business had increased and we decided to move again. This time we chose the location and built our own building. Three months before moving into this new building our 6th child, Mike, was born. That was a most memorable and busy year in our lives.

In 1979 an increase in business required that we expand our store. This posed an unique problem. Our home was located directly in back of the store, giving us two alternatives, don't enlarge, or move the house. We opted for the latter. If you have never moved your house, you don't know what you are missing. It turned out fine, the house took the move with minimal damage and we managed this move without adding any more children.

We feel very blessed that the past 35 years have been so good to us. Though we have spent long hours and hard work, we have learned and grown from it. In our first store, the employees were Dorothy and myself, our employees now number 33.

Six children have brought many trials and tribulations, but also joy, which we never could have imagined. FFA Forever, and thousands of little league, intramural, junior-senior high, and college, football, basketball, and baseball games. All their seemingly endless activities have kept us young at heart.

We are very proud of all six of them. Fritz is a lawyer with his own practice in Osage. He and his wife, Charlene, have given us 5 lovely grandchildren, including a set of twin girls. Mitzi is a teacher in the field of gifted children. Her husband, Richard, is a manager in our grocery business. They live in Nebraska City and have two children. Being right here, Grandpa and Grandpa have the pleasure of spoiling them. Steve is a lawyer in the office of a local construction firm. His job takes him all over the midwest. Jim graduated from Peru State College. He is also a manager at our store. He is hard to get up, but loves to stay up late. We are a 24 hour store, so he roams around it half the night. Bill is a student at Southeast Community College. He is undecided about his career. Mike is a student at UNL.

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He is leaning towards a law career but still may make another decision.

I'm still not retired. I enjoy keeping my finger in the pie, but at my own hours. Dorothy and I have been doing some traveling and we hope to do some more in the next years.

ARON J. TOBIASKA

31 South Holland Street  
Lakeview, CG 20228



The Fall following my graduation from OHS, I attended Doane College until February 6, 1942 when I was called into the Air Force on pre-pilot training. I did have primary and secondary civilian pilot training.

On 2-6-42 I went from Doane to Jefferson Barracks, MO, then to Milwaukee, WI for preflight classes. I went from there to Santa Ana, CA where preschool was held. My primary flight training was in Oxnard, CA flying P-13. Chico, CA was the secondary training center where we flew the Vultee B-13. Graduation from Advanced Pilot School was from Pecos, TX. There we flew the Cessna Bob Cats. After two months at Pecos and graduation as a Second Lt., I received orders to go to Port Moresby, New Guinea. I was one of ten pilots for experimental pilots to fly what we chose. I took the C-47 and started in the Admiralty Islands and came home from Leyte, Dulag, P.I.

Setting home shortly after ARON J. TOBISKA, 1945, I married Barbara Merville on January 27, 1948. We have three children. Kent who just received his Ph.D. 31 South Holland Street  
Lakewood, CO 80226, D'Ann who runs computers in a "big" firm, and Sue is Billing Clerk for a steel firm.

After graduating from Colorado State University, I taught Vocational Agriculture for 1 1/2 years. Since teaching was not my bag, I went to work for the Farmers Home Administration for 1 1/2 years. From there I went to work for the Bureau of Reclamation. I retired in December 1977 having worked for the government for 30 years.

We have visited Czechoslovakia 2 times, have been in surrounding areas of Copenhagen, Zurich, Bern, Frankfurt and the Bavarian Alps. In Czech, I met some of my distant relatives. One of them is almost an identical twin of my brother, Ken. In 1968 my brother and I had them visiting us here in the U.S.

In 1984 I organized a national reunion for my old squadron buddies. I was elected its president of which I am still president. So far we have only gotten about 1/4 of them. Some are lost and others have passed on.

On Aug. 7, 1988, I had a massive heart attack. After 41 days in the hospital, 31 of which were in Intensive Care in the Heart Unit, I was released. Walking more than before and am feeling real good. Boy, those heart attacks really hurt.

I have been a board of director for the Water & Sanitation Dist. since 1984. Have been treasurer since 1986. Am now a Past Master of my Masonic Lodge for the second time, and have completed being president of two Shrine bodies. Am still on the Civil Service Committee of the Lakewood Fire Dept. (12 years) and a director on the building of our condo in Vail, CO.

Barbara is still painting and president of the Lakewood Arts Council. She was one of a committee to get it started. She has entered a lot of art shows, gotten ribbons and still teaches in the Adult Education of the school district.

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Barbara is still painting and president of the Lakewood Arts Council. She was one of a committee to get it started. She has entered a lot of art shows, gotten ribbons and still teaches in the Adult Education of the school district.

Fifty years have elapsed since I stood so proudly in line for my high school diploma, dressed in a white sharkskin suit, ready to pursue the challenges of the future. It seems only yesterday and now I wish it were! My, how time flies!

At the age of sixteen, I'd earned a Third Grade Elementary Teachers Certificate. To become a teacher, I had to pass certain requirements such as approximately eighteen or more Courses of Study taken in the Junior and Senior years. Luckily I was contracted to teach before the senior year ended as this came as a surprise to Old Lilly Doll! She called me into her office to lecture me on playing hockey on a day that I was supposed to appear in a class play! She said I would never get a job teaching this way! She was strict and I guess I may have followed her example.

I taught Evergreen School Dist. #29 just east of Pleasant Hill for two years where I **LaVERNE VAVRA JOHNSON** The following year I taught all grades, kindergarten through the eighth grade at Blue Valley School Dist. **1830 Parklane** sixteen students attended. After teaching three years **Crete, NE 68333** my teaching certificate at Goene College. I taught another year at Dist. #19.

In August of 1943, I married Glenn Eugene Johnson of Crete in Baltimore, MD. Glenn was inducted into the military service, Coast Guard, during World War II, which changed life drastically. I gave up teaching, regretfully, and found employment in various places during our travels with the military and after, but never enjoyed or appreciated any job in the 50 year span as much as the educational profession.

I was blessed with three wonderful children who are my pride and joy. All are university graduates. Rex T. Johnson attended UN-L College of Law. He received his degree in Law and was admitted to the Bar Association of Nebraska and Colorado. He is an Attorney at Law in his own business in Colorado Springs. Paulette Jane Johnson (De Witt)-graduated from UN-L in education and taught elementary school. Paulette lives in Lincoln and is employed at LTST. Discipline became a major problem in all school systems and the quality of education in academics gradually deteriorated. Jan Lee Johnson graduated from CSU in Fort Collins, CO in the spring of 1988 with a degree in Business Administration, majoring in Marketing. He is a Licensed Stock Broker and is presently living in Ft. Collins. He recently became engaged to be married.

I have four wonderful, beautiful granddaughters: Anna Olivia Johnson 6, Erica Jayne Johnson 3, Angela Renee DeWitt 16, and Laura Susanne DeWitt 7.

Believing that it's very essential for a mother to be with and teach her children at least five years prior to starting school, I've remained at home pursuing hobbies, such as gardening, canning, reading, playing games with the children, soap making and crafts. As the children were leaving home I found interest in organizations, namely: American Legion Auxiliary, Past Presidents Parlay of ALA, United Methodist Church Functions, United Methodist Women, Retired Teachers Association, and the Western Fraternal Lodge. Labor from which I received my 50 Year Pin a year ago. Other interests are



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I taught Evergreen School Dist. #25 just east of Pleasant Hill for two years where five students attended. The following year I taught all grades, kindergarten through the eighth grade at Blue Valley School Dist. #19 where sixteen students attended. After teaching three years, I renewed my teaching certificate at Doane College. I taught another year at Dist. #19.

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dancing, walking, bicycling, traveling and card playing.

Our travels were with a camper when the children were small; trips to Montana National Park, Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park, the Colorado mountains, Utah's Salt Lake and Canada's fishing were enjoyed. Also took a plane to Hawaii in 1976 and Las Vegas in 1978. Since Glenn has retired from the Burlington-Northern Railroad as a Locomotive Engineer for 30 years, I've devoted more time to traveling. We took membership in The Ports of Call Travel Club out of Denver. We recently traveled to Ixtapa Resort in Mexico where we went deep sea fishing and it was a thrill of a lifetime to catch the big one, a beautiful 32 pound Red Snapper! In January we went to Phoenix and Tucson, AZ and Las Vegas, NV. Our plans are to travel with this Club, perhaps to Alaska this summer and many other points of interest.

I've helped care for my elderly parents, Charles and Frances Vavra, who passed away recently at the age of 92 and 91 respectively. I also helped care for Glenn's parents, Sheldon and Gertrude Amelia Johnson, in their last years of life. Our loss occurred in a span of four years.

Since I enjoy being with people, I took a job as Cashier and Checker at Doane College Cafeteria, but gave it up last fall for the sake of travel. I still endeavor to improve my skills in the kitchen, cooking and baking. Now that I have the leisure to enjoy good food, I don't need those extra calories! Such is life!

We have a trailer home in Republican City that we share with the kids. We spend time there every summer, boating, fishing and skiing or just relaxing in or near the Harlan Co. Reservoir. My health is good so I do hope to remain active.

I have received an invitation to the 50th class reunion of Friend High School. The banquet will be held at the Friend Country Club the 27th of May. I attended a share of my freshman year there and am glad it will work out for me to attend.

I have a poem that expresses a creed to live by and wish to share it with you. It's written by Veronica A. Shoffstall.

see next page



## COMES THE DAWN

After awhile you learn the subtle difference  
Between holding a hand and chaining a soul,  
And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning  
And company doesn't mean security,  
And you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts  
and presents aren't promises,  
And you begin to accept your defeats  
With your head up and your eyes open  
With the grace of a woman, not the grief of a child,  
And you learn to build all your roads on today  
Because tomorrows ground is too uncertain for plans.  
And futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight.  
After awhile you learn  
That even sunshine burns if you get too much.  
So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul,  
Instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers.  
And you learn that you really can endure...  
That you really are strong.  
And you really do have worth.  
And you learn and learn...  
With every goodbye you learn.



First it was off to Hastings to attend the Nebraska College of Commerce for two years. Then the excitement of the first job which was in accounting at the general offices of the W. M. McDonald Company.

Career opportunities lured me into moving to Lincoln in 1947. A highlight (disaster) of 1950 was the tornado near Oakland, NE. Three friends and I had left Lincoln - destination Mackinac Island - when we suddenly saw a tornado on the ground headed our way so we pulled into the nearest farm yard. They had a storm cellar which we and the 3 children who were home alone entered immediately. A few minutes later we emerged to find the entire farmstead destroyed and our car smashed quite flat.

In 1952 Phil Cole and I were married in the Dorchester United Methodist Church--before air-conditioning and our wedding pictures show the bent candles.

#### KATHERINE WEBER COLE

1955 was the year for changing careers--from accounting at Lincoln Telephone Company to

3900 Dudley St. Volunteerism.  
Lincoln, NE 68503

We enjoyed the "growing-up" years of our two sons and all the involvements with school, church and community. Phil always enjoyed his position as Extension Dairyman in the Animal Science Dept. at UNL but it was intense. So vacation time was always planned to be a real vacation. On our many trips to New England, Maine came to be our favorite state and thus developed our lighthouse hobby.

That hobby led Phil into a lot of fine photography and a good collection of stamps, books, post cards, art work as well as writing a newsletter for philatelists that went around the world once a month for 14 years until his death. I gained all the fringe benefits--meeting very interesting people in various states and countries at beautiful locations--and a lot of typing!

Now our 2 sons and their wives are an actor/educator, artist, minister, and catalogue manager plus they all are involved in parenting my 3 lovely grandchildren. Chris and Family live in Lincoln, Carl and Family are in Oklaheas.

Phil took early retirement in 1984 in order to fulfill many saved up ambitions. But most of these were not to be realized as less than 2 years later he was diagnosed as having terminal cancer, and died in February of 1987.

With the gracious love and concern of family and friends, life goes on. A year ago a friend phoned and wondered if I had given any thoughts to a part-time job. I hadn't but I was open to the suggestion and have been at the Samaritan Counseling Center as part-time office assistant since then. Now another widow and I are job-sharing the position which is working out very well. She will cover for me while I am in Switzerland in March and I will fill her hours when she goes to Sweden in June.

This little job plus my involvement in church and the community keep me busy--always planning some project or trip or having a fun time with my family.

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After graduation, I went to Lincoln to work. I met and married Fred Cline from Nebraska City. He went into the Army Engineer Corp. right after we were married. He spent a year building the Alcan Highway in Alaska. While he was doing that, I spent the year in Seattle, Washington, working as an electrician building ships in the Seattle shipyards. While there, I sang with a big band made up of musicians that hit the shipyards to keep from being drafted. We had a lot of fun entertaining servicemen, shipyard workers and selling war bonds.

After the war, I settled down to raise a family of four boys. We lived in Lincoln most of those years. I was divorced after nineteen years of marriage.

I worked for eighteen years with a big brokerage firm in Lincoln. They merged with a big firm in New York and we all lost our jobs. Being 52 years old, I took early retirement to take care of my eldest son, YVONNE WHEELER CLINE and my elderly mother.

I have worked part time at 3460 Anaheim Dr. and done volunteer work at a senior center in Lincoln, NE 68506 attends for the last five years.

I lost my youngest son to Hodgkins Disease ten years ago. He was twenty-three.

I have seven grandchildren, who all live in Lincoln, and I enjoy them very much. I have enjoyed camping and hiking with my children and grandchildren. We have twice canoeed down the Niobrara River for a distance of twenty-five miles.



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These past fifty years have been good ones! They have passed quickly and have smiled on me. I am grateful for life's generosity.

Immediately out of high school I attended the University of Nebraska where I majored in Home Economics. In June, 1943 I married William W. Smiley (Bill). He was an Air Force pilot at the time, a college sweetheart whose family lived near Seward. We were together for nearly two years in San Marcos, TX and Nashville, TN before he went to India with the Air Transport Command to fly supplies over the Hump into China. In Nashville I was secretary to the Dean of Ward Salsmont Women's College. When Bill went overseas I returned to Nebraska and worked as the War Food Administrator for Seward County. I handled farm deferments for the military and worked with Extension groups and 4-H clubs on food production, conservation and preservation.

Bill returned from WWII in December of 1945. The next twelve years found us on farms in Harrison, NE; Pullman, WA; Bozeman, MT and Volusia, FL. I was a full time homemaker and the hardworker of purchased hardscapes, response equipment, feeding and showing.

ELLEN GRACE WIELAGE SMILEY  
919 Eastridge Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68510

Our marriage was blessed with three daughters. We now have two sons-in-law and five grandchildren. In 1955 we moved to Lincoln where we have lived ever since.

Travels have taken us to the Orient, Hawaii, Switzerland and around the United States. In Thailand we visited our AFS daughter and her husband. Family vacations have centered around skiing, fishing, hiking and dude ranching (we are not cowboys).

Bill and I have a strong commitment to Eastridge Presbyterian Church where we have served and continue to serve in many capacities on various boards, committees, etc. The church is an important facet in our lives.

For ten years I was on staff at the Southwest Community College where I taught clothing construction classes (Adult Education). I have also done teaching and demonstrating for department stores, the Extension Service and private groups and individuals. For years I have judged county and state fairs. Much of my time is spent in volunteer hours for the community in which we live. My wish is to repay society in some small way for all the joys and good fortunes that have been mine.



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