

THEN AND NOW

Frank Lila Family History

1996

Around the mid 1800's, our ancestors native country was divided in this fashion



THE FAMILY OF FRANK & ANNA LILA

This book is dedicated to everyone that is related to Frank & Anna Lila.

These past sixteen months, going through many diversified documents and papers, I found various names throughout that were spelled in different ways, dates varied by days, week, or year, and places of birth that were inconsistent.

When I started this particular project my intention was for some family medical background and maybe a little family history for Greg and our sons, Michael and Patrick. Well, the more I found my curiosity keep pushing me for more information. The trouble with a project under taking like this, you could go on forever and kept adding new information but you have to draw a line somewhere. You will notice I added things like the same physician used by many of the relatives, movement of parish priests within this area, funeral home directors - names whom us older ones might remember years back.

Looking at many genealogy write-ups, our decision, (Greg and myself) was to go with a story form. This is my first try at formatting a project like this, nothing professional. Maybe I got a little carried away, but in no way was my intention to hurt anyone's feelings.

I thank all of you that have helped me by filling out the questionnaire, sending pictures and other interesting pieces of information to share and putting up with me on those interviews. I would also like to thank my husband Greg for asking him, "could you just call one more person for some information?" or "how do I rephrase this?" Our sons, Mike for input and Pat's computer help.

I enjoyed every minute of this project from start to finish. Hope you all enjoy reading this and will hand it down to your children's children for them to enjoy, and for a partial beginning of their roots.

Maxine (Nitka) Galecki

Maxine Nitka Galecki

Greg and Maxine Galecki

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1996

THE LILA FAMILY HISTORY BOOK

To all who read this book; All information was complied through the following:

- 1) Family records
- 2) Census
- 3) Birth records
- 4) Marriage records
- 5) Death records
- 6) Family Abstract
- 7) Old Plat Books
- 8) Petition for Citizenship
- 9) Stevens Point Daily Newspaper
- 10) Personal pictures and letters
- 11) A lot of personal interviews, without which this book could have not been complied.
- 12) A form steamship letter taken from the Frank Lila Family History. Had printed in German and interpretation by friends.
- 13) Excrepts of "Poland Away From Home" from the book *Native Realm* by Micheal J. Goc.

All the information was crossed checked with records and is to the best of my knowledge correct. If and when there are any additions to the family history, such as birth, death, and marriages, please let me know, so we can keep the book updated when need be.

Thank you.

Frank and Anna Lila
Family History

Frank Lila was born in Poland. There he married Anna Lewenska, also of Poland. Their grandson Frank tells that they had one child, a son named Frank Jr.

Around 1867, Frank and his family came to this country and located in Milwaukee. Frank Jr.'s obituary stated the family returned to their native country a few years later.

I was left with the question, did Frank and Anna returned to America with their son, Frank and his family in 1888. The answer came accidentally while looking for Lila baptismal records at St. Peter's Catholic Church. Minnie Lela's baptismal sponsors were Frank Lela & Anna Lela. This was the first his grandson Frank heard about his grandfather living here.

Church death records at St. Peter's read: The 15th day of January 1895 Franscum Lela 64, received the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, died on the 13th hr. Signed: Rev. Q. Zielinski

The Stevens Point Gazette, dated Wednesday January 16, 1895 under Plover news read: The aged father of Frank Lella was buried Thursday.

Taking the date of death minus his age, he must have been born around 1830.

From the time he entered this country for the second time until his death was six years and eight months.

Anna (Lewenska) Lila, wife of Frank

Anna Lewenska's marriage to Frank Lela took place in Poland. Anna supposedly had one sister.

Nothing more about Anna was found until I came across her name skimming through a microfilm of the local census under the name Lila. U.S. Census records, in the Town of Plover, in the County of Portage, State of Wisconsin, dated on June 1, 1905 came up with something interesting. On last line of members of family listed under Frank Lila was the name, Anna; relationship to the head of family, mother.

On Sheet 6 of the Frank Lila Jr. abstract, furnished by Anna's great granddaughter Antoinette (Toni) Lila Kirschling, a Life Lease between Anna Lila and her son Frank Lila had been recorded on January 24, 1895. The Life Lease, showed Anna Lila signed by mark and read.

That the said 1st parties for an in consideration of the sum of \$1.00 and other valuable consideration to them in hand paid, do hereby covenant and agree with said 2nd party, that she is to have the use of 1 room in said 1st parties house, during her natural life time and the said room to be comfortably heated in the winter time and she the said 2nd party is to have use of said 1st parties cook stove and all necessary dishes.

Also all the fire wood that may be necessary for the use of said 2nd party is to be furnished by said 1st parties further covenant and agree to furnish to said 2nd party annually all the following, viz:
Half barrel of good wheat flour and 1 1/2 barrels of rye flour, 15 bushels of good eating potatoes, 150 pounds of good pork, two dollars in cash money, 1 quart of fresh milk every day, 4 pounds of butter annually, the said 1st party agree to keep 5 hams for the of said 2nd party, provide feed and shelter for same, the said 1st parties are to provide her every other Sunday duringher natural life time, also the 2nd party is to havefree use of the well water and at the death of said 2ndparty, the 1st parties are to pay \$25.00 for her funeral expenses, all the above mentioned articles which are to be delivered annually, they are to be delivered by the said 1st parties to said 2nd party at any time and of such quantities as may be required by said 2nd party.

Then, found her death certificate records at the Court House stating the following information. Anna Lewenski was born on June 26, 1827 and her parents were born in Germany. She died on March 25, 1908 at the age of eighty.

In the 1900 U.S. Census information shown - date of birth was July of 1830: Mother of how many children (1): Number now living (1): Year of immigration to the United States (1887): Number of years in the United States (13).

Back to the death certificate - Cause of death - old age: her attending physician was D. D. Walters. According

Frank & Marcyanna (Wielinski) Lila



Frank Lila

1) Frank Lila the son of Frank and Anna (Lewenska) Lila was born on April 12, 1862. Depending on reference material, place of birth varies. Petition for Naturalization has Klein Chelm, Germany; Certificate of Naturalization just says Germany; Census records indicate Ger. Pol; and his obituary says Poland. Around this time period, there was much changing of the boundary line between Poland and Germany, most likely the answer for different names on "place of birth."

At the age of five or six, Frank came to this country with his parents and located in Milwaukee. Years later the family returned to their native land. Frank found himself a sweetheart and married Marcyanna Wielinska, daughter of Michael and Marie (Jelinski) Wielinski, on November 12, 1883 in Poland. He stayed there for around 4 1/2 years.

One reason Frank and his wife would be leaving their homeland was the men were required to be in the army one month out of a year.

In conversation with their son, Frank of Port Edwards Wi, his parent's Frank and Marcyanna, had a daughter, by the name of Mary, born in 1886, died during their sea voyage to this country in 1888 and was buried at sea.

Frank and Marcyanna, with their son Felix arrived in New York on May 9, 1888 according to the petition for naturalization paper. Another source gave a different date. In the 1900 U. S. Census - Year of immigration to the United States 1887; and number of years in the United States 13. Dates given to census takers were known to vary at times.

His obituary states, after living in Milwaukee for a few years, he moved to the Lila farm home in Plover.

According to his grand daughter Mary Ann Lila, her father, John Lila was born in Polonia. While going through my various references, such as baptismal record of John, a property deed, grandson Greg Galecki checking dates, I figured Frank came and bought some property in Plover while still living in the Polonia area.

The Polonia area consisted of a polish population but there might have been second thoughts on Frank's part of working this land which was quite hilly and rocky. This was probably evident to him and the challenge they would face to farm this land.

Plover, also was known to have a polish settlement. Some came here from the old country because they were friends and wanted to be near them. For Frank, it probably was a combination of that and the land was much flatter, sandy and less rocky.

* In the early 1900s it was estimated that about 10,000 of Portage County's 30,000 people were of Polish descent. The figure is a good minimum, since many Poles were identified on the census data as Germans, Austrians or Russians. More important than the number of Poles in the county was their impact on it. They had built prosperous, solid farming communities on the hardest-to-work land in the county and had established a genuine and recognized Polish community here. Just as Milwaukee was known for its Germans and Minneapolis for its Scandinavians, Portage County was the Wisconsin home of the Poles.

Book 47 of Deed page 94 shows C. H. Simonds to Frank Lila a Warranty Deed, dated November 15, 1888 for consideration of \$180.00, the SWSE and SESW Section 20 T.23 N., R. 8 East, containing 80 acres according to the government survey. Then a Mortgage dated August 1, 1891 of Frank Lela & Mary Lela, his wife to G. W. Olsen, consideration \$190.00 for the S1/2 SW and SWSE of Sec 20 T.23 R.8E containing 120 acres, according to government survey. Secures 1 note for \$190.00.

There is a photocopy of 1895 Plat Map from the Archives, located at the University of Wi Stevens Point, showing the Lila name, spelled Lela.

If you look on the Photo copy of the 1905 Lela property plat, you will see there was a house situated on the SW corner of the 120 acres. Presently, this would have been in the area across from where his grandson, Jerome Lila lives on Coolidge Ave. The house later burned down on a unknown date.

Baptismal certificates on family had one child as Lella in Polonia. Three children with the spelling of Lela at St. Peter's parish. Frank and Marcyanna had to have been parishioners of St. Peter's for around six years.

According to their son Frank in a newspaper interview, told before the second house was built they lived above the tavern which had living quarters. He must have meant the store. During the time the family lived above the dry good store, the house on Coolidge Ave. was rented out.

On our interview with Frank, he could remember his parents living in a house in Plover, and was told that he

was born there. This would have been on the NE corner intersection of Highway 51, County B & Highway 54. The house was later moved to a site in McDill near Business 51. I Looked for a transaction at the Register of Deeds to find some evidence when this house might have purchased but found nothing. Maybe, Frank & Maryanna might have only rented it?

With the above two locations mentioned, it is hard to pin point the exact location where some of the children were born.

* Once a family was established, a new modern house was required and the speed with which a family got out of the old log shack was a gauge of their prosperity.

*A well-built modern frame house was realizable goal for fortunate, hardworking people. The dream house of the 1800s would have plenty of windows to catch the light and bring in fresh air; a stone-walled cellar for winter vegetables; strong brick chimney for the wood-fired parlor and kitchen stoves; and a roofed-over porch where a weary farm couple could sit and rock on a quiet summer's eve and reflect on how far they had traveled since leaving the old country.

Frank drew the plans and started to build a house for his family in 1910.

On the west side of the basement wall, was a cement block etched 1910 and another block, FRANK LILA. The house was located along Hwy 54, and it could be seen along the highway before it was torn down during the construction of present four lane highway.

According to their son Frank, the soil was sandy, which made using a horse powered scoop much easier to dig the basement. The footings were poured, stone walls put up. Then the ceiling of split jack pine logs, which were topped with a concrete and straw mixture to make a slab. This was the first example of a house with a full basement and this type of ceiling making it livable until the "upstairs" was completed. Also, when they finally completed the rest of the house it was the only house around there built with that type of floor,

The summer of 1995, a open house was held to find a prospective buyer to move the house. The younger Frank himself wanted one last look at his home before it would be raised. During the time he was in the basement looking around, others also were down there looking around and marveled about the interior construction. Frank tried to

tell them about the cement ceiling. His daughter Barbara Lila Greenway said, "no one wanted to believe dad."

The following December, Greg and I were there to take photo's of his grandparent's home. Entering the living quarters in the basement, I noticed there were still some of the original wood flooring which had been laid out on top of the dirt ground. Now there were water and sewage pipes coming down from the main floor to the well and septic system.

The family resided in the basement for 2 years before Pa started on the first and second floors. In an interview, the younger Frank was asked, why did it take so long to build the house? Giving this question a thought for a couple seconds. "Well, Pa didn't have enough money, money is what counts."

The thick basement walls with plastered ceilings and walls provided them with cool summers and warm winters. The rooms consisted of a combination large kitchen and sitting room and several smaller rooms for sleeping. The basement steps were designed to be made accessible only from the outside.

The whole family helped with the construction in one way or another, from chopping timber for beams, mixing cement, bricklaying or what ever job had to done that day. "Dad was a smart fellow, a good carpenter, including finishing work."

The younger Frank tells that much of the framework and timber beams were constructed of jack pine that grew on their property. In those days when timbers were used for building construction, they were not sent to the saw mills like they are now. You marked them with a chalk line and squared them off with an ax, rolled them over and repeated the same thing on the other 3 sides.

The walls were constructed of back plaster and were done in the following fashion. On stud walls, boards were put on both sides, both sides plastered, the outside wall would have a felt cover and a brick overlay. Inside walls furred out, then another board covered the strips which was then plastered over so the outside walls had 3 coats of plaster. The dead air spaces between the plaster coats took the place of insulation, providing a warmer house or cooler, whatever the season.

This six bedroom home was constructed in a Colonial Revival style. The home was built of brick over a wooden shell. This color of red brick was mostly used for chimneys

and not on homes during that time period. Frank, told the brick was all purchased locally and again was told this to be quite unusual.

Inside, the first floor was composed of a kitchen, dining room, front room (or the parlor), and two bedrooms. The parlor pocket doors would be closed and the room unused till company came. In here Ma, kept her fancy dishes in the hutch.

On the second floor there were four bedrooms, needed for their seven sons and two girls.

The entire house had hardwood floors and window trims, 12-foot ceilings, pocket doors between the dinning room and parlor, ornamented back door and dormer windows on the second floor.

Above it all, steep stairs led to the attic that offered a breathtaking view from large windows on the east and west sides of the house. This floor was used for storage and also the wash was hung up here in the winter time.

There were none of the modern conveniences of electricity or plumbing. Gasoline lamps glowed brightly and a hand pump provided water. A outdoor facility was behind the garage. There was also a smoke house that had the walls made of stone.

Nine year old Frank helped his Pa shovel sand for the porch. Now days would have that job done in an hour and a half. Threw bricks up as his brother who laid them on the house walls.

Even after the completion, the family continued to use the basement living quarters. The main floor was only used for show. Their daughter Frances, told her family a number of times, after her marriage in 1921, her parents moved their residence to the main and second permanently. She resented their actions.

It was clearly a unique house, it's a prominent artifact clearly associated with early 20th Century agriculture. The porch was the key feature of the entire house, for the house was later placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The existing barn was built around 1918. The construction of the barn was unique in those days. Frank had the walls of the barn constructed like church walls to hold the roof without joists across the wall plates. This gave an easier access to store hay up the loft and a

uncluttered look. The side facing the road were the horse stalls, calf pens, and bull pen. The other side had the cow stanchions. There was drive -thru on the west end for hay wagons to unload and the west end was storage space for either straw or hay. The milk house and silo were on the east end.

A representative from the State Transportation Department wished the Historic Society would document the barn. These old barns are on their way out.

As everyone knows buildings through the years deteriorate. This one has and to my understanding will be razed or used as a schooling project for the Village of Plover Fire Department.

Grandson Greg Galecki, recalled Uncle Steve Lila telling him about the dances held on the loft when there wasn't any hay stored. The women surely had their work cut out for them climbing the narrow ladder in their dress attire. Slacks were unheard of then.

*Farm life was not all work and Poles also brought music and dance to lighten the load. Dennis Kolinski, an ethnoanthropologist born and raised in Portage County, researched Polish folk music and dance in Poland and the United States. He found that the traditional Polish folk band was a largely a string ensemble consisting of several violins and a bass fiddle with a clarinet and/or cornet added. Dances were held under tents in farm yards, in a barn on rainy days and in townships, church and city halls.

*The concertina came to prominence in the 1910s, when musicians required a bigger sound in order to be heard over the stamping of the dancers' feet on hardwood floors. While foot-stomping was a part of traditional Polish dancing, so were waltzes. The "Polish waltz," had a lively 3/8 melody and was called an oberek, kujawiak, or mazurek, after three related dances.

*There were also several kinds of polka. A slow, swinging step danced to a smooth melody and called "Dutch" or German style, and a bouncy Polish Hop, derived from a traditional Polish Hop.

*The most popular occasion for dancing was one of those legendary Polish celebrations-a wedding.

As the farm increased toward its final 400 acres, they grew potatoes for sale and rye to be made into flour. They raised cows, pigs, sheep, chickens, geese and rabbits. There was a large family, so they all helped out with the farm.

Younger Frank said, as for the sheep, there were always at least 2 ewes and 1 ram. One ram they had was kind of mean. One time, Frank was strolling around the barn, meanwhile the ram was watching him, then it came around and rammed Frank in the back end. "That son-of-gun hit me pretty hard, I'll fix you", he said. Next time while laying straw down in the barn, he had a stick handy. The ram came around again. I let him have it. Chuckling out loud, telling, the only sound you could hear then was "baa--baa--." This time the ram was hurting. He ever done that again. It was kind of funny now as he thought back.

In winter, there was a lot of timber, jack pine and oak was cut to be sold to the pulp mill at McDill. This brought in money and helped clear some more land for planting. The tops of trees then were used for firewood. Uncle Frank made a remark to us that much didn't go to waste on the farm in those days.

*Among the early settlers of Portage county, the Poles were probably the most experienced farmers, and certainly the most experienced at working sandy soil.

*Polish farmers were largely self-sufficient with families working together to raise or make nearly every commodity necessary for daily life.

*All-purpose crops like rye and potatoes could be found on nearly every central Wisconsin farm between 1850 and 1900, so the Poles cannot be credited with their introduction to Portage County. However, it is accurate to say that sandy soil, rye, potatoes and Polish farmers all fit together very well, in northern Poland and in Portage County.

Dad made a good living on the farm. Potato prices then were 8 cents a bushel in the early days right off the farm. Ground flour, 98 lbs for a buck was a good buy. They grew their own rye for flour. Took 3 sacks of grain to be ground up to the mill in Plover. About the soil conditions in the Plover area, following day after a rain the soil was dry again. Now, irrigation is used by most larger crop growers daily.

The 1895 Plat Book, of Plover, located in Plover TWP., had a number of houses, taverns, a depot, post office, two hotels, blacksmith shop, feed mill and a three halls.

On May 28, 1901 Frank Lila took out a warranty deed with James & Elizabeth M. Waters for the sum of \$500 dollars. The Register of Deeds Office had no mention of a building with this transaction, just was the Original Plat

of the Village of Plover on Lot 3 Block 9. The building can be seen in a copy of Plover from the 1895 Plat Book.

Next, He opened a business in 1902 in the Village of Plover. A dry goods, notions, and groceries in one half of the building and a saloon in the other half. There were cooking and sleeping facilities above the dry goods half of the store. The back of the tavern had a kitchen.

Browsing through the UWSP Government Publications, I came across a 1905-1906 Wisconsin State Gazette & Business Directory. Under name of City - Plover. Name of Owner - Lila Frank, in big letters. Type of business - General Store.

Uncle Frank as a young boy used to tend bar, filling up pails with beer and selling them for a nickel. The tavern was a popular place. They'd be lined up standing by the bar with their foot on the rail. In those days there were most likely a few spittoons sitting along the foot rails.

According to Frank, his sister Minnie and brothers Felix and Dave lived above the store. Minnie did the housekeeping and cooking till her marriage. Dad got tired of the business and turned it over to Felix who ran the dry goods store and Dave the saloon in 1914.

In 1918 Dave bought the dry goods store from his brother Felix, thus now became sole owner of the entire operation. Prohibition was beginning, so he converted the saloon to an ice cream parlor and pool hall which operated until 1930.

Then the business became a grocery and dry goods store. Felix now took the role of clerk in the operation. (In son Dave's write-up, will see the changes made to store).

Frank would pick up the priest at the railroad depot which was located where Wimmi's Gravel Mix is now located. The railroad was the Chicago North Western, which ran north and south along the present Highway 54.

The priest would sometimes say mass at the old Lila house and also stay over night there.

Frank Lila and John Glesziznyski were instrumental in building and much of the work on the first catholic church in the Town of Plover. On December 10, 1897 the church was blessed.

*St. Bronislava, St. Adalbert & St. Mary's of Torun were founded in direct response to an order from Bishop Sebastian Messmer that all Catholic children in the Green Bay diocese attend Catholic schools. Messmer and other prelates feared the secularizing influence of the public

school, which were the only schools in most rural areas, and to which children were bound to attend by Wisconsin's compulsory education law.

The blessing of the school was done by Rt. Rev. P. P. Rhode, the first Polish-American Bishop on August 12, 1908. Most local children attended the catholic school, eventually including some of his grandchildren.

Lightning struck the church on August 10, 1910 and burned it completely with all its contents. The Blessed Sacrament was barely saved. The following Sunday, August 17th, the Pastor called a parish meeting, the parishioners decided to build a brick church. A committee was formed.

While the new church was built the services were held in the Lila home. Plans for the new church were made by Fr. Spolenke. The new church would be on the site of the burned church and the digging was begun the same year. During the winter they hauled bricks. The following year in 1911, the contract was given to the Kromf (or Krauf) & Grau Firm of Berlin, Wi. Building was begun in May, blessing of the corner stone on June 21, 1911 and completed on November 20, 1911.

On August 8, 1913 lightning struck the tower of the new church and did \$338 dollars worth of damage, which was repaired in 1914.

This church is no longer used. In 1991 a corner stone was placed on a new church which was built for a growing congregation.

Frank also transported the coffins from the homes in the community to St. Bronislava church and cemetery. Had a beautiful matched pair of horses and nice big buggy.

He also served as the church's first treasurer till August of 1938, after that a trustee till his death.

According to son Frank, his parents didn't talk much about their past, or he wasn't listening so information is sparse about their personal backgrounds. Which is the same for all of us with our parents.

His dad was not much of a farmer, mostly into dairy and jack pines for pulp, was a smart fellow, a good carpenter and also on finishing work. Liked to walk around with big cigars. Quite fluent in English, although polish was the predominant language around the house.

*As a rule, the first generation of children born in Portage County was bilingual, but fewer of their children, and fewer of their grand-children, would know the old tongue.

*Fashion was less important to farm men, who dressed as other working people did, but Polish men also made accommodations to American social custom. They gave up the heavy mustaches that were fashionable in Poland and adopted, or at least on Sundays, went clean shaven.

*They also gave up drinking vodka, which could not be found on frontier, and switched to American whisky, brandy, or the beverage that the Germans made popular, beer. Many Polish men also acquired a taste for American cigars and laid aside the traditional clay pipes they had smoked in the old country. By 1900, Stevens Point had several cigar makers who advertised their smokes as "Polish Style".

The family was known to walk to church on Christmas Eve for mid-night mass. This would have better than a mile from the farm. There were always friendly people riding past, making it possible for us to catch a ride. Younger Frank's daughter Barbara Greenway asked, what about the lights? If it was a dark night in the country, plus the snow, was all the light you need to see. Then, why didn't your family take their own sleigh? Didn't have too, plenty others taking their big sleighs. Didn't need one. Sleighs were used strictly for work and didn't have benches for seating. Instead, when used by the family, planks were laid length width across. Then straw was spread around a foot high across for warmth. We didn't have a cutter, couldn't afford one. They were only used for transportation and were built for either 2 or 4 passengers. The sleighs would come down Highway 54, which was a dirt road. In those days, didn't have to plow snow, there were only sleighs on the roads. In the mid twenties, the motorized vehicle came into the picture and start of plowed roads.

Later on his dad purchased a buick. Frank's daughter-in-law Johanna, said one thing she remembered about him was that the doors on the garage next to the house. His motto, close the doors as soon as he backed the car out, and reclosed them when the car was driven back in.

Frank's wife Marcyanna's died on September 12, 1937. Frank then choose to marry again. I can remember his daughter Frances, telling how some of the family members were rather upset at the time.

This was on August 1, 1938 to Mrs. Valeria Pehowski. According to their marriage certificate, her last name was spelled Pichowski and her residence was in the Town of Stockton. The wedding ceremony took place at Sacred Heart Church in Polonia. Their witness were Frank Lila Jr. and

Alexandria Puckowski. Grand-daughter Arlene Lila Fahrner, age 5 then was their surprise flower girl. After the marriage the couple moved to Custer. Valeria had been a step mother to Mamie (Julian) Lila before her marriage to Frank.

Mr. Lila died at the age of seventy seven on April 24, 1939 at St. Michael's Hospital at 8:30 A.M. from complications due to a fall few days earlier. He had been playing cards in the evening with the neighbors and was dark out when walking home. The road he was walking on at the time was under construction and he fell, rolling into the ditch, causing injuries.

Contributing cause was fractured ribs. Principal cause of death was bronchiectasis, chronic myocardities, arterie sclerosis. Attending physician was Dr. W. A. Gramowski. Arrangements were made through Prais Funeral Home. The rosary was said at the funeral home on Tuesday night and Wednesday at the Lila home, where the body will be until the time of service. Rev. W. B. Polaczyk officiated Thursday morning at a requiem high mass. Burial took place in the parish cemetery.

The pallbearers, six of his seven sons were; Felix, John, David, Julian, Theodore and Frank Lila Jr.

The flowers were carried by Ramona Lila, Marion Lapinski Arlene Lila and Joan Adams.

Translation, was a form letter from a steamship agent who would set up passage to immigrate, say to America. Hand writing of the agent. The content of the letter is not a word for word translation.

This letter was to Greg's great-grandfather. I'm sure Frank Lila went through the same route and would of gotten a similiar letter for information purposes. The price of passage might have been higher since he came four years later.

Transport
of
Passage
to
America
with
German Steamship

Exchange of American
Money

Berlin, 6 ten, February 1884

Master Blacksmith V. Galecki

(According to my letter interpreter who was quite impressed, Master Blacksmith - this was better than a journeyman, he could now own his business).

In your response of your kind words -----

15 MARKS for adults

7.50 marks for children ages 1-12

no bartering, downpayment like a reservation for a seat on the ship.

In the same way, if you cannot make this trip or use the reservation you must let this person (me) know four days in advance before the departure of the steamship with which your traveling. Therefore I can use up your spaces for someone else.

In regard to luggage, ever passenger has a space of 1 meter long, 1 meter wide, 1 meter high = 1/2 cubic meter. Bigger piece of luggage on the train as passenger goods, if they take to much space, to much to transfer, send on ahead. Would like to know 4 days before departure.

At the train station in Berlin you will be greeted by my official that will bring you to me, and after your clearance of check by me, you will be escorted to the departing train station. I'm warning everyone, those short of fare must work on the ship or have to pay when you get to America. Passengers better not swindle him on their passage costs.

Steamship available are English, Hollandish and others that don't carry the German flag. To warn you that in the past years, there were many complaints about the treatment and handling of German passengers on some ships. (He's tells them they are better off to travel with a ship company he recommends which has a good reputation).

The price for the German Steamships for the North German Port of Bremem are:

for SUNDAY	to NEW-YORK	-	90 marks	- slower ship
for WEDNESDAY	to NEW-YORK	-	100 marks	- faster ship
for WEDNESDAY	to BALTIMORE	-	90 marks	- slower ship

THOSE PRICES ARE FOR EACH PERSON OVER 12 YEARS OLD, FOR CHILDREN 1 TO 12 YEARS - HALF PRICE. BABIES UP TO ONE YEAR - 9 MARKS. FROM THESE PRICES WITH THE PRECIOUS RESERVATION PRICE WILL BE DEDUCTED - 90 marks. (The fare would have been 315 marks total).

For these prices passengers received - a sleeping bed, place with a mattress in it and plenty of good food during the sea travel.

Menu:

"mornings" coffee with milk and sugar and fresh white bread.

"noon" either served, soup with beef and potatoes or pea soup with bacon or bean soup with salt meat or sauerkraut with bacon or prune soup, or bacon with dumpling and etc.

"3-4 o'clock" coffee with milk and sugar.

"evenings" tea with milk and sugar, black bread or swiebeck with butter chips around 7 o'clock.

(As most brochures go, accommodations can be some what deceiving. Their sleeping births were probably in the hollow. The person who read the letter for me, lived in Germany as a youth and was familiar with the steam ships used then).

Only minors or such persons which aren't two years of age and without father or guardian and who want to travel with a father, a parent must have written permission from father or guardian that they are allowed this trip. The signature of father or guardian must be of notary republic seal stamp on there. Military people must have proof or evidence from the military council to travel.

(Also she told me, in the their native country, our ancestors were required to register with the police department of their coming and goings each time they left their home to travel and also register again at their arrival of destination).

Passagieren
von
nach
Amerika
mit
Deutschem Post-Dampfer.



Umwandlung
des
deutschen Geldes:
Amerikanisch
und
Wechsel auf alle Plätze
von
Amerika, Asien, Afrika
Australien.

F. MATTFELDT

an der Platz vor dem neuen Thor BERLIN NW. Platz vor dem neuen Thor No. 1a.

Im Frachtdampfer T. Gaidenki
Berlin, den 1. Okt. 1897.

Adresse für Telegramme: Matfeldt, Berlin Neuer Thorplatz

Auf Ihr gefälliges Schreiben vom 2. d. ist Folgendes zu bezeichnen:
Folgendes ist bei der beschriebenen Reise bereits fest längere Zeit vor der Abreise erfolgt.
Es liegt daher im Interesse der reisenden Personen, daß sich dieselben die erforderlichen Plätze mittels der ihnen
übergebenen Buchanweisung bei mir durch Einsenden eines Postgebühres von

15 Mark für Erwachsene,
die Hälfte für Kinder von 1 bis 12 Jahren

bedienen, sonst laufen dieselben Gefahr, nicht mehr zu dem größten Teiltermin beiseite zu werden.
Die Eintragung Ihrer Namen in die Passagierliste ist mit der Ihnen übergebene Karte zu belegen, damit ich danach
wissen, in welchem Alter das mit angegebene Postgebühres quittiert wird, sowie die Passagierliste übergeben kann.
Zur Einzahlung dient mir zur Sicherung der Plätze und nach Ihnen bei Abreise der Reisepasse für in der
nung gebührt. Dasselbe gilt Ihnen, falls Sie den zur Reise gebührenden Postdampfer nicht selbst bezahlen können, bei mir
vor dem Abreise nach Ihnen, falls Sie einen anderen Passagier angedeutet, nur müssen Sie mich 4 Tage
vor dem Abreise bei dem gebührenden Passagier davon benachrichtigen, daß Sie nicht selbst zahlen, damit ich Ihre Plätze an
andere begeben kann.

Ein Reisepass hat jeder Passagier einen Raum von 1/2 Quadratmeter (1 Meter Länge, 1 Meter Breite, 1/2 Meter
Höhe) frei, wobei es auf das Gewicht nicht ankommt. Größere Gepäckstücke, die auf der Reise als Passagiergut zu
übertragen sind, müssen, falls als Frachtgut vorausgesetzt.
Auf dem Reise-Passagier hat in Berlin werden Sie von meinen Beamten in Empfang genommen, die Sie zu
mit Ihnen und nach Ihrer Abreise bei mir noch dem gebührenden Reisepasse geben.
Zur Bezahlung der Reise gebühren werden Sie von meinen Beamten in Empfang genommen, falls Sie auf eine
nachträgliche Bezahlung Kaufmann sind, kann ich mir nachstehende nachgenannte Worte nicht versprechen.
Der Name ist es die Bezeichnung, sich vor übertriebener Stelle in der Welt zu nehmen und nicht bei so häufig bedienten
Geschäften von ihrer Überlegenheit auf vorübergehende Kosten, gegen übergeben am Schiff oder nachgehenden in Amerika, Ozean
zu handeln; sie haben von Geschäftsreisen nur zu dem Zweck erlauben, um unwillkürlich aber leichtgläubige Leute zu betören und
ihnen das Geld und der Reise zu lassen.

(2)

Zu jeder es immer für meine Pflicht, Sie und Ihre Freunde von der Beförderung mit englischen, holländischen und
anderen nicht beschriebenen Schiffen, welche Ihnen vielfach angedeutet werden dürfte, zu warnen, da auch im vorstehenden
Jahre viele beschriebene Reisen über die Bezahlung und Verpflegung der Passagiere auf solchen Schiffen vor
der Einreise in die Kommission in New York erhoben wurden. Die großen Vorteile der beschriebenen Postdampfer des
Norddeutschen Lloyd in Bremen, durch ihre Geschwindigkeit, mehrfache Beförderung durch berühmte Offiziere
mit 14-tägiger Reisezeit, ihre Geschwindigkeit unter Beobachtung der Sicherheit in erster Linie und gute
nachtszeitliche Beförderung der Zwischengänge-Passagiere sind allgemein bekannt und allgemein anerkannt.
Die Überlegenheit für die Postdampfer des Norddeutschen Lloyd in Bremen sind bis auf Weiteres
wie folgt (folgt):

für die Sommerreise nach New-York abgehenden Postdampfer Mark. 90. —
für die Winterreise nach New-York abgehenden Postdampfer 110. —
für die Winterreise nach Baltimore abgehenden Postdampfer 90. —
für jede Person über 12 Jahre alt, für Kinder von 1 bis 12 Jahren die Hälfte, Säuglinge bis zu
einem Jahr 9 Mark. Von diesen Preisen wird das vorher eingelebte Postgeld in Abzug gebracht.
Für besten Lieberungserhalt erhalten die Passagiere eine Kabinette mit einer Matratze darin, und reichliche gute Be-
dienung während der Reise.

Wichtig: Keine mit Geld und Zinsen und ihren Zug in der Reise.
Wichtig: Keine mit Geld und Zinsen und ihren Zug in der Reise.
Wichtig: Keine mit Geld und Zinsen und ihren Zug in der Reise.
Wichtig: Keine mit Geld und Zinsen und ihren Zug in der Reise.

Einmalen braucht jeder kein Passagier mit auf das Schiff zu nehmen, eben so wenig ist für irgend welche Stellen
auf dem Schiff etwas extra zu bezahlen. Für Säuglinge ist Milch vorhanden und kleine erhalten besondere Kost, wenn
der Kopf es erfordert.

Reisepass ist im Publikum die letzte Karte beizubehalten, daß man auch ohne vorherige Beförderung der Plätze
auf prompte Beförderung rechnen kann. Sie werden aber einer letzten Beförderung nicht entgegen, wollen Sie mit
auf's Geratewohl nach den Umständen reisen, wenn Sie während unter keinen Umständen beiseite werden, sondern müssen
auf eigene Kosten so lange warten, bis irgendwas Plätze ausfallen, was bei der beschriebenen Reise kaum vorzukommen ist. Im
Gegensatz ist es auch dem oben angeführten Grunde dringend geboten, mindestens 4 bis 6 Wochen vor
Abgang der Dampfer sich durch Beförderung des notwendigen Geldes die erforderliche Anzahl Plätze
zur gewünschten Reisezeit zu sichern.

Ihre Reisezeit anfangend, bemerkt ich, daß nach dem Postgesetz vom 12. Oktober 1897 und nach Grundsätzen der
Reisezeit Beförderung vom 1. Dezember 1899 für die Reise in's Ausland nicht mehr erforderlich ist. Der Passagier hat
sich auf Grundsätzen nur über seine Person auszuweisen und können dann Reisepasse, Reisepasse, Reisepasse und andere
entwende Karte dienen.

Zur Reisezeit d. h. jeder Person, welche das 21. Lebensjahr noch nicht erreicht haben und ohne Vater oder
Mutter reisen wollen, müssen mit einem schriftlichen Einverständnis ihres Vaters oder Vormunders versehen sein, daß die Reise mit
ihren Einverständnis erfolgt. Die Unterfertigung des Vaters oder Vormunders muß von einer ein öffentlichen Siegel versehen sein
sowie die Unterfertigung des Reisepasses amtlich beglaubigt sein.

Reisezeitliche Personen haben den Nachweis zu führen, daß über ihre Reise keine der Willkürherrschaften kein Einverständnis
im Wege steht.

Im Namen der Firma F. Matfeldt
Matfeldt, Berlin

Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila, wife of Frank

Marcyanna was born on January 6, 1862 in Poland. She was the daughter of Michael and Marie (Jelinski) Wielinski. Have also seen her name in various records as Marcine, Marcianna, Mary, Marianna and Marcjanna on the memorial cards.

Her marriage to Frank Lila took place in Poland on November 12, 1883.

The meaning of Wielinski, with an "i" on the end was for a male; Wielinska, with an "a" on the end for a woman. This would have been common practice in Poland years ago.

*The most common Polish usage that has passed into Portage County English relates to how a married woman identifies the surname with which she was born. In standard English, it is her "maiden" name; in Portage County English, it is her name "from home." Everyone who has lived in Portage County for any length of time would not be puzzled over the meaning of this phrase.

Their son Felix and daughter Mary were born while living in Poland. Mary died on their voyage to New York and was buried at sea.

The following memories of Marcyanna are from her youngest son, Frank. She weighed around 106 pounds. Upon the purchase of two 80-acre parcels, told her husband that she would grub out one "80" and he would do the other. She meant it. She spoke only a few words of English.

*Parts of Portage County were almost uniformly settled by Poles and an immigrant could feel quite at home speaking nothing but Polish. Men left home to work and trade but many woman rarely left the farm except to attend church services, which were conducted in Polish. Consequently, farm woman were often among the last to learn English. Lack of desire to learn was less of a factor than lack of opportunity. All farmers lived relatively isolated lives at least until the early 1900s and a weekly trip to the Market Square in Stevens Point-where the storekeepers spoke Polish too-was hardly enough to teach a farm woman fluent English.

When working in the fields, she would go home to make dinner and on the way home would pick up branches for kindling to start the fire. In those days their cook stoves were "a lot" different than now. A warming oven was above the cast iron cook stove, wood for the fire was placed through a front swinging door underneath the cast iron top.

You could also remove two steel round lids with a detachable handle to add more wood pieces or just move the wood around to get more heat. On top of these two lids you placed the kettle or pan to cook your meal. To obtain a hotter heat under the pan, a lid could be removed and the pan placed directly over the fire. There was a large oven in the middle of the stove along side the fire box which was on the left hand side of the stove. You regulated the heat in the oven by increasing heat by opening the draft on the bottom of the fire box and opening the damper on the stove pipe causing the fire to burn hotter. To decrease heat you did the opposite. On the right side of stove was a reservoir for hot water. The heat from the stove warmed the water and the heat from the stove pipe situated in the middle of the stove heated the warming oven located above the stove.

Grandson Greg Galecki tells their family had a similar cook stove. One day he thought he would speed the process of making the fire hotter. He didn't stop to think that there were some hot coals in the fire box and added some kerosene to the wood. Puff, Greg singed his eye brows. Looking back now, luckily the fuel can didn't catch fire in his hands.

Their corn field couldn't have any weeds. They'd all be out there with a hoe, pulling every weed out. On one of those days, ma came home to prepare dinner and the cat was on the table eating on loaf of bread which was cooling. Frank, chuckled, "she was pretty upset."

She could out pitch her sons when it came to spreading manure piles. Pa, wasn't much of a farmer, he with some of his sons ran store and saloon business. When it came to the farm, Ma was the boss.

*Farm cooks were of necessity self-sufficient and multi-talented. They concocted their own dishes combining the knowledge they brought from Poland with ingredients from their American farms.

*Gardens reflected this ethnic merger. Polish gardeners planted the vegetables and herbs they knew at home-beets, cabbage, potatoes, horseradish, rutabagas, parsnips, beans, marjoram, parsley, poppyseed, and sage-then added American crops like sweetcorn, squash and melons. The apple was the all-purpose northern-hardy fruit both in Poland and Portage County and Poles raised them on both sides of the Atlantic.

Thanksgiving was just an ordinary day, didn't celebrate much. Mother might boil up chicken with potatoes, carrots,

beets, squash, "whatever you could get, the whole works". At the same time baking bread in the oven of her wood-burning cook stove.

Sometimes, there would be a barrel of apples for Christmas. A home-grown goose might be substituted for the chicken. There also was beef and pork.

When pigs were butchered, she would make homemade blood sausage, liver sausage, maybe headcheese and rendered lard for baking. The blood also was used for Czarnina, plus a mix of raisins and other dried fruit with milk added to the flavor of the soup. As Marcyanna was preparing supper for their friends from Chicago, they wanted to know what she was cooking for them? "Blood sausage", she said. "We can't eat that", they said. She talked them into trying a piece and they ended up fighting for the rest and ran short. One of the Lila's responded, "thought you didn't like it". Another time there was company from Milwaukee and they asked, "what you having to eat?" They never had had Czarnina before. Uncle Frank ate quietly and was watching from the corner of his eye. The first spoon were just for tasting, then the spoon fulls moved faster. I guess they liked that dish also.

Potato dumplings went well with chicken soup. Homemade sausages hung in the attic, usually undisturbed. "Ma came down one time mad as the dickens," said the younger Frank. "What's the matter?" "A mouse got up and chewed up the sausage," his mother complained. We found out later my dad had taken a spoon and was digging in there. The paper interviewer asked, what polish type food did your mother prepare? well, pierogi, kluski, plus the above. The attic was where ma also hung her wash in the winter time.

In those days when you needed a pair of wool mittens, sweaters or whatever, you just didn't go down to the store to get yarn. They raised their own sheep for strictly wool. Marcyanna never sat idle, work all day and at night would spin yarn on her spinning wheel. She was either washing wool, spinning yarn or knitting. All their stockings were knitted. Her son Julian, later on made a reproduction of her spinning wheel and butter churn wheel.

Even in these later years, you couldn't look at the Lila house without appreciating the porch. Younger Frank recalls in his day, you could sit and watch the horses and buggies go by on the road. It was a perfect place for summer parties on Sunday nights: eating, drinking, cardplaying, maybe even dancing.

Sitting on the porch was a good place to watch an electrical storm, not expecting to see the lightning strike that hit the old St. Bronislava church. (It burned to the ground.) Frank was around 8 years old then.

When Frank thought of his mother, she is on the porch, sitting quietly and saying her rosary. After supper, on Sunday, anytime you came, there she was, fingering the rosary and looking out on the passing parade of Highway 54.

Barbara Lila Greenway remembers her grandmother as a tiny little thing, wearing high button shoes and long skirts. She spoke only polish. Would ask Barbara to go down stairs with her to get potatoes that they had stored in a bin for the winter. The room was so dark. When they went to the open house and she opened the basement door - Barbara had a instant flash back of that event.

Marcyanna stepped on a nail on August 27th and didn't feel any ill effects until a week later. Lock jaw developed and she was admitted to the hospital with W.A. Gramowski, her attending physician.

Stories were told how back in those days, on this particular injury, certain home remedies used in those days now would be unheard of now. This might have been a manure mixture placed on this type of wound to pull out the poison.

Marcyanna died on September 12, 1937 at 8:50 P.M. at St. Michaels Hospital. Cause of death was tetanus.

Prais Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. The rosary was said Monday and Tuesday evening at the Lila home and her body was present there till time of the services. The Rev. W. B. Polocayk officiated at St. Bronislava church with burial taking place in the parish cemetery.

According to the 1910 census of personal description, number of how many children - (13) number living (9).

She was survived by her nine children and two sisters, Mrs. Joanna (Leon) Worzella and one residing in Poland. Found in her sister Joanna's obituary, there was also a brother.

Pallbearers were six of her seven sons, Felix, John, David, Julian, Steve and Frank.

JOHANNA (WIELINSKA) WORZEALLA, SISTER OF MARCYANNA

Johanna was born December 16, 1853, in Poland. She was the daughter of Michael and Marie (Jelinska) Wielinski. Her marriage to Leon Worzella took place in Poland in 1885.

They came to this country a year later. Then lived in Milwaukee for a time and then locating in the Town of Plover in 1892.

In the 1905 Plat Book, Worzella is spelled in a polish as Worzala.

The 1901-1902 Wisconsin State Gazette & Business Directory had Leon Worzella owner of a saloon in Plover. Then the 1905-1905 Directory had him as owner of a hardware store. Now his great grandson Gene Worzella owns two grocery stores. One in Plover (formerly Lila's) and the other in Rosholt. Must run in the family.

Johanna died on August 25, 1941 and Leon in 1926. They are both buried in St. Bronsilava parish cemetery.

There children were Elizabeth Worzella Slowinski, Michael, Alex, Frank, Joseph and Joseph Worzella.

Two sisters and a brother preceded her in death.

Frank and Marcyanna were parents of:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---|
| 1) | Felix | born - November 19, 1884 |
| 2) | Mary | born - 1886 in Poland, died,
on the voyage to New
York. |
| 3) | John | born - October 9, 1888 |
| 4) | David | born - May 30, 1890 |
| 5) | Monica (Minnie) | born - May 5, 1892 |
| 6) | Julian | born - May 21, 1894 |
| 7) | Theodore | born - July 1, 1896 |
| 8) | Frances | born - January 29, 1898 |
| 9) | Stephen | born - December 14, 1899 |
| 10) | Frank | born - March 25, 1902 |
| 11) | Joseph | born - March 8, 1903 |
| 12) | Dominic | born - July 6, 1904 |
| 13) | Catherine | born - April 12, 1907 |

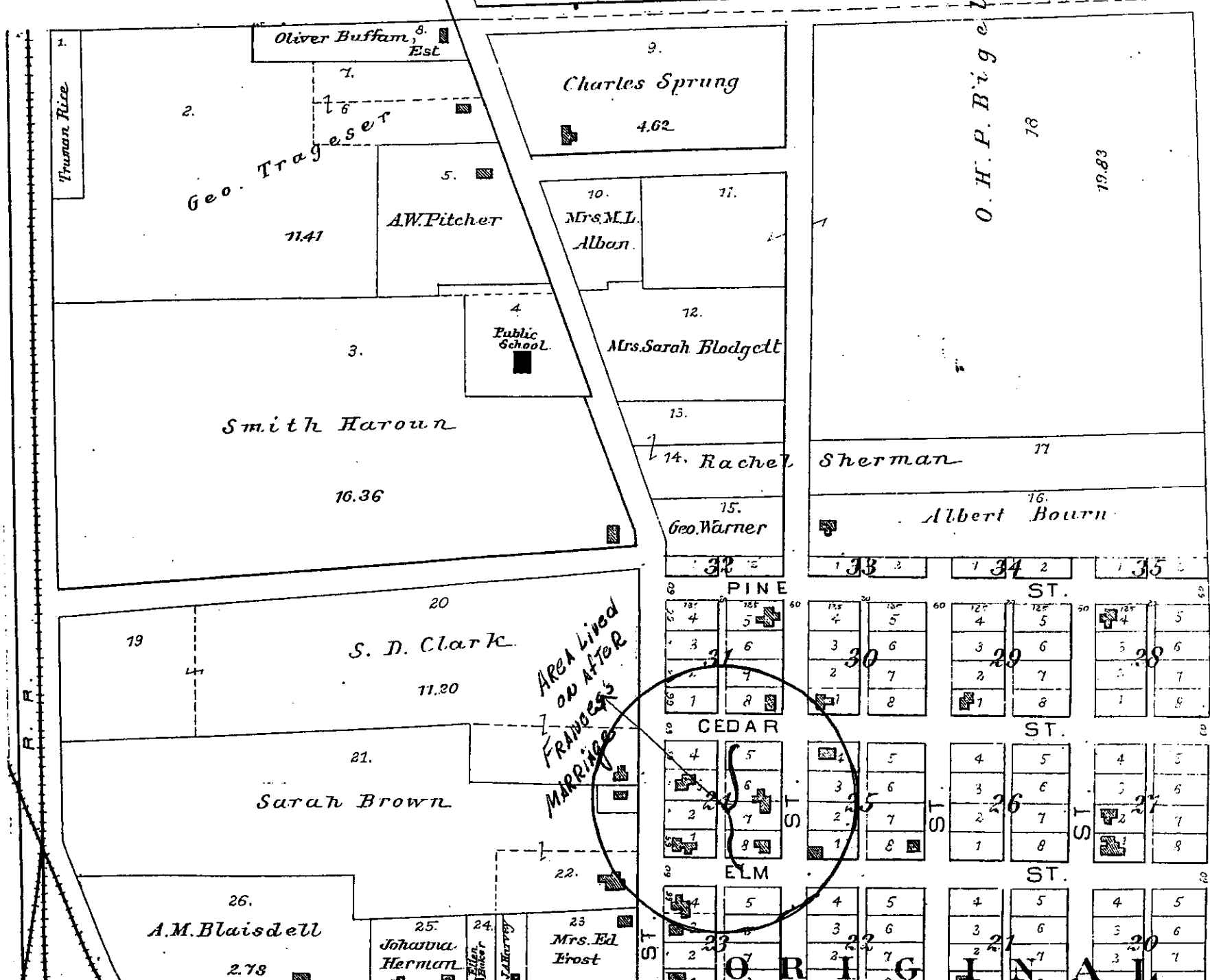
More information on the following pages:

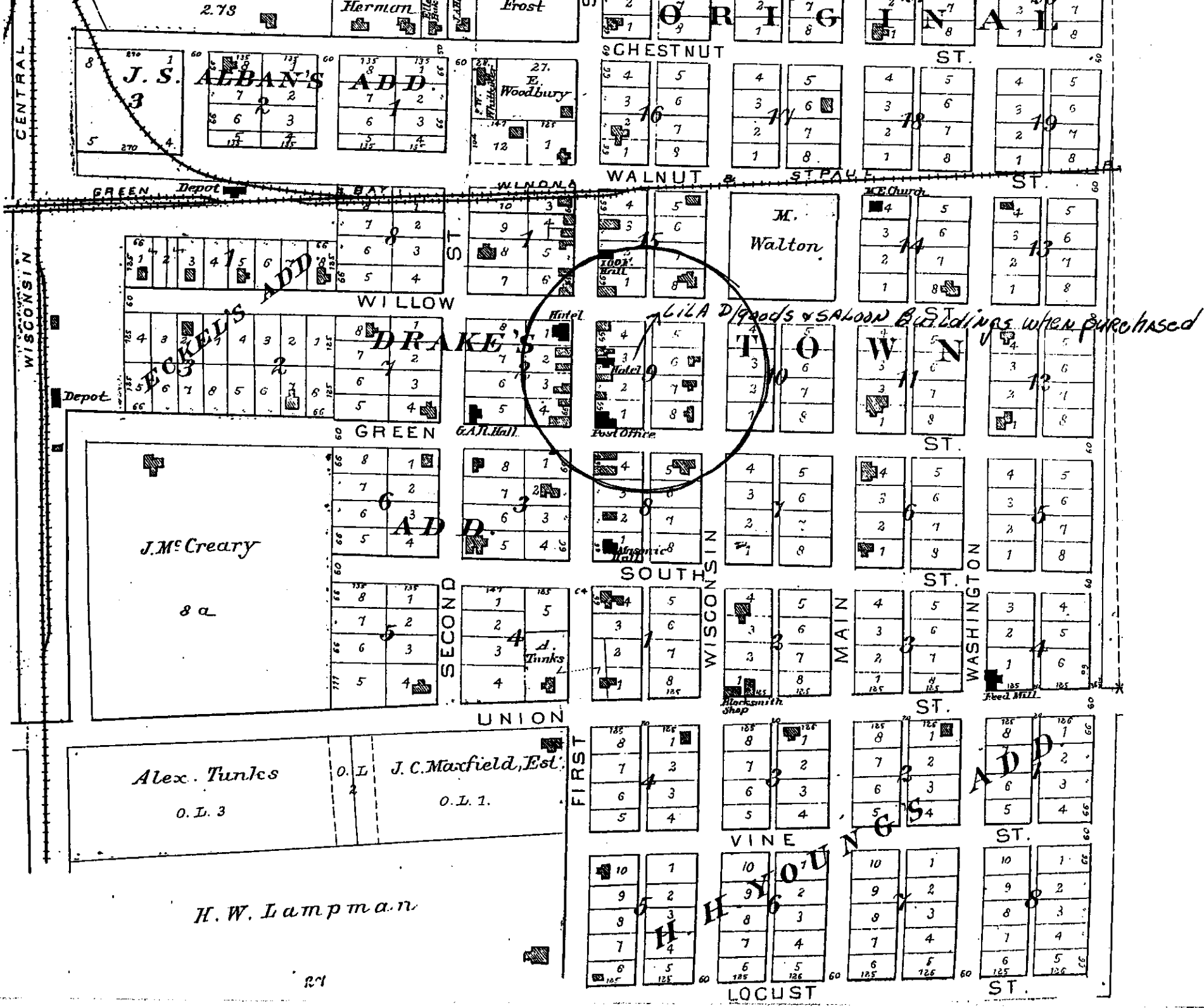
LOCATED IN PLOVER TWP.

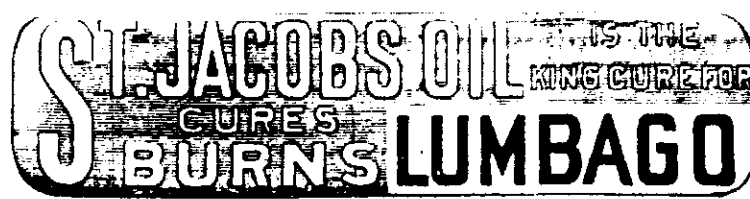
Scale: 300 Ft. = 1 in.

20

20







Slutts Bros.' Store

IS HEADQUARTERS

FOR

Everything in the Grocery Line

TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING PRICES :

5 pounds	Good Japan Tea,	\$1.00
5 "	Crushed Mocha and Java Coffee,	1.00
12 "	California Prunes,	1.00
	New Raisins, per pound,	.05
	Fine Cut, good quality, per pound,	.25
	Plug Tobacco, good quality, per pound,	.25
	Badger Tobacco, "Smoking," per pound,	.14
	Standard " " " " " "	.22
	Saleratus, "Arm and Hammer Brand," per lb.,	.06
	Yeast Foam, per package,	.04
	Wheatena "Health Food," per package,	.25
	California Breakfast Food, per package,	.13
	Monarch Mince Meat, " " "	.08
	Salmon, good quality, per can,	.10
	Canned Corn, good quality, per can,	.08
	Canned Apples,	.10
	Canned Tomatoes,	.10
29 Bars	Centennial Soap, for	1.00
29 "	Badger " " "	1.00
29 "	Kirk's Cabinet Soap, for	1.00
29 "	Best German Family Soap, for	1.00

Best Brands of Flour always on Hand.

Butter and Eggs a Specialty.

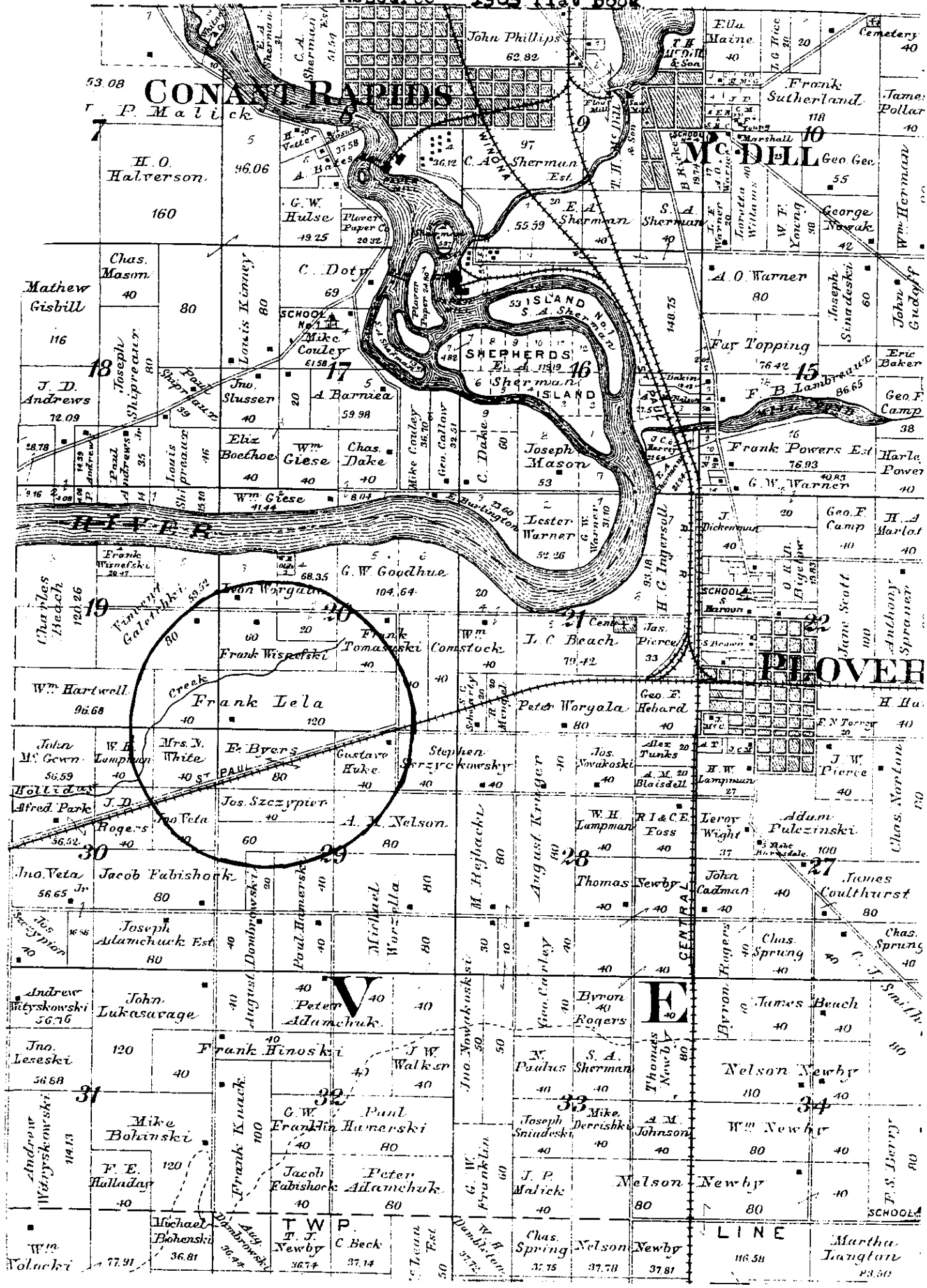
Goods Delivered to any part of the city.

CORNER CLARK STREET
AND STRONG'S AVE.

SLUTTS BROS.

1895

Advertisement
taken from a
Stevens Point
Journal.



STATE OF WISCONSIN, }
County of Portage, } ss.

Frank Lila

personally appeared before the subscriber, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, it being a Court of Record, and made oath that he was born in *Germany* on or about the year 18 *62*; that he emigrated to the United States and landed at the port of *New York* on or about the month of *May* in the year 18 *88*; and that it is his bona fide intention to become a citizen of the United States, and renounce forever any allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate or Sovereignty, whatsoever, and particularly to *William II*
Emperor of Germany
whereof he is a subject.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this *2nd* day of *November*, A. D. 189 *6*.

W. J. Delaney, CLERK.

By *F. W. Leahy*, Deputy.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF NATURALIZATION

Petition, Volume 1, page 12. Sub. Volume 5068, page 1.
 Description of holder: Age 46 years; height 5 feet 7 inches; color white; complexion dark; color of eyes hazel; color of hair dark; visible distinguishing marks none.

Name, age and place of residence of wife Mareyanna Lilane Nielnska, age 46 yrs., Flower.
 Names, ages and places of residence of minor children John Sila, age 20 yrs., David Sila, age 18 yrs.,
Minnie Sila, age 16 yrs., Julian Sila, age 14 yrs., Theodore Sila, age 12 yrs., Francis Sila, age 10 yrs.,
Stephen Sila, age 7 yrs., Frank Sila, age 5 yrs. All reside at Flower, Wisconsin.

State of Wisconsin

Portage County

S.S.

Frank Sila

(Signature of holder)

Be it remembered, that at a general term of the Circuit court of Portage County, Wis.
 held at Stevens Point on the 16th day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred
 and Eight, Frank Sila, who previous to his naturalization was a ^{foreign} subject of
Germany at present residing at Flower Town of Flower
Portage County ^{State} Wisconsin ^{Territory} Wisconsin having applied to be admitted
 a citizen of the United States of America, pursuant to law, and the court having found that the petitioner had resided con-
 tinuously within the United States for at least five years and in this ^{State} Wisconsin for one year immediately preceding the date of
 the hearing of his petition, and that said petitioner intends to reside permanently in the United States, had in all respects
 complied with the law in relation thereto, and that he was entitled to be so admitted, it was thereupon ordered by
 the said court that he be admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

In testimony whereof the seal of said court is hereunto affixed on the 21st day of November
 in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and Eight and of our Independence the
 one hundred and thirtysecond.

J. H. Gimm
 Clerk of Circuit Court.
 (Official character of attestor.)

1991 - aerial view of Lila farm



back view of home

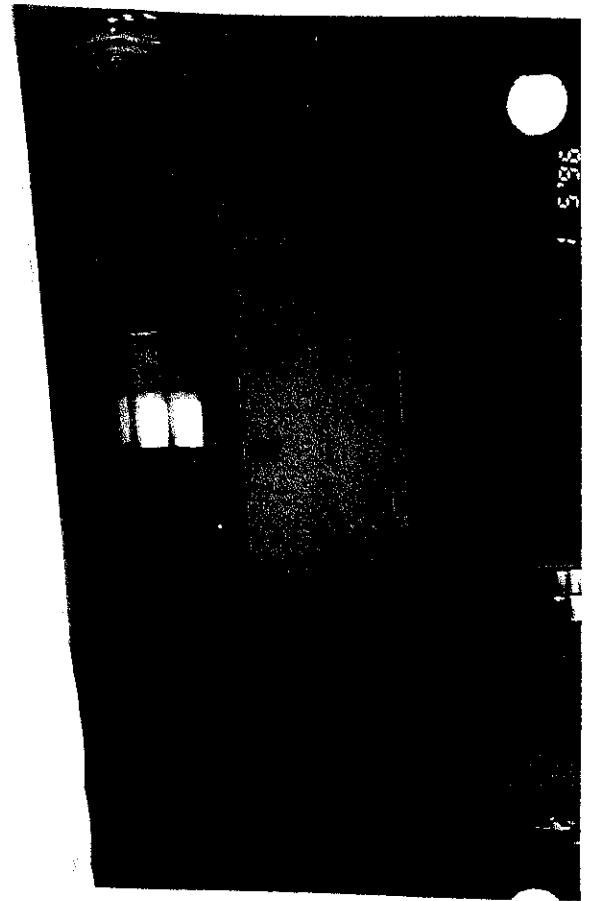


Corner stone of house



Some views of the Lila house interior

West end of kitchen



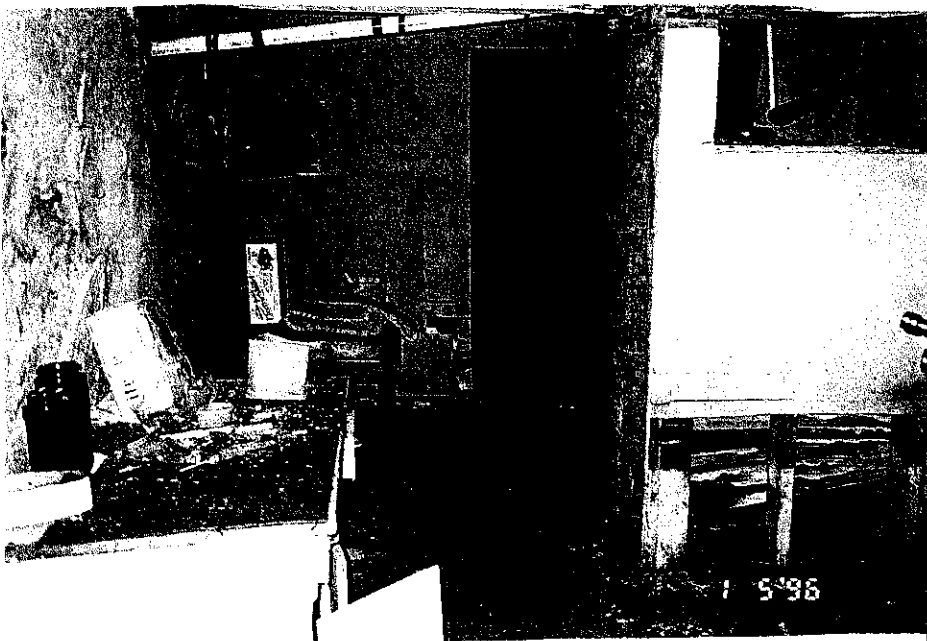
East end of kitchen



Stairs as seen from
up stairs landing



View of basement plastered walls



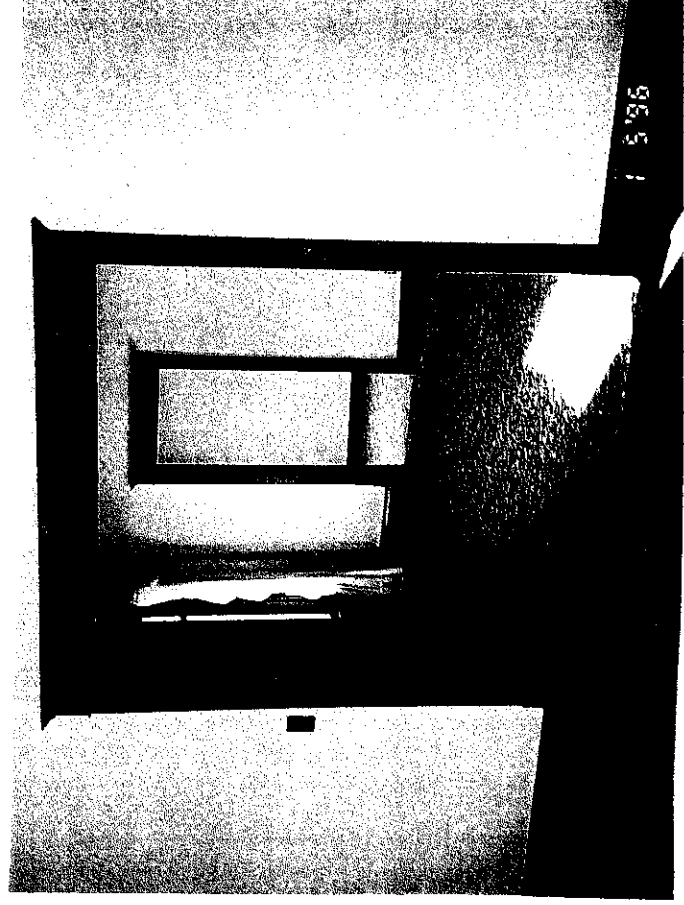
Dining Room side of pocket
door leading to parlor.



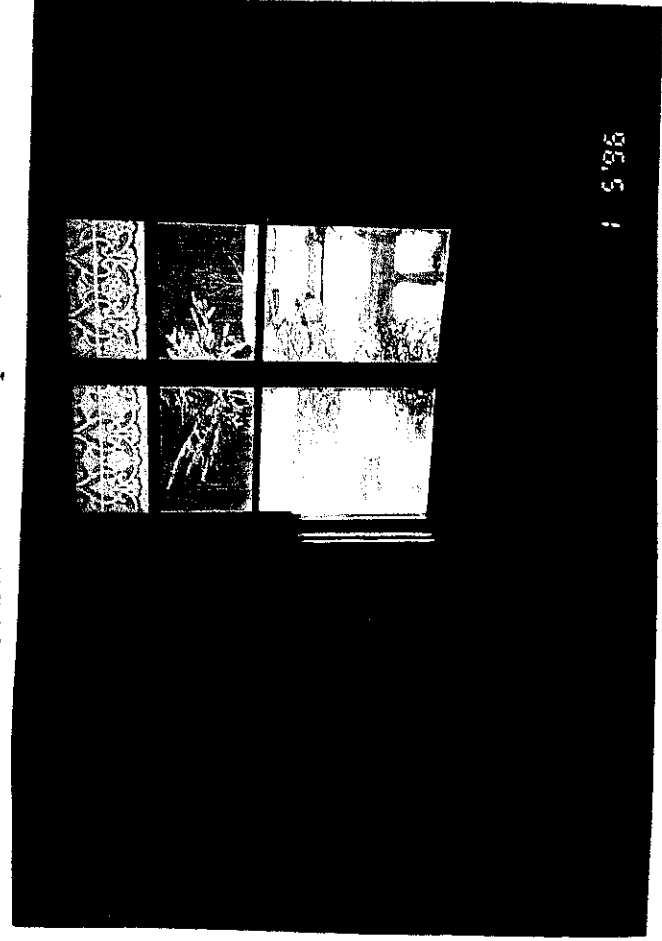
South wall of parlor



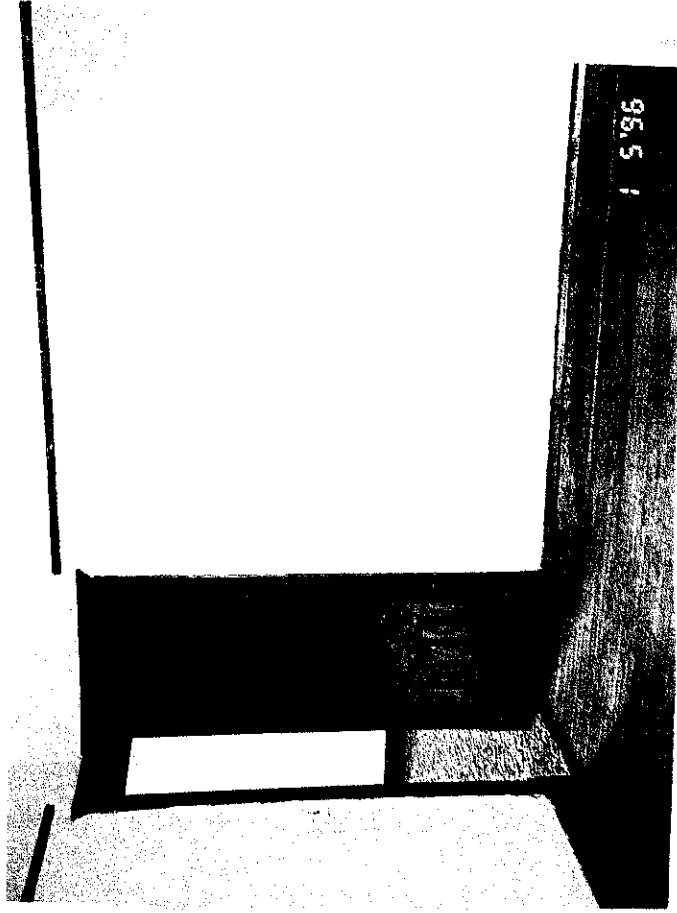
View from parlor, looking at
dining room & small bedroom



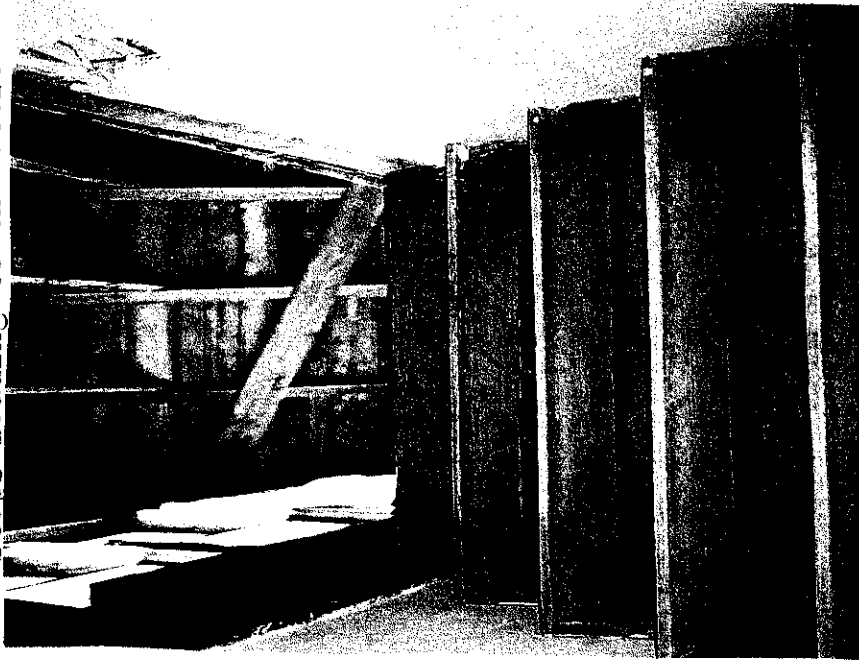
South wall of parlor



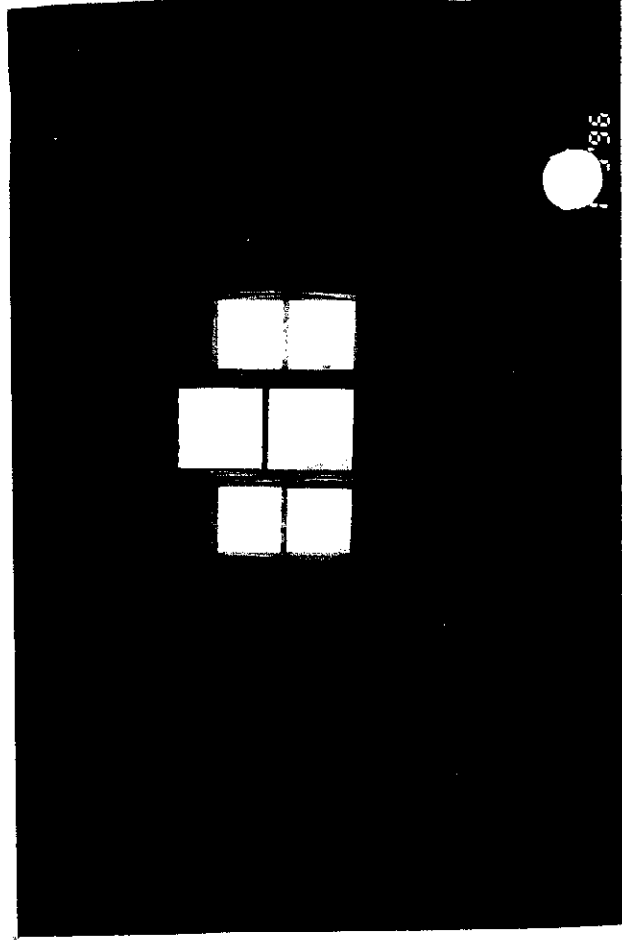
East wall of master bedroom,
entering off dining room



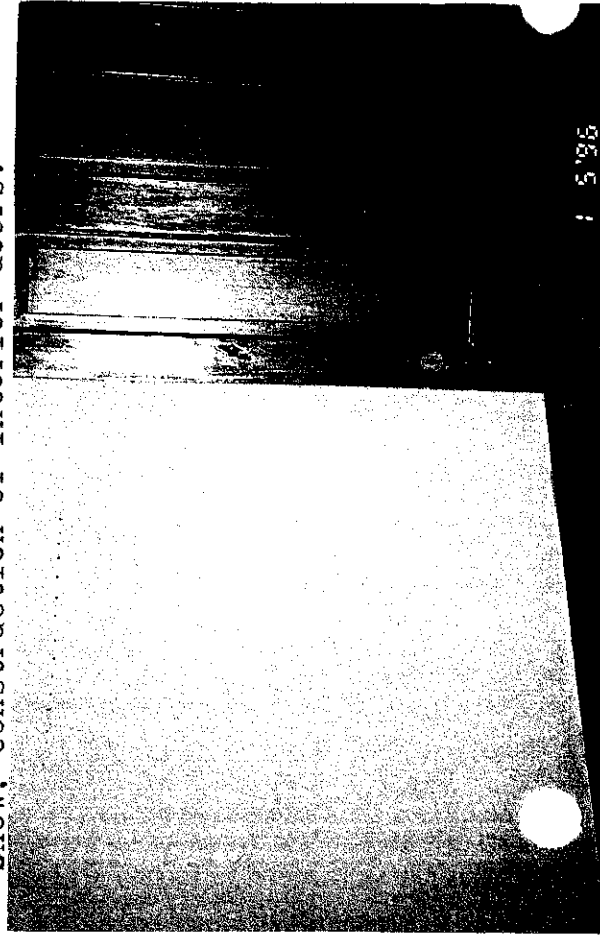
Steps leading to the attic



Looking east in attic from steps.



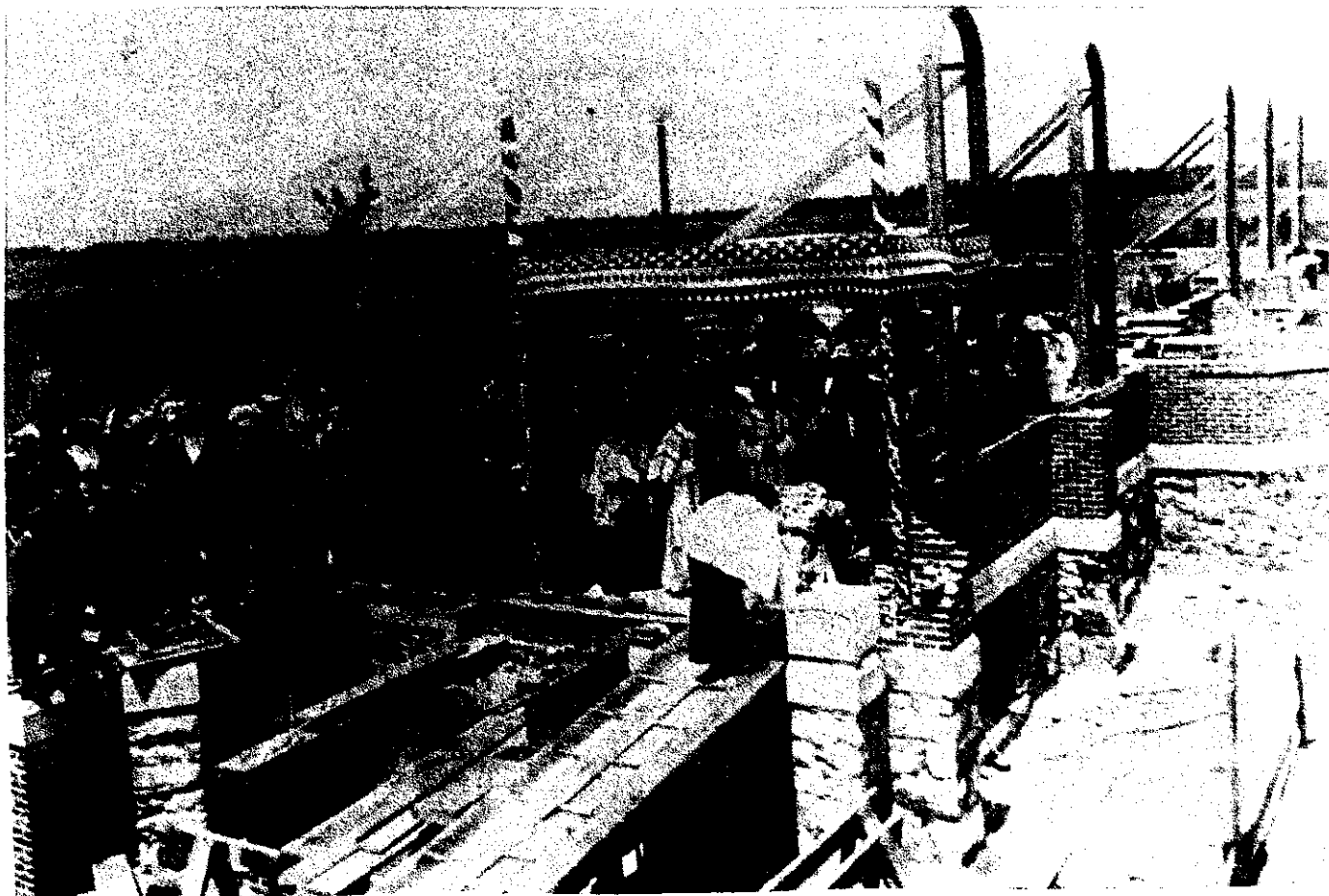
Show. construction of interior doors.



Stevens Point, 1880s,
A growing city needed building materials. The bricks curing here are
at the Langenberg Brickyard located on the Northern edge of Stevens
Point. The Lila house bricks were bought locally, maybe here.



Flover, 1911. Laying the cornerstone at St. Bronsilava.





ON THE WAY OUT?: The future of the Lila farmhouse, E808 Plover Road, town of Plover, which was built around 1900, is uncertain due to the Highway 54 expansion project.

Daily Tribune/John Maniaci

Lila farmhouse options

DOT will give it away for the cost of move and restoration, sell it to highest bidder or demolish

By MARK SCARBOROUGH
Tribune Staff Writer

TOWN OF PLOVER — Attention history lovers.

If you've got a bunch of money you don't know what to do with, there's a turn-of-the-century farmhouse on Plover Road, a real "fixer-upper," that's free for the asking.

However, you'll need to spend a chunk of change restoring it to its original appearance.

And it does need to be moved.

This is the latest chapter in the saga of the Lila farmhouse, E808 Plover Road, about one-quarter mile from the west edge of the village of Plover, between Coolidge and Grant avenues.

The place, built in the early 1900s with a distinctive porch, is in the path of a soon-to-be expanded Highway 54, said Joe Lacenski, design supervisor for the state Department of Transportation.

Lacenski keeps a 2½-inch thick "reference file" on the site, which initially attracted attention when federally protected Karner Blue butterflies were thought to live there. Discovering Karner habitat along the highway route could have complicated road-building.

Instead, the Karners occupied adjacent railroad land but not the Lila property, Lacenski said.

The Lila home, built of brick over a wooden shell, with a stone and concrete wrap-around porch, has been a challenge to road-builders, however.

After studying the property since 1990, the state DOT has "looked at all the alternatives and considered them all, finally deciding that the most feasible and prudent choice is to go through the house" to build the roadway, Lacenski said.

The DOT has worked with the

Here's an overview of the entire Highway 54 expansion project

- The entire 17-mile project from Wisconsin Rapids to Plover is expected to cost \$50 million, said Joe Lacenski, design supervisor for the state Department of Transportation. Work began in 1993 and should be completed by the end of 1998, he said.

- On the Plover end, a 1900s-era historic farmhouse, known as the Lila place, is on a 1.8-mile stretch that will be built by the end of 1996, Lacenski said. In that area, a four-lane roadway from about Coolidge Avenue to Wilson Street will cost \$5 million, he said.

"We've done everything we can to record the structure,"

Lacenski said. "Elements of the home's architecture have been documented and registered with the Library of Congress. And we are obligated to make a good faith effort to relocate the building."

- Work on the Wisconsin Rapids end this summer will involve utilities as well as removal and relocation of homes and other buildings between 48th and 80th streets, Lacenski said, while relocation and removal of homes will begin on 8th Street, near Riverview Expressway, throughout this summer and fall. "The work in Wisconsin Rapids shouldn't hinder traffic there," he said.

U.S. Department of Interior's National Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Parks Department, the U.S. Highway Department, and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin's Office of Historic Preservation.

Due to its distinctive masonry porch, the Lila farmhouse is currently eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, Lacenski said, but the porch is not movable.

"Based on contacts we've had with a moving company, the porch would have to be a total rebuild," he said. "You'd need a brand new porch assembly. You'd pick the best of what's there, then make molds and cast all-new concrete railings."

The porch isn't the only feature of the home in poor repair, Lacenski said. "The first floor is failing, so you'd need brand new construction there, too," he said.

From what DOT officials have learned, the reconstruction could be "cost prohibitive," Lacenski said.

But if someone is willing to pay the restoration price and cost of moving the home, the DOT will give the Lila place away. It even would

contribute whatever cost it might take to demolish the home to the potential new owner's moving fund.

To help win a place on the National Register and "maintain its historical, architectural integrity," the farmhouse would need a new porch identical to the old one, Lacenski said.

The state's historic preservation office would help select the home's new owner and re-evaluate the structure 90 days after the move to determine if it remains eligible for the National Register, he said.

And it also would have to be brought up to all current, electrical, plumbing and building codes.

If no one expresses interest in restoring the home as a historic structure, it could be sold to the highest bidder for a dwelling or other non-historical use, Lacenski said. If no one expresses interest in the home at all, the DOT could have the place demolished, he said.

To expand Highway 54, the site needs to be "completely clear" by late 1995 or early 1996, said Lacenski.

House for sale — cheap

Curious people interested in intricate farmhouse

By MYSTIQUE MACOMBER
Tribune Staff Writer

PLOVER — The curiosity-seekers came, seemingly in droves, to get a peek behind the brick facade and ornate concrete porch of the Lila farmhouse.

A state Department of Transportation open house Wednesday afternoon drew visitors with time on their hands and many with dreams in their hearts.

They recalled driving past the old farmhouse, just west of Plover on Highway 54 in the town of Plover, for years. They recalled wondering what it looked like inside. They recalled their children calling it the most beautiful house on earth.

Standing in the light rain, gazing up at the curving porch roof line and dormer windows above, visitors from Stevens Point thrilled at the sight.

"I've always liked this house," said Julie Holmes, who has been driving past it for the 21 years she's lived in Stevens Point. "I came to see what it looked like."

"And what kind of shape it was in," Mary Weisner said.

"I'd like to be able to put it up somewhere and fix it up," Holmes said. "The cost to move it might be excessive. 'Tis a great house."

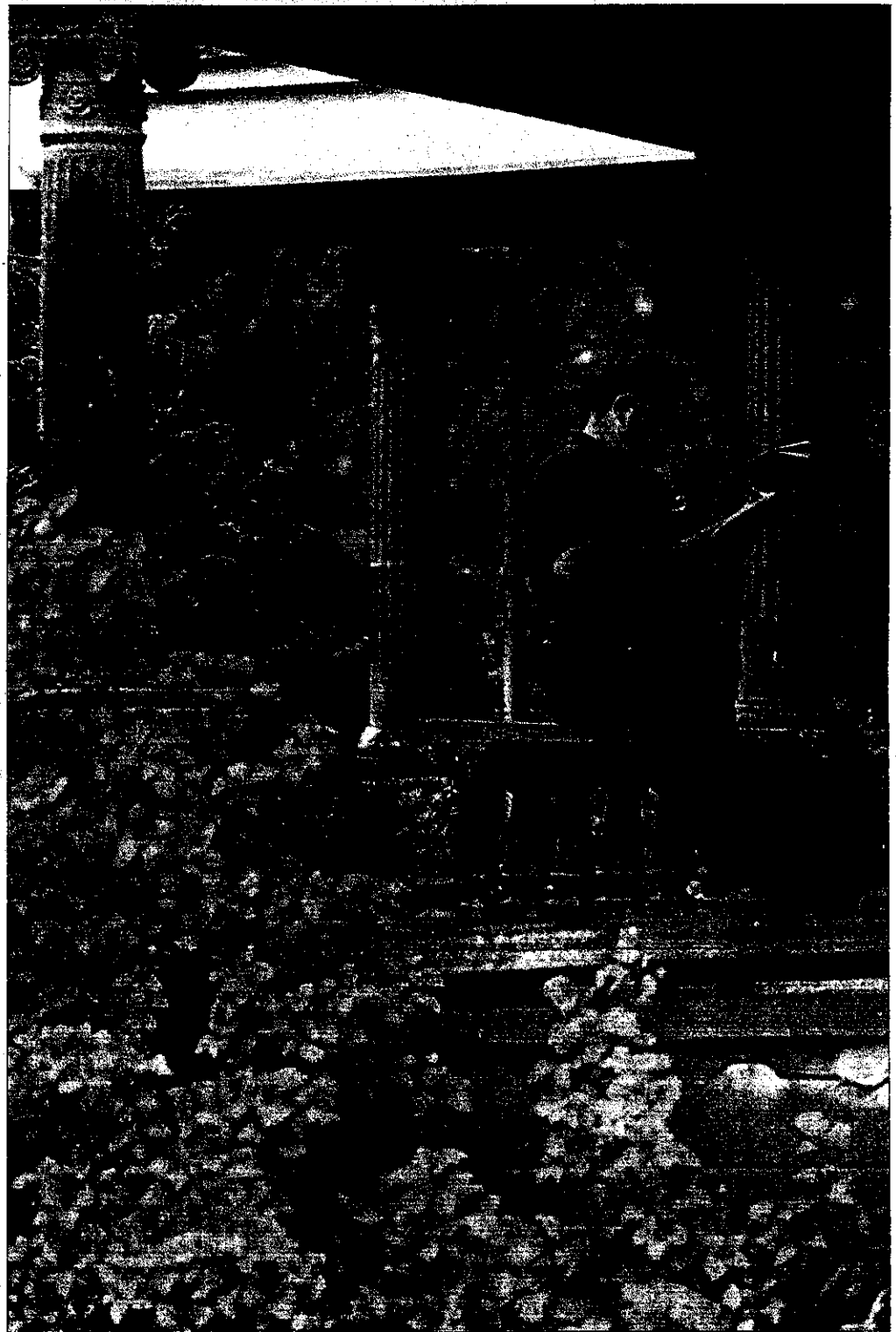
The cost to move the home seemed to be the greatest of worries of those with a potential interest in moving and restoring the property. The DOT has not determined if the building can be moved. That's up to interested parties to determine as they fill out proposals for possible restoration.

The house, at E808 Plover Road, now is owned by the DOT. It either will be moved by March 15 or razed to make room for the Highway 54 expansion/reconstruction project.

The DOT is offering it free of charge and tossing in \$7,800 toward moving costs. That's how much the DOT would have to pay to have the building razed.

"I hope we can find a person who can pull it off," said Mary O'Brien, a DOT consultant in charge of the Lila farmhouse. "It would be nice to have it moved. It would be so exciting to see it preserved."

For those interested, O'Brien said the inside of the house probably could be changed and modernized. "They can't expect you to live in a house that doesn't meet modern safety standards," she told visitors. But the historic feature of



STEVE DAVIS/Daily Tribune

Jim Johnson of Almond stands on the front porch of the Lila house while looking over paperwork of the old farmhouse. The Department of Transportation

offered an open house Wednesday for anyone interested in restoring it. The DOT is offering it free of charge and tossing in \$7,800 toward moving costs.

the house, the crumbling concrete porch, must be refurbished.

"The porch is the key feature of the entire house," O'Brien said. "If that porch had not been there ... (the house) would not need to be preserved."

Mary Croft, Plover, said the porch is her favorite feature. "It's a charming old house. I would love to see it preserved"

Bonnie Maher, Stevens Point, said preservation was the reason she visited. "It's historic preservation. I live in a house that's on the National Historic Register."

Even if the Lila farmhouse is torn down, photographs and information about it are on file with the National Register in Washington, D.C., O'Brien said.

Me and my wife are kind of

interested in it," said Kevin Feltz, Amherst Junction, who was giving the house a close, critical eye.

"I came to see what it looks like, see what it would take to get it moved. So I don't know," he said. "I don't know if it would stand a move. Just a dream, I guess."

House giveaway

Bargain hunters flock for chance at free house

By LINCOLN BRUNNER
of the Journal

It's been a busy couple of days for Mary Ellen O'Brien.

O'Brien was listed as the contact in recent legal ads and news articles announcing the Department of Transportation's offering of the historic Lila family farmhouse free of charge.

After legal ads ran last week, O'Brien got about half a dozen serious proposals from people offering to preserve the 1910 structure, E808 Highway 54 in the

town of Plover, to its original state.

But on Tuesday, news reports made their way across the wires, sparking a flood of phone calls and inquiries to O'Brien, who helped do the historic documentation required for the DOT to run an expanded Highway 54 through the property.

O'Brien was aghast.

"For some reason, it's gotten way out of hand," she said. "It's very burdensome. I had no idea that was going to happen."

"I've been on the phone since 7 this morning," she said Thursday afternoon. "I expect I'm going to have 1,800 messages on my phone this weekend."

Joe Lacenski, the DOT design engineer overseeing the Lila project, said a thick stack of preservation requirements makes the process a lot more involved and costly than most people realize.

For starters, the ornate concrete porch must be dismantled, the pieces copied in molds, then reconstructed as an exact replica. A new basement has to be dug for the home. Then comes a reconstructed first floor, plus new wiring and plumbing.

Oh yes. There is also the cost of moving the home, for which one seeker received a quote of \$50,000 to move it a little more than 20 miles.

"A lot of folks I talked to, when I told them what they were getting themselves into, they said, 'We're no longer interested,'" said Lacenski, who has taken about 20 house calls himself. "As people check into moving costs, they're falling by the wayside."

"It is definitely not for everyone," he said. "(It takes) someone who knows what they're doing and someone with deep pockets."

In the last couple of days, O'Brien has sent out roughly 60 packets to people as far away as Chicago requesting how they could put in their bids for the house.

O'Brien said most calls she's

gotten are from people who don't understand the intent of the giveaway.

"They're not getting that it's a historic preservation effort," she said. "They're missing the point. The whole reason we're doing this is to restore it and bring it up to its historic architecture."

A Wednesday open house gave organizers a bit of a shock, as well, drawing nearly 250 people to the 1,400-square-foot home.

"No one was ready for that kind of crowd," O'Brien said.

Not to mention, "Most of them were not seriously interested in preserving the house," she said.

Lacenski said he was expecting "maybe 30" at the open house. But so be it, he said.

"Granted, a lot of people were curiosity seekers," he said. "We had to make a good-faith effort to move it. I feel we did that. We followed up and went through."

Deadline for requesting an application is today, and the DOT will take no proposals on the house after Sept. 11.

Just one of curious show formal interest in house

Family files application to move, restore Lila farmhouse in Portage County

By MYSTIQUE MACOMBER
Tribune Staff Writer

While the curious showed up in great numbers to view the Lila farmhouse last month, only one was willing to make a proposal to move and restore the building with historic features.

"That was a bit of a disappointment because we sent out 95" (packets of information), said Mary O'Brien, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Madison consultant.

Both O'Brien and Joseph Lacenski, DOT Highway 54 design supervisor, had hoped for more, especially with the large

turnout at last month's open house.

Nearly 250 people paused to look inside the old house just west of Plover on Highway 54. The DOT is offering it free to anyone with the wherewithal to move and restore it to make room for the Highway 54 expansion and reconstruction project.

The normal ranking process the DOT planned to use to choose the best proposal isn't applicable, O'Brien said.

"We'll work with one individual who is interested," she said. "If they are successful and can demonstrate" the ability to move the house and restore it, "it would be theirs."

Lacenski said the interested family is "serious on it. We'll work with that family and see what they can do from there."

O'Brien declined to name the family but said it "intends to

use (the farmhouse) for its original purpose, as a home in a similar, wooded location." The house would remain in Portage County, she said.

The family "expressed a willingness to preserve it and restore the original architecture."

The ornate, concrete front porch is the feature that saved the house from razing initially, but it cannot be moved and would need to be rebuilt at the house's new location. The remaining exterior of the house also would need to stay virtually the same.

"I am still hoping this will work out," O'Brien said. "The biggest surprise is that we got only one out of 95." There is the possibility another one or two could arrive in the mail, postmarked by the Sept. 11 deadline, "but that is unlikely at this point," she said.



STEVE DAVIS/Daily Tribune

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has received just one offer to move and restore the historical

cal Lila farmhouse. It is just west of Plover on Highway 54 and was open for viewing last month.

So, the waiting game continues a little longer, as the family conducts more research into the expense and feasibility of moving. But O'Brien said a decision is not too far off.

The house needs to be moved off the site by March 15 for the DOT to continue Highway 54

construction in that area. "If it doesn't work out, then the next stage is DOT planning for demolition of the house," she said.

"If it all falls through, we've got to go in there," Lacenski said. "There's a lot to be done in a short amount of time."

He said many people who at-

tended the open house thanked him for it, for the chance to see the farmhouse so many have driven past for so many years.

"No one can say we didn't make a good-faith effort to try and relocate it and get it re-stored," Lacenski said.



STEVE DAVIS Daily Tribune

This view of Highway 54 looks to the east, toward Plover, out of the attic windows of the historic Lila Farmhouse in the Portage County town of Plover.

Lila farmhouse offers a peek into the past

Visitors find glimmers of beauty under dust and dirt

By MYSTIQUE MACOMBER
Tribune Staff Writer

PLOVER — What is in us that we yearn for the old — hardwood floors and window trim, 12-foot ceilings and pocket doors, the creaks of age-old stairs and the wavy image through an ancient window pane?

Many who stopped Wednesday to see the Lila farmhouse, just west of Plover on Highway 54 in the town of Plover, were peeking into the past.

They lovingly touched the door frames and drew a toe along the hardwood. They peered through windows and admired a barn — out of use but still looming huge. They ran their fingers along the concrete porch railing and their eyes along the gabled roof.

They could see that despite the smells of closed-up rooms and too-old carpets, there were glimmers of beauty.

They looked past the poorly painted green and orange walls to the cubbed dormer windows. They noticed the ornamented back door hidden under layers of paint.

They saw beyond the cracked

and crumbling concrete porch columns to the beautiful curve of the railing and its overall solid, yet graceful sweeping expanse.

They peeked beneath musty carpets and tiling at the hardwood floors in need of sanding and polishing.

They climbed the narrow, steep attic stairs to stare out of the huge windows that offered green, breathtaking views on the east and west sides of the house.

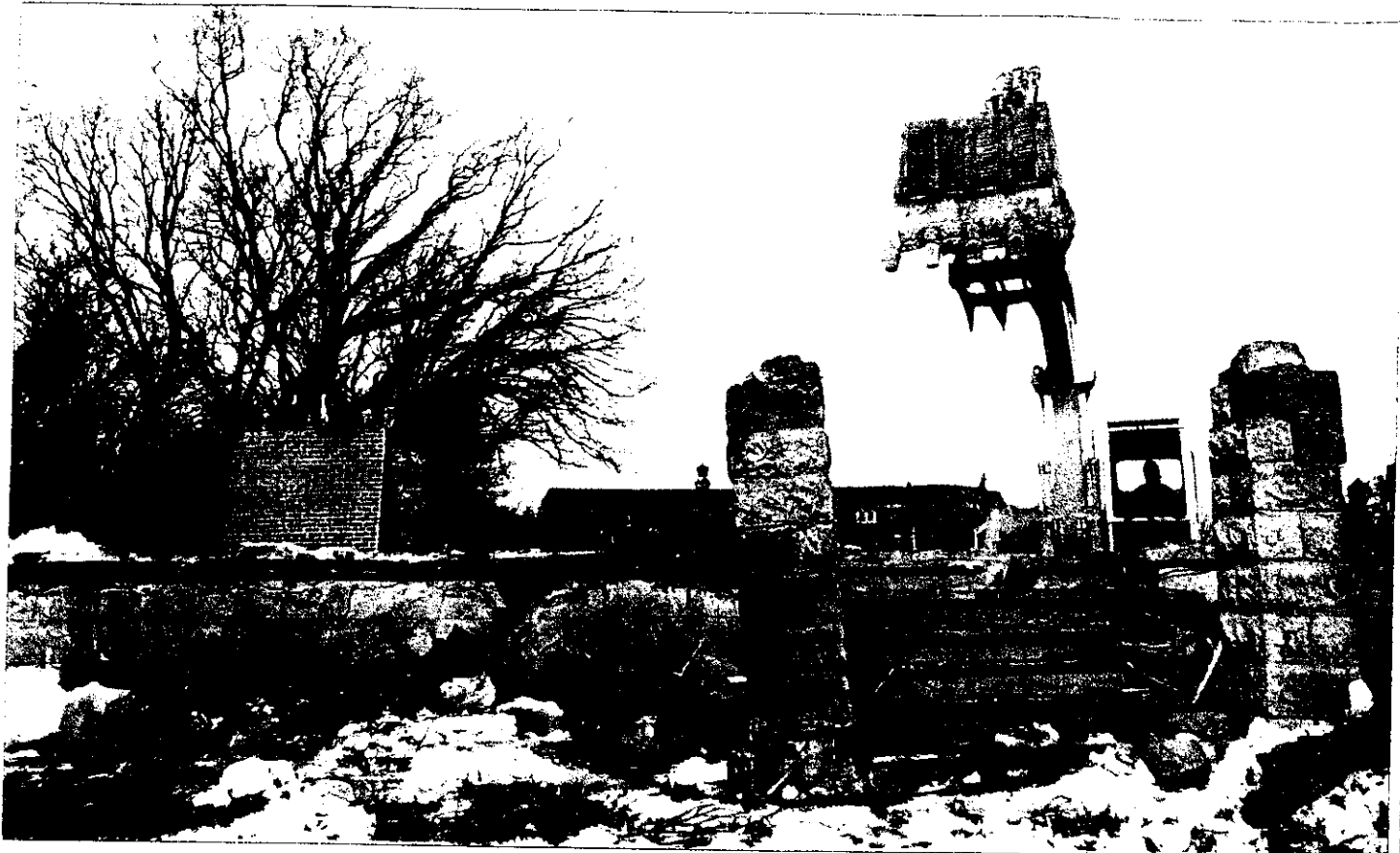
Will anyone have the wherewithal and stamina to move the farmhouse from its roots? Will the house itself, with its plaster walls and brick shell, withstand a move?

The fate of the farmhouse

must be decided soon, though. The expanded and reconstructed Highway 54 will run through where it now stands, and the house must be gone by March 15.

For anyone with the finances and desire, the farmhouse is free for the taking. Proposals are being solicited. An information packet on the property and the items to include in a proposal are available by calling Mary O'Brien, DOT consultant, Transportation Environmental Management Inc., toll-free at (800) 475-8333.

The closing date for receiving proposals is Sept. 11. Information packets should be requested by Friday to meet the deadline.



JOHN MANIAC/Daily Tribune

The remains of the Lila farmhouse are removed as rubble by a Somers Aggregates Ltd. crane Tuesday in the town of Plover. After efforts to

save it were unsuccessful, the farmhouse was demolished to make way for an expanded Highway 54.

History crumbles to expansion

Highway 54 project continues where farmhouse stood

By ROBYN LONTZ
Tribune Staff Writer

TOWN OF PLOVER — It took just a few firm shoves with a bulldozer and a bit of history came tumbling to the ground along Highway 54 Tuesday.

In a two-day project, workers from Somers Aggregates Ltd., Plover, are demolishing the 1900s-era Lila farmhouse, just west of Plover at E808 Plover Road.

It didn't take long for the historic house, which stands in the way of the Highway 54 expansion project, to come down Tuesday.

Before then, Department of Transportation officials had done everything in their power to stop that from happening — even offering to give the structure away.

Last summer, the DOT began to actively solicit anyone willing to remove the house for restora-

tion.

Despite a lot of interest at an open house and nearly 100 requests for information, transportation officials did not obtain a commitment by November.

In January, Somers was awarded the contract for the "salvage/demolition" for \$6,747.

"We call it a salvage/demolition because the person we contracted with had to agree to salvage and sell any portions of the structure it could," said Joe Lacenski, DOT designer for the Highway 54 project.

Mike Somers said he subcontracted with a firm from Wausau to "salvage everything of significance from door knobs to door frames."

Items salvaged and sold prior to Tuesday's demolition included windows, interior woodwork, door frames, porch railings and the concrete pillars that stood out in front of the home, he said.

With the farmhouse down and two other buildings expected out of the way this spring, Lacenski said, DOT crews will work until



JOHN MANIAC/Daily Tribune

A marker shows 1910 as the year Frank Lila finished his farmhouse at E808 Plover Road. A demolition crew leveled the building Tuesday.

midsummer relocating utilities along the stretch of Highway 54 just west of Plover.

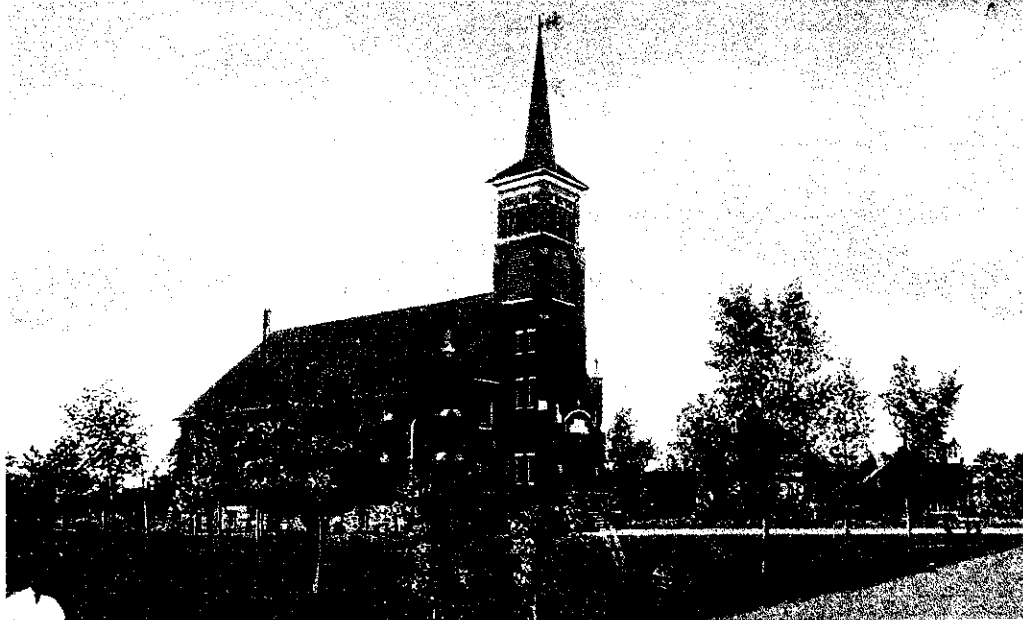
Bids for the section from Coolidge Avenue to Wilson Street in Portage County will be let in June, and construction is set to start in August or September, he said.

"Crews plan on working on that portion of 54 until freeze-up,

then resuming again in the spring."

Bids for the stretch of the highway from Wilson Street to Maple Drive will be let in September, with the spring of 1997 as the target startup date.

The overall Highway 54 project involves expanding the road to four lanes between Wisconsin Rapids and Plover.

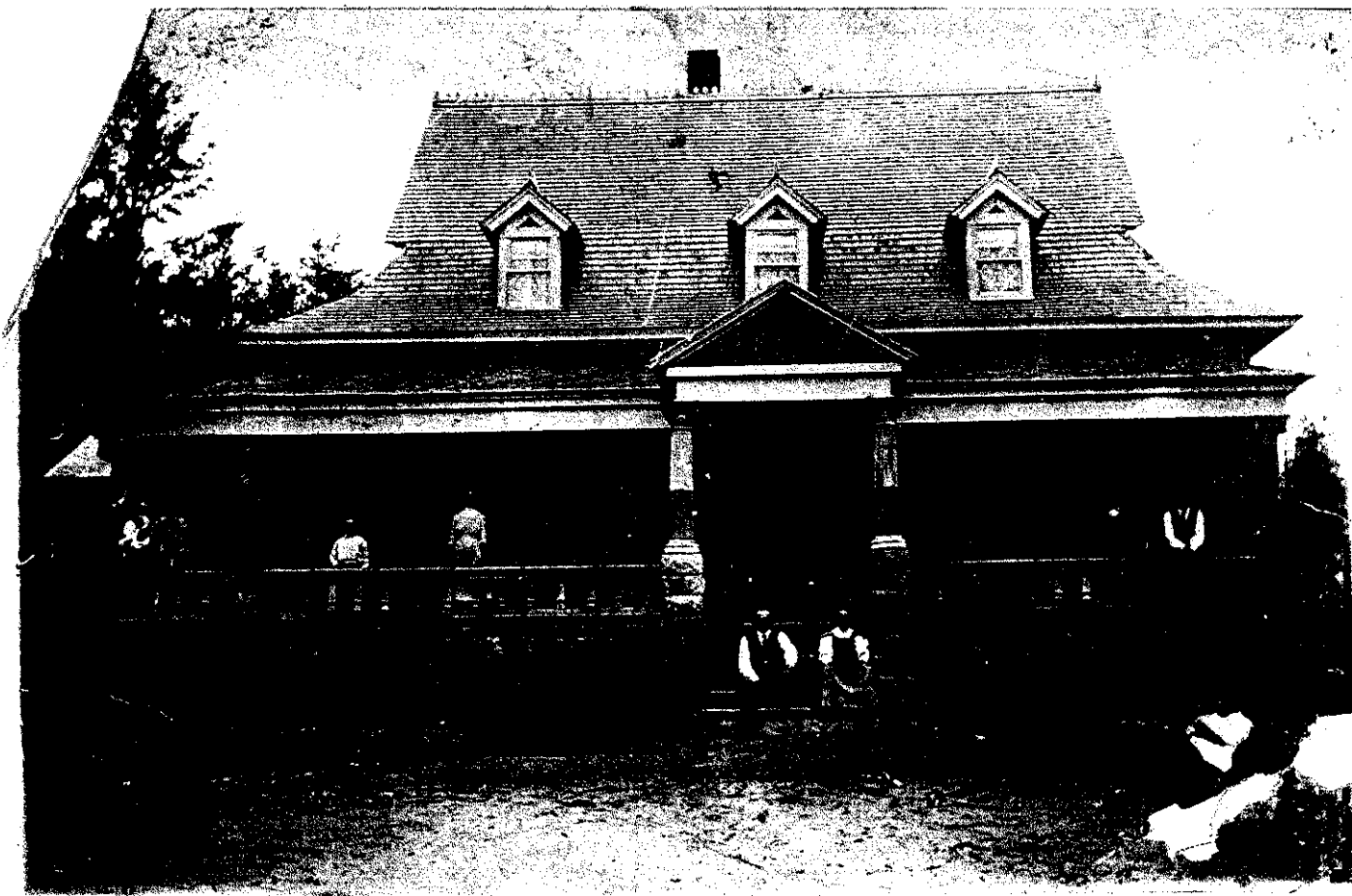


BRONISLAVA POLISH R. C. CHURCH, PLOVER, WIS.

Church, rectory, parochial school



ST. BRONISLAVA'S first school was built in 1908. It had 60 students when it opened in 1909. The school burned down in February 1936, due to a chimney fire. Construction is ready to begin on a new school, almost 60 years later.



Note: the ornamental roof line of the house. Looking at the people on the porch beside Frank/Marcyanna, could be John Lapinski, Catherine, Frank, Frances, Minnie and ?. The year approximately 1915.



Uncle Frank stated that, pa always had nice horses.



50th wedding anniversary in 1933
 Frances, Minnie & Marcyanna
 Frank, Stephen, Julian & Theodore



First Holy Communion of Ben Lapinski
 around 1927
 Marcyanna, Frank
 Marion Lapinski



Frank & Marcyanna



Theodore Felix
Frank Sr.

John
Frances

Frank
Minnie
October of 1920

Julian

Stephen
Marcyanna

David

Family Reunion of 1964
 Frank, Stephen, Theodore, Julian, Dave, John
 Frances, Felix & Minnie



1983 Family Reunion
 Johanna, Mamie, Sophie
 Julian, Dave, Frank, Minnie & Frances

Two sisters relaxing



Felix Lila

1) Felix Lila was the son of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. Their first child was born on November 19, 1884 in Bruse, Germany.

According to his obituary, Felix accompanied his parents to the United States. Here is where the obituaries of father and son differ. Frank's states, after living in Milwaukee for a few years, moved to the Lila home in Plover. Felix's states, settling first in Milwaukee for a short time and then at Polonia before moving to the Plover vicinity.

He filed an application for admission to citizenship on July 6, 1911, posted on July 6, 1911 and March 11, 1912 had his final hearing. His witnesses were: John A. Adammczak, Wm Carley and J. W. Pierce.

His brother Frank states, Felix wasn't much for farm work. Instead he helped his dad, Frank, who had purchased a dry good and saloon business in 1901. In 1914 sold the dry good store to Felix. Then in 1919, sold his share to his brother Dave, continuing work as a clerk.

I was told, Felix could never turn anyone away because of their lack of finances when he ran the store. Had a heart of gold. Brother, Frank recalled, Felix wrote beautifully, bought a piano which he liked to play, had a girlfriend once, loved baseball, and would walk ten miles to see a ballgame.

Felix served as town treasurer for a number of years. Felix lived with his brother Dave and wife Susie until ill health and an amputation of a leg. Nephew, Greg, told of burying the leg on his grandfathers grave. After this, Felix was a resident at the Portage County Health Care Home.

Felix died on October 24, 1964. Immediate cause of death was cardiac arrest, due to coronary acculsion due to arteriosscleratic heart disease. The previous leg amputation, due to arteriosclerosis. Attending physician was Albin J. Sowak, M.D.

Funeral arrangements were through Dzikoski Funeral Home. Visitation and rosary was at the funeral home. A requiem mass was officiated at St. Bronsilava church with burial in the parish cemetery.

Pallbearers were Kenneth Lila, Robert Lila, David Lila Jr., Clifford Lila, Edmund Galecki and Ben Lapinski.

Mary Lila

2) Mary was the daughter of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. Their second child was born in Poland. She died on the voyage to America. Mary was buried at sea.

John & Praxeda (Lukasawitz) Lila



Praxeda (Lukasavitz) Lila



John - yr. 1918



Scrapbook of John Frank Lila



John Frank Lila



Praxeda B. Lila



Mary Ann Lila



Paul P. Lila



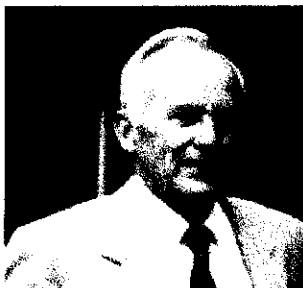
Robert J. Lila
July 1984



Loretta Lila



Lillian Lila



Gerald Lila



Patricia Lila

PAUL P. LILA
1423 E 3RD ST
MESA AZ 85203-8117

John Lila

3) John Frank Lila was the son of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. Their third child was born in Polonia on October 9, 1888. According to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Polonia, his records read, Johannes Lella, son of Franciscas Lella and Marcianna Kowalewski on October 14, 1888. His sponsors were Stephanus Haka and Marianna Haka.

Growing up, lived on his parents farm in the Town of Plover. John played the violin.

As a young man entered the service in 1918.

His occupation was a bricklayer and stone mason. In his adult life has lived in Milwaukee, WI. - Chicago & Evanston, Il. - and Phoenix, Az.

When doing the Galecki Family History I have been told on several occasions that as a young man John had played the trumpet.

John married Praxedas Barbara, daughter of John and Victoria (Wiktorja) Bohanski, Lukaszewicz on Tuesday June 20, 1922 at St. Bronsilava's church in Plover. The bridal attendants were: Bridget Lukasavitz, a cousin; Catherine (Rosenthal) Johnson, a friend; Stella Bohanski, a cousin. The groomsmen were: Domick Lukasavitz, brides brother; Theodore Lila, grooms brother; John Bohanski, brides cousin. The bridal procession was led by Eleanor Krueger, Raymond Krueger and Elizabeth Laskowski, the brides nieces and nephew.

His daughter Mary Ann writes, our dearly beloved Father (Popsicle) left a shining light of unequivocal honesty and staunch Christian faith. We never heard him use a foul word. His angry expressions were, "For Petes' sake", and if he was really upset, he'd add, "Gosh all fish hooks". He did our grocery shopping and was an excellent shopper too. Once when I remarked, "Gee Popsicle, I'm glad you shop. I just hate it," He answered, "Next to fishing I like shopping best". He was gentle and kind to a fault and has left such a void in our world, but such great memories.

John died on October 1, 1975 in Phoenix, Arizona. Burial was also in Phoenix Az.

Praxeda Lukasautitz, wife of John Lila

Praxeda Barbara Lukasautitz was born on June 2, 1897. Her father, John was born on March 10, 1860 in Poland. He died on November 7, 1951 and is buried in St. Bronislava cemetery. Her mother, Victoria (Wiktorja) Bohanski was born December 23, 1862 in Poznan Poland (Posen Germany). She died on May 21, 1943 and is buried at St. Bronislava Cemetery.

Praxeda's grandparents on her fathers side were Casimir and Veronica (Jabubowski) Lukasavitz. Grandparents on her mothers side were Michael and Franciscac (Bohanski) Stanislawska.

Mary Ann Lila writes, "My mothers' greatest aggravation now is, that her body won't allow her to keep up with her energy. For years she attended to the church linens and flowers. She was very active in the sodality. One year, she and her helpers dressed 65 dolls for the children sewed gathered supplies and boxed layettes for new babies. Her devotion to the Blessed Mother is great and about 15 years age, she designed and sewed 3 little angel outfits and each year trained 3 special little live angles in the special roles in the May Crowning Ceremonies - the tradition continues still."

John and Praxeda were parents of:

- 1) Mary Ann
- 2) Paul
- 3) Robert
- 4) Loretta
- 5) Mary
- 6) Gerald
- 7) Patricia

More information on following below:

- 1) Mary Ann Lila was born in Milwaukee on April 10, 1923. Single.
- 2) Paul Peter Lila was born in Milwaukee on June 9, 1924 and married Ann Nadine Tingle on January 14 1950 in Mobile, Ala.

Their children:

1) David Thomas Lila born - December 28, 1950
single

2) Paula Ann Lila born - June 18, 1952
Married James Murtagh in 1971 in Mesa, Az.

Their children:

1) Paula Ann Murtagh born - January 3, 1972
Married Casey Scott Sanchez on January 26,
1993.

Their children:

1) Garrett Hunter Sanchez

2) James Brian Murtagh
born - Nov. 2, 1975

3) Lee Ann Murtagh
born - Mar. 19, 1979
died - April 8, 1981

4) Kevin Conroy Murtagh
born - April 28, 1981

5) Thomas John Murtagh
born - Mar. 8, 1986

6) Michael Patrick Murtagh
born - Mar. 16, 1990

7) Kristen Murtagh
born - Mar. 16, 1990

3) Mark Andrew Lila born - December 8, 1961

3) Robert John Lila was born on June 25, 1925

Geraldine Hagen on November 23, 1947.

Their Children:

1) Robert John Lila Jr. was born on August 12, 1949
and married Julie Ann Dick on June 15, 1985

Their children:

1) Jeremy Dick born - November 3, 1974
(Stepchild)

2) Ronald Paul Lila was born on September 23,
1951 and married Florence Ann Condreay on
May 5, 1973.

Their children:

1) Deonne Michelle born - Feb. 8, 1974
and married Brian Chesterton on Feb.
2, 1974

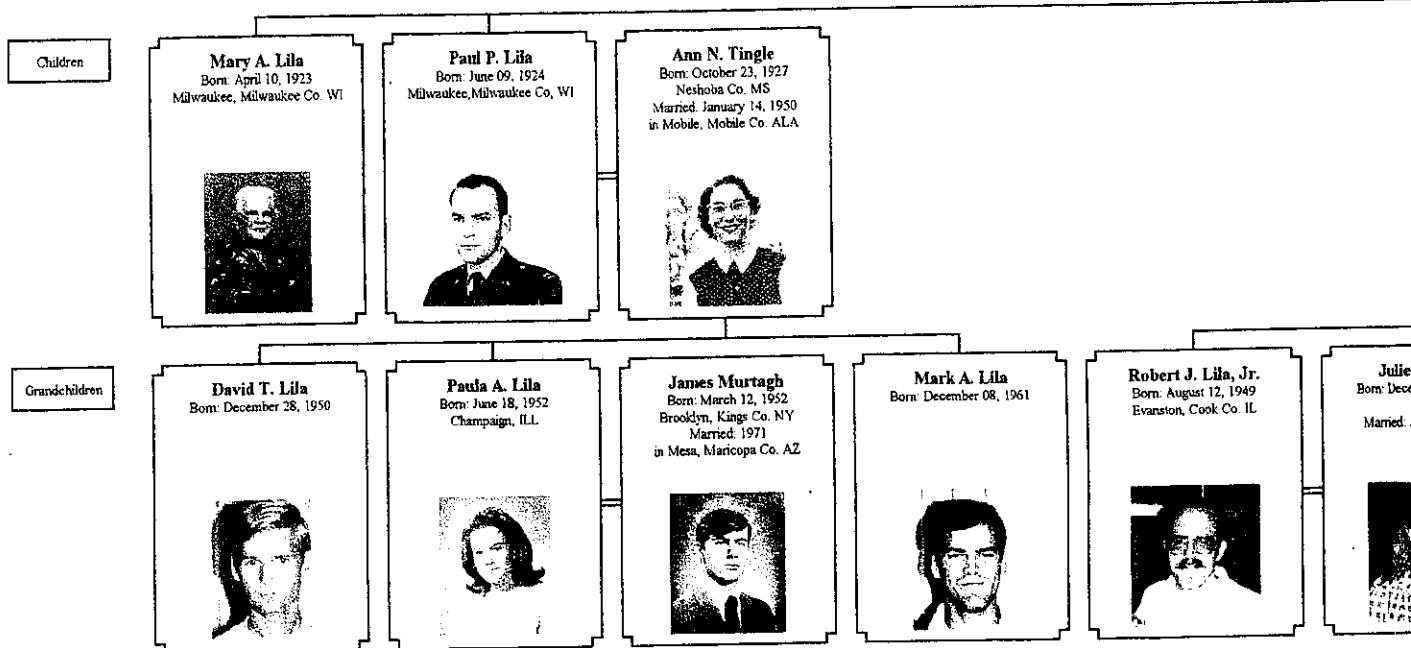
2) Douglas born - Oct. 14, 1975

3) Kevin born - Dec. 19, 1977

3) Lynette Lila born - October 25,

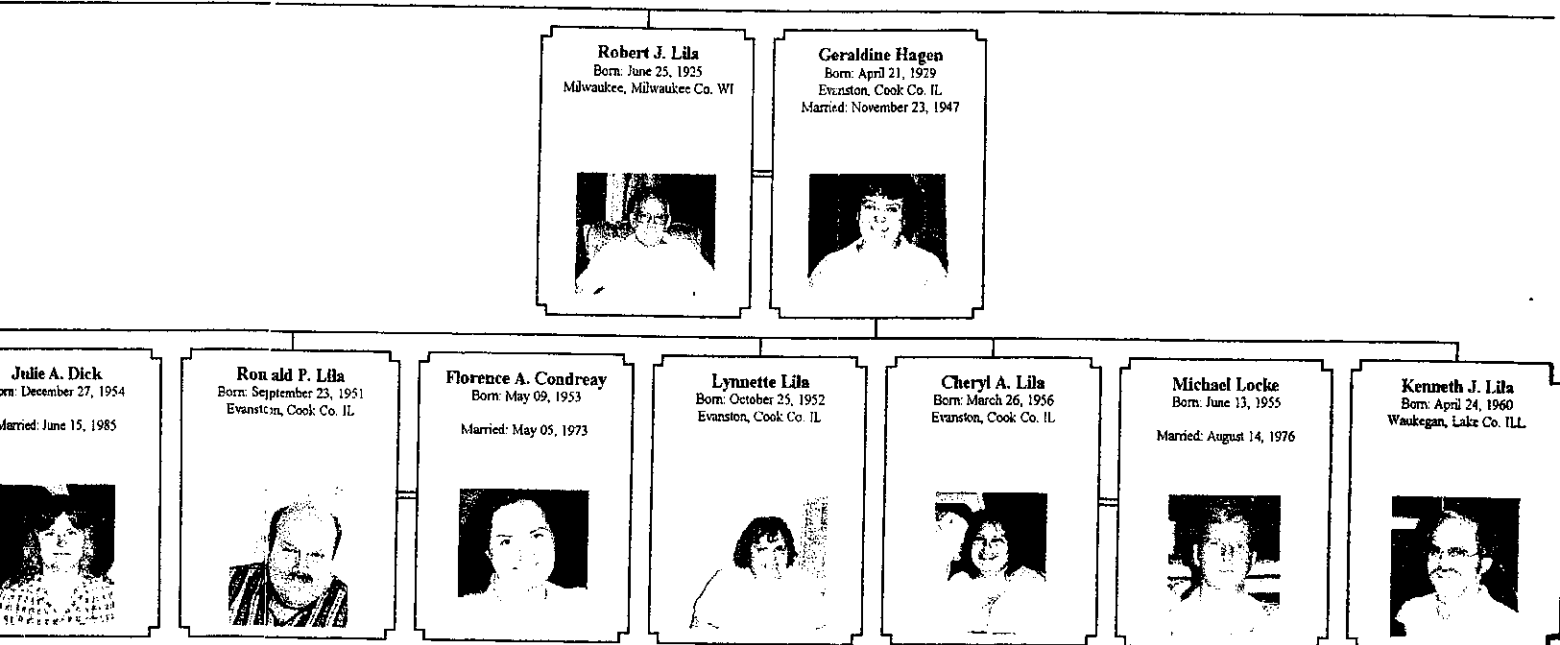
- 4) Cheryl Ann Lila was born on March 26, 1956 and married Michael Locke on Aug. 14, 1976
Their children:
 - 1) Dana Rene'e Locke born - May 9, 1978
 - 2) Nathan Michael Locke
born - July 9, 1982
- 5) Kenneth James Lila was born on April 24, 1960 and married Mary Rose Enstrom on July 17, 1981.
Their children:
 - 1) Timothy Matthew born - July 7, 1983
 - 2) David born - Mar. 26, 1987
 - 3) Kathleen Marie born - June 9, 1990
 - 4) Laurie Jean born - June 29, 1993
- 4) Loretta Lila was born on October 6, 1926. Married Howard W. Cohrs on February 14, 1948.
Their children:
 - 1) Andrea Louise Cohrs was born on April 24, 1952 and married Gerard Legner.
Their children:
 - 1) Angela Legner born - Oct. 8, 1979
 - 2) Alicia Marie Legner
born - Jan. 17, 1981
 - 2) Karen Ann Cohrs born - Mar. 24, 1956
single
 - 3) Daniel Howard Cohrs was born on September 6, 1958 and married Lisa Muzzareli on Feb. 11, 1984
Children - none
 - 4) Patrick Alan Cohrs was born on December 22, 1960 and married Donna Wasielewski Oct. 6th
Their children:
 - 1) Joshua Thomas Wasielewski - stepchild
 - 2) Jessica Marie Cohrs
born - July 7, 1985
 - 3) Nicholas Cohrs born - Dec. 6, 1990
- 5) Sister Mary Lillian Lila, B.V.M. born - Jan. 22, 1928
- 6) Gerald Ronald Lila was born on June 1, 1929 and married Arlene Weber on June 25, 1955
Their children:
 - 1) Mary Ann Lila was born on May 30, 1956 and married James Smith on June 25, 1977
Their children"

- 1) Brandon James Lila born - Aug. 22, 1983
 - 2) Brianna Joy Lila born - June 22, 1987
 - 2) Joan Lila was born on May 14, 1959 and married William Rosenau on November 18, 1978. Their children"
 - 1) Robin Joy Rosehau born - Oct. 16, 1991
 - 3) Nancy Jean Lila was born on May 30, 1963 and married Randolph Charles Tucker on Oct. 2, 1988.
Children: none
 - 4) Gerald Lila Jr. born - August 28, 1967
single
-
- 7) Patricia Louise Lila was born on February 6, 1931 and married Raymond (Bill) Linde on June 2, 1951. Bill died on February 27, 1988.



PAUL P LILA
1423 E 3RD ST
MESA AZ 85203-8117

Descendants of John Frank Lila



John F. Lila
Born: October 09, 1888
Polonia, Portage Co. WI

Died: October 01, 1975
in Phoenix, AZ



Praxeda B. Lukasavitz
Born: June 02, 1897
Plover, Portage Co. WI
Married: June 20, 1922
in Plover, Portage Co. WI



Mary R. Enstrom
Born: September 07, 1960

Married: July 17, 1982



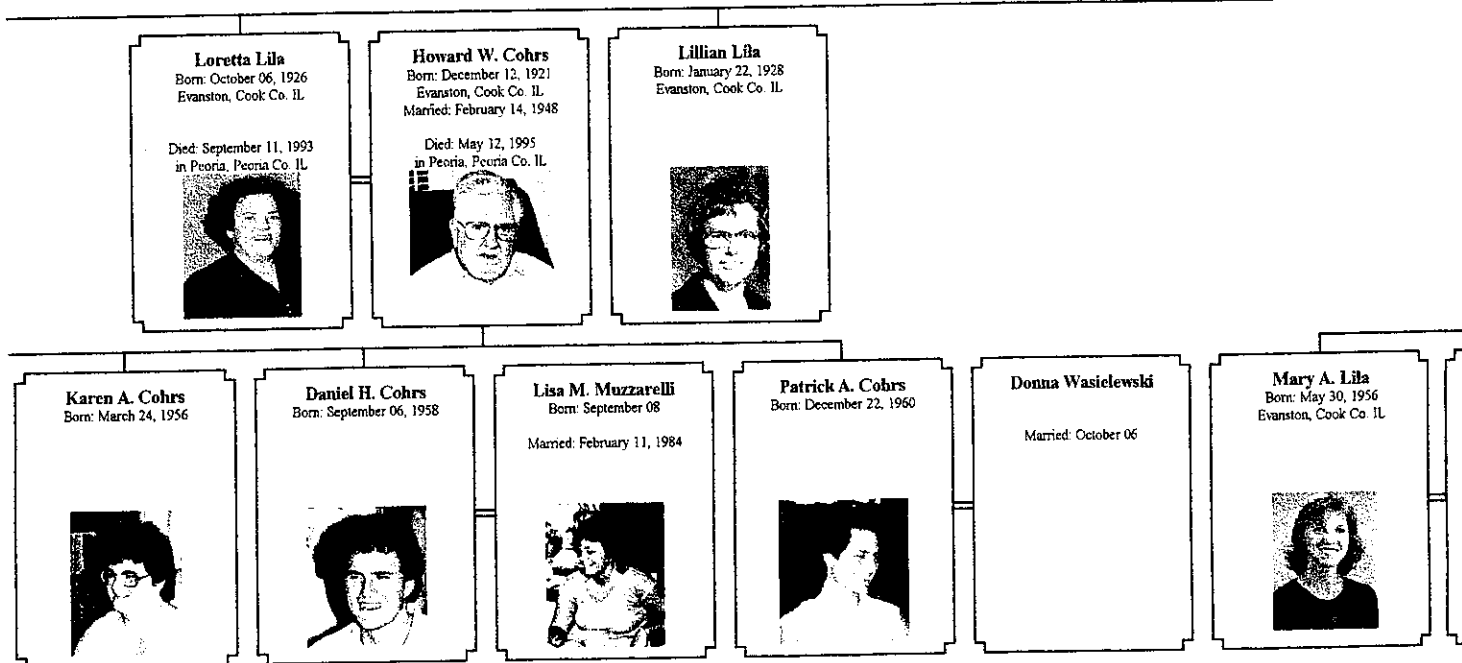
Andrea L. Cohrs
Born: April 24, 1952



Gerard Legner



Descendants of John Frank Lila



ank Lila

Gerald R. Lila
Born: June 01, 1929
Evanston, Cook Co. IL



Arlene Weber
Born: April 24, 1932
Evanston, Cook Co. IL
Married: June 25, 1955
in Skokie, Cook Co. IL



Patricia L. Lila
Born: February 06, 1931
Evanston, Cook Co. IL



Raymond Linde
Born: January 26, 1925
Evanston, Cook Co. IL
Married: June 02, 1951
Died: February 27, 1988



James Smith
Born: January 19, 1949
Wynooose Co. IL
Married: June 25, 1977
in Urbana, Champaign Co. IL



Joan L. Lila
Born: May 14, 1959
Evanston, Cook Co. IL



William R. Rosenau
Born: March 12, 1954
Chicago, Cook Co. IL
Married: November 18, 1978
in Twin Lakes, WI



Nancy J. Lila
Born: May 30, 1963
Evanston, Cook Co. IL



Randolph C. Tucker
Born: February 17, 1952
Chickasha, Okla
Married: October 22, 1988
in Fountain Hills, AZ



Gerald Lila, Jr.
Born: August 28, 1967
Evanston, Cook Co. IL



David & Susan (Worzella) Lila
Sophia Worzella, Frances Lila, Charles Worzella and Julian Lila





70TH BIRTHDAY FOR BUSINESS

Lila's Super Market in Plover is celebrating a birthday, starting next week. Frank Lila opened the business 70 years ago, in 1902, with dry goods, notions and groceries in one half of a store building and a saloon in the other half. The photo at left shows the old store and tavern, and standing in front, from left, are Gene Woodbury, Felix Lila (Frank's brother), Joe Tomaszewski and Frank Lila. In 1919, David Lila Sr., Frank's son, took over the business. Prohibition was beginning, so he converted the saloon to an ice cream parlor and pool hall which operated until 1930. After that, the business became solely a grocery and dry goods operation. David Lila Sr., now retired and still living in Plover, sold the business in 1957 to his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fahrner. They built the present super market in 1959 and doubled its size in 1969. In front of the store, in the photo at right, are David Lila Sr. and Fahrner. The original store, which stood next to the super market, burned a few years ago.

David - 1918



60th wedding anniversary celebration
with Frank & Johanna, Mamie & Julian,
Frances & Minnie



Susie & David on their 50th wedding anniversary



David (Dave) Lila

4) David Lila was the son of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. Their fourth child was born on May 30, 1890 most likely in the first house on the farm in the Town of Plover, Portage Co. His records at St. Peter's Church, Stevens Point had him baptized on June 1, 1890 by Rev Walter Grabowski. His name was recorded as David Lela and his parents as Francis Lela and Marcianna Wielinska on the church records. His sponsors were Theophilus Worzella and Anna Amerska.

As a young man he worked in the retail business for his Pa, Frank Lila Dry Goods and Notions and Saloon business in Plover. From 1914 to 1918 David ran the saloon. In 1918, David took over the business completely. After prohibition he converted the saloon to an ice cream parlor and pool hall. In 1930, converted the business solely into a grocery and dry goods operation. The business name was later changed to Lila's Supermarket.

Brother Frank told us this story about Dave. Couldn't remember Dave's age, but was working for their pa. There was a barn behind the store and was told to go kill a calf for meat sale consumption. So, he went out there, shot the calf, came out later to skin him, calf was standing there looking at Dave. He had only penetrated the skin. Frank said, that was probably the last time he ever did this, learned a lesson.

A big ice house was in back of the store. In those days, that's where the ice cream was stored till needed for the ice cream parlor. There weren't freezers then.

David and Susan Worzella, daughter of Casimir and Frances (Tryder) Worzella were wed on Tuesday, May 18, 1918 at 10:00 A.M. at St. Bronislava's church. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Bovanski. The attendants were Miss Frances Lila and Miss Sophia Worzella, sisters of the groom and bride. The grooms men were Charles Worzalla and Julian Lila, brothers of the bride and groom, Miss Sophia Worzella and Julian Lila were witness.

A wedding dinner and supper were served that afternoon and evening at the home of the brides parents to which friends and relatives of both families attended.

David, was selected as one of the 100 men who left for Camp Grant in the five-day period beginning May 25, 1918,

after 3 days, returned home. Brother Frank said, Dave could talk himself out of anything.

After their marriage they lived above the store for thirteen years when they built their home. This would have been towards the northwest corner of Business 51 and Hy 54 in Plover. The property was later bought and the house moved. A Hardees Franchise was built on that block. Since then the Hardees property, was purchased by the State Transportation Dept for widening of the 51-54 intersection.

Dave, retired in 1957 but had sold the store to his son-in-law and daughter, Jack and Arlene Fahrner in 1956. The original store of Frank Lila burned down a few years later. A new Lila Super Market was built in 1959 and doubled in size in 1969. In 1972 a new Lila Super Market Store was built, north of the tracks on Post Road and the old building was converted, to a St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store.

His daughter Arlene has memories of working for her father in the grocery store when she was nine years old. Shopping was so much different in those days. A customer would come to the store asking for so many pounds of sugar, coffee or whatever. She then would go and bag up the quantity needed of those items, not like now.

According to nephew Greg Galecki, Dave in his younger years was a pitcher while playing baseball. Was an avid spectator of baseball games. Can remember him telling of watching his grandsons play and then saying, if they could only do this or that. Dave and Susie, were both big into fishing and hunting. When it came to fishing and hunting stories and good times at their cottage on Madeline Lake, north of Woodruff, just about any relative from those days, could come up with a story ending up in tears of laughter. Greg Galecki, Greg Worzella, son Dave and Uncle Dave were standing outside the cottage. One of them opened a can of beer which had been shook up and it foamed all over when opened. Uncle Dave said I'll show you how to open a can without foaming. He then proceeded to open the can by punching a small hole in it with a ice pick. The results were a stream of beer that went over the top of the cottage roof.

Then there was the story when Susie was deer hunting on her Uncle Jack's land. She sat on a stump all morning and when her Uncle Jack came along he asked, what had she seen. Getting off the stump she replied, nothing. He in turn, stuck the barrel of his 30-30 into the stump and fired

- 3) Julie Fahrner - single
Residence: Wiel, Germany
- 2) David (Dave) Lila sps/June Brown
Residence: 3301 Evergreen Dr.
Plover, WI 54467
Their children:
 - 1) Lori Lila married Rob Lee on May 12, 1979.
Rob died on November 17, 1987.
Married James Kissinger on June 2, 1990
Residence: 2241 Maplewood
Plover, WI 54467
Adopted child:
 - 1) Kaleb James Kissinger
born - March 12, 1996
 - 2) David Lila, Jr
Married Michelle Martineau on February 15, 1986
Now divorced
Residence: 3111 Evergreen Dr.
Plover, WI 54467
Their children:
 - 1) Jessica Lind born - Dec. 10, 1986
 - 2) John Michael Martineau Lila - adopted
born - Aug. 7, 1977

+ Since St. Bronsilava is planning on celebrating their centennial this October, Arlene thought of rather amusing story about her dad when the diamond jubilee was held.

Dave at the time was the oldest parishioner of the parish. He was approached by Father Frances Przyblski about saying a few words after the dinner which was to be held at the Holdiay Inn. Dave knew the bishop would be one of the dignitaries attending. Told his daughter he was rather nervous about getting up in front of the bishop.

She said, Dad I'll prepare some cue cards for you to use when you go up to say a few words. Well when dad got started, the words just kept on flowing and flowing. Finally, Father Przyblski had to get up and made a suggestion to David to make a closing remark as there were others that had to speak.

Here was a fellow that thought he couldn't start a speech but didn't know when to stop.

twice. Much to Susie's surprise, he then pulled out a dead black bear.

Another story was when Jack Lila, Dave's nephew, was staying at the cottage. He went out to the fish cleaning board after dark to clean some fish. In the light of the lantern a black bear came into view so he went back to the cottage in about three jumps. Forgot about cleaning fish the rest of the night. Came to card playing, the game never could seem to end. When money was involved, have been told, as the saying goes, "they played for blood".

Dave and Susie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May of 1968.

Susie died on March 31, 1982.

Dave died on Sunday evening, December 29, 1985 at the age of 96. He had been a resident of the River Pines and Rehabilitation Center for six months. Cause of death cardiac arrest, due to probable acute MI.

Funeral arrangements were through Shuda Funeral home with visitation. Dave was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the parish Holy Name Society. Services were held at St. Bronislava's church with The Rev. James Logan officiating. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

David (Dave) and Susan (Susie) were parents of:

- 1) Arlene
- 2) David

More information on following below:

- 1) Arlene Lila sps/Jack Fahrner
Residence: 1342 Okray Dr.
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Their children:
 - 1) John Fahrner sps Mary Clark
Residence: 2500 Clar-re Dr.
Plover, WI 54467
Their children:
 - 1) Justin Fahrner
 - 2) Jerrod
 - 2) ñ Jerry Fahrner sps/Lori
Residence: 1009 Martin Island Dr.
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Their children:
 - 1) Jenna Fahrner

Arlene, Julie & Jack Fahrner



John, Mary, Jerrod & Justin

Lori, Jenna & Jerry





Lori, David & June, David Jr



Lori & James Kissinger
son, Kaleb



David, daughter Jessica
son John

John & Minnie (Lila) Lapinski





? Minnie
Helen & Catherine



4th generation - Sept 1934

Ed	John	Frank
&	&	&
Catherine	Minnie	Marcyanna
Jean		



Marion, Helen, Ben, (Mom-Minnie) & Catherine

Monica (Lila) Lapinski

5) Monica (Minnie) was the daughter of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. Their fifth child was born on May 30, 1892 at the family home in Plover.

Her records at St. Peter's church, had her baptized as by Rev. Zygmunt Wozny and her sponsors were Francis Lela and Anna Lela (her grandparents). Monica Lela was how her name was recorded on the church records. Confirmed on May 10, 1905 at St. Bronislava church.

Minnie was around five when the visiting priest would stay over night at their house. On one of those times she got up during the night, being half asleep, crawled back into her own bed. Woke up pretty fast when she found out her bed was already occupied. This was a story her brothers, like most brothers use to tease their sister with through the years.

Her brother Frank said, Minnie was her pa's favorite. Would take her with him in his carriage with the fury. Minnie never lived in the new house. She lived with her bothers Felix and Dave above the Lila Dry Goods and Notions Store which had living quarters. Minnie did the housekeeping and cooking for them and later on worked in the store as a clerk.

Minnie's marriage to John Lapinski son of Joseph and Margartia (Laskowski) Lapinski took place Tuesday at 9 o'clock on May 6, 1913. The nuptials were officiated by Rev. M. Klosowski at St. Bronsilava church.

Bridesmaids were Tena Bannach and Rose Klosowski. Groomsman were David Lila and Frank Woskowski. Their witnesses were Theopil Lila and Frank Laskowski.

In the Stevens Point Journal under Plover news, behind their names read the following:

A reception followed at the home of the bride's parents and which was largely attended by friends of the young couple.

The couple will make their home in Stevens Point. At the time of their marriage, John was employed at Whiting-Plover Paper Co. mill.

She was one of Plover's most popular young ladies.

According to Frank, his sister Minnie had a big wedding. They butchered 125 chickens, killed a 1,025 pound steer. A lot of people came. Ate in the house and danced in a tent.

In those days, the bride dance consisted of somewhat an old custom of having the guests break plates, resulted in \$500 dollars. A lot of money in those days.

Minnie's grandson Dick Walkush, had told him how she had the privilege of being the first bride in the parish to be driven to church in a automobile on her wedding day.

John Lapinski was born in Arkansas and his dad Joseph Lapinski, was born in Lesisiuakir, Germany.

*A Polish country wedding began with the church ceremony in the morning, preferably on a weekday. Farm families tried to avoid having weddings on Saturdays, or even Fridays, since they did not want to spend the Sunday Sabbath cleaning and catching up on their farm chores. The church service was followed by breakfast either at the bride's house or in a tent pitched in the yard. The musicians then started playing and, with breaks for lunch and supper, continued playing as long as music was in demand, which could be all night.

*Long and lavish weddings were popular with Poles for many reasons. For family-centered people, the creation of a new family that occurred at a wedding was reason enough to celebrate in a big way. For proud parents, a big, long wedding was also an opportunity to exhibit their wealth and generosity, since only a prosperous family could wine and dine family and friends for days.

*There were also some merely practical reasons for two and three day weddings celebrations. Farmers had chores that had to be performed and many could not leave their farms until the work was done. Those who couldn't come in the morning, came in the afternoon or evening, and vice versa. Also, farm work was hard and hours long. Once they stopped working, Poles wanted to make the best of the time off, to stretch it out as long as possible.

*In addition, travel was slow and difficult. People who had spent half-day bouncing in a farm wagon to get to a wedding did not want to stay for an hour or two and then leave, especially after dark. They were happy to spend the night, whether or not they were parting.

*Once all the serious and practical reasons are outlined, it should not be forgotten that Poles also loved big, long weddings simply because they were fun.

Minnie was employed at Lila's Supermarket for a number of years. Very active in church. Head of the rosary society and her husband John, church treasurer for many years. He also played the french horn. Minnie was a honorary member of

Their children:

- 1) Tyler Thomas Kelly
- 2) Adam James Kelly

- 2) Timothy Walkush

Children:

- 1) Ashley Rose Morris
- 3) Michael Walkush sps/Tami Hansen

Their children:

- 1) Marissa Mae Walkush
- 2) Tate Averie Walkush
- 4) Rick Walkush sps/Stacy Teske

Their children:

- 1) Alexandra Jean
- 3) Jerome Walkush sps/Shirley Taug
Residence: 711 W 12th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Their children:

- 1) David Walkush
- 2) Kelly Lynn Walkush
- 4) Gordon Walkush sps/ Mary Makris
Residence: 724 Birch Street
Rhineland, WI 54501

Their children:

- 1) Melissa Walkush
- 2) Andrea Walkush
- 5) Mark Walkush sps/Ann Benner
Residence: 861 Glenwood Road
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Their children:

- 1) Zachary Walkush
- 2) Dylan Walkush

- 2) Helen Walkush sps/Ernest Adams (deceased)

Residence: 1908 Pine Drive
Plover, WI 54467

Their children:

- 1) Joan Adams sps/Robert (Bob) Shannon
Residence: 2611 Russet Drive
Plover, WI 54467

Their children:

- 1) Mark Shannon sps/Judy
Their children:
 - 1) Megan
 - 2) Aaron
- 2) Cori Shannon sps/Gunnar Hedman

Their children:

- 1) Carl
- 2) Ian
- 3) Kim Shannon sps/Mike Skier

Their Children:

- Twins: 1) Abby &
2) Chelsea
3) Katie

- 2) Raymond Adams sps/Sharon Soik
Residence: 2540 Hay Meadow La R2
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Their children:

- 1) Aimee
- 2) Brooke
- 3) Nickolas

- 3) Benedict (Ben) F. Lapinski sps/Ruth Lorbeck
Residence: 3634 Dawes Street
Madison, WI 43714

Their children:

- 1) Cassandra (Sandy) sps/Paul Becker
Residence: 4805 Ilene Lane
Madison, WI 53704

Their children:

- 1) Pam Becker
- 2) Mike Becker
- 3) Peter Becker
- 2) Theresa Snorek - divorced
Residence: 1048 109th Ave N.E.
Blaine, MN

Children:

- 1) Duane Snorek sps

Their children:

- 1) Duane
- 2) Scott - deceased

- 3) Sharon Reimen - divorced
Residence: 2929 Camp Leonard Rd.
McFarland, WI 53558

Children:

- 1) Brett Reimen
- 2) Lisa Reimen
- 4) Joseph Lapinski - single
Residence: 3634 Dawes Street
Madison, Wi 53714
- 5) Patricia Lapinski sps/Ross Pettey

Residence: 4149 Vieth Ave
Madison, Wi 53704

- 4) Marion Grace Lapinski sps/Bob Brill
Residence: 2600 Roosevelt Dr. Plover, WI 54467
Marion, died on Wednesday, October 26, 1994.
Their children:
- 1) John A. Brill
Residence: 4719 N. Boyview Circle
Mosinee, WI 5455
 - 2) Robert A. Brill Jr.
Residence: 2600 Roosevelt Dr.
Plover, Wi 54467
 - 3) Jeff Brill sps/Ann
Residence: 13503 Grain Lane
San Diego, Cal 92129
Children:
 - 1) Alex
 - 4) Linda Brill Garcia
Residence: 3011 Roalie Parkway
Plover, WI 54467
Children:
 - 1) Wesley
 - 2) Brentany
 - 5) Doug A. Brill
Residence: 2600 Roosevelt Dr.
Plover, WI 54467

Catherine Walkush's Family



Gene & Jean Moss; Mark & Ann
Gordon & Mary; Dick & Nancy; Jerome & Shirley



1993

Gene & Jean	Gordon & Mary	Jerome &	Bruse,
Mark & Ann	Dick & Nancy	daughter	Tammy &
		Kelly	Keith
Brenda	Scott &	Andrea &	
	Jeremy	Melissa	



Walkush grandchildren
Nancy & Dick with Allie, Marissa & Tyler



Cheryl & Wayne Kelly
Tyler & Adam



Friend -
Jeanna &
Buston

Tim Walkush
and
Ashley



Mike & Tami Walkush

Tate, Marissa & Tyler



Rick, Ali & Stacy Walkush

Tate, Marissa & baby Loron



Jerome & Shirley Walkush



David & Kelly



Helen Adams Family



Bob & Joan Shannon



Mike & Kim Shannon Shier
Abby, Chelsea & Katie



Mark & Judy Shannon
Megan & Aaron



Brooke, Aimee, Ray & Nickolas Adams



Gunnar & Cori Shannon Hedman
Ian & Carl

Julian & Marie (Pehowski) Lila

Bridesmaids - Agnes Pehowski, Frances Lila & Laura Zerowski
Groomsmen - Alex Pehowski, Theodore Lila & Edmund Kubistak
Flower Girl - Lillian Trader



October 1985, their
65th wedding anniversary



Their 50th →

Julian with his butter
churn & spinning wheel.



Mr. and Mrs. Lila

Lilas mark anniversary

Mamie and Julian Lila, Amherst Junction, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday.

The couple was married Oct. 25, 1920, at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church, Fancher. Mrs. Lila is the former Mamie Pehoski.

They have four children, Mrs. Roger (Georgiann) Hibicke, New Berlin, Clifford, 1160 N. Reserve Drive, Mrs. George (Ramona) Nugent, Bancroft, and James, Oak Creek. There are 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

An anniversary service was held at 11 a.m. Sunday at St. James Catholic Church, Amherst. The Rev. Bob Pedretti officiated. Readings were given by their grandchildren, Tom and Cindy Lila, and offertory gifts were brought by the family of Nancy and Lawrence Sparhawk.

A brunch at the Oakwood Inn, Waupaca, and a reception at the couple's home followed the Mass. Among those present was an original attendant, Agnes Pehoski Shulfer.

Mr. Lila retired in 1961 as a section foreman from the Green Bay and Western Railroad.

A life of successful diplomacy

By JOHN ANDERSON

The old man stood erect as we introduced ourselves in the kitchen of his Amherst Junction home. At nearly 92, he was handsome with a shock of white hair and soft, expressive eyes. He politely expressed doubt people would be interested in reading an article that might be written about his hobby of making spinning wheels and churns.

His wife was at his side, teasing him that publicity would make him a celebrity among their neighbors.

I changed the subject by asking how long they had been married. "We had our 65th anniversary last fall," replied Julian Lila matter-of-factly. His wife, Mamie, leaned over and kissed him on the cheek. "I wish we could have 40 more years," she said.

I instantly sensed the making of a story with more substance than one focusing on a senior citizen who handcrafts working replicas of antique household tools.

We went to the parlor, the three of us. We talked about old age and dastardly things it does to people. Julian described a boyhood in Plover, a marriage that absorbed time like a fine wine, a job that lasted nearly 48 years, public service. Mamie listened intently, adding compliments, laughing at our banter.

As Julian reminisced, it became evident he possessed a rare combi-

nation of even temperament, tact, the ability to think clearly and a keen sense of fairness. Suddenly it occurred to me that through happenstance, I was face to face with the kind of person every community needs but not every one has—a grass-roots diplomat. Throughout most of his life, Julian has helped solve community problems and greased the wheels of progress.

Julian's diplomacy has resulted in the formation of a new church, the saving of a bank from closing, supervision of a crew that maintained a seven-mile stretch of railroad in the area for nearly a half century, and being a partner in a marriage that has endured longer than many people's entire lifespans.

In the early 1930s, when the country was locked in a stubborn Depression, Julian was one of the men chosen to represent the Security State Bank in Amherst Junction in sensitive deliberations with the state banking commissioner. The commissioner asked why the bank should be continued when another financial institution was located in such close proximity, in Amherst.

Julian remembers arguing that his community was linked to the railroad and that nearly everything that was bought or sold there was hauled in or out by train. Most of the goods arrived C.O.D. to the bank, he added. "Don't you see, the bank provides an important public service," he remembers telling the commissioner. The bank is still there.

After the close of World War II, some of his neighbors decided there should be another Catholic church, in addition to the one in Fancher, to serve area residents. Not everyone agreed, including his priest. Julian again was pressed into service by his peers, this time to meet with the bishop of the La Crosse Diocese. He recalls the prelate was not entirely impressed with the request. "Can the people afford it?" Julian remembers being asked. He smiled and shook his head affirmatively. Then the bishop said, "Let's see your hands," and Julian displayed paws

filled with callouses. It wasn't long before St. James Catholic Church was built in Amherst.

Nowadays, Julian and Mamie are there every Sunday for Mass "rain or shine," she says. He still assists as an usher.

In local politics, he believes he has served in every elective village position except president. That public service has included 39 years as assessor. He also was clerk of the local school district before consolidation.

And, until he was 90, he served as a director of his village's bank, logging about 40 years in that post. One of the important events in the history of that institution was the opening of a branch, which now is thriving near Custer.

Perhaps his greatest success in diplomacy has been in his life with Mamie. What's the secret to such a long marriage? "We've loved each other," said he, "and I still love him," added she. Julian wasn't finished. "She has been a good partner—she kept a big garden and she even brought home the fish—she always loved to fish." Mamie smiled and gestured with her hand. "Oh, Pa, you're crazy."

Mamie, who had her 85th birthday on Valentine's Day, is a bit forgetful, but with Julian's help she keeps the house as immaculate as she did when she moved in as a bride a few months after their 1920 wedding.

"I tell Pa we are pretty lucky people—we still do pretty well." The Lilas reared four children and now have 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Our conversation turned to their reaction to events in the world. Julian expressed disapproval of some of President Reagan's policies. Mamie laughed. Julian was serious and elaborated. "Oh, let's laugh anyway," Mamie suggested.

There have been many smiles in the Lila household since the priest at Fancher asked Julian to marry Mamie so he (the priest) could be spared interruptions in his sleep. In the evenings, Julian courted young Mamie Pehoske with the use of the same railroad motor car he operated during the day while

patrolling Green Bay and Western tracks. The priest could hear it as Julian returned from her home. "Oh, Pa, you shouldn't tell that story," she said laughing.

In those days, Julian had already been promoted to the position of section foreman, a position he held until he retired in 1962.

Julian was born in Plover into one of the first Polish families in his neighborhood. As a boy and young man, he helped his mother run the farm while his father and some of his brothers were in the store and saloon business in their village. He remembers his father gave up selling booze after a local man, who had spent the day in watering holes in Stevens Point's Public Square, stopped at the Lila bar en route home. The customer was encouraged to continue on his way. The next morning his body was found along the road. He had been killed when he fell beneath his own rig. "That spoiled it for Dad," Julian recalled.

In 1914, Julian was hired at the Plover-Whiting Paper Mill at a wage of 10 cents per hour. He had unusually heavy work. There must be something better, he remembers thinking. A few months later he became a rail.

"When I left Plover, I said, you can give this place back to the Indians. But look what water and fertilizer has done," he observed. As a young man, he remembers that with a lot of rain and cow manure, he could raise about 75 bushels of potatoes to the acre on the family farm. Today, yields in Plover often run nine times that amount.

Julian says he's had a good life—he even licked cancer several times. He has undergone surgery for malignant growths on his colon and face. Although she doesn't want many more years, Mamie says she and Julian still have things to do. "We've got a lot of pep yet," said she. Her comments amused him. He wondered if she may have forgotten that he sleeps 13 hours a day.

Nonetheless, Julian would be back in his shop tomorrow working on another spinning wheel.



Julian and Mamie Lila

**A:COUNTY
SAMPLER**



A:B:C:1



Julian Lila Retires From Railroading

Nearly half a century in railroading drew to a close this week for Julian (Jules) Lila, Amherst Junction.

He started as section hand with the Green Bay and Western Railroad Aug. 21, 1914, and moved to Amherst Junction when promoted to section foreman a few years later.

Born and raised in Plover, Lila was employed as a mill worker about a year and a half before going into railroad work.

Currently village assessor, he has held many local offices while at Amherst Junction.

Mr. and Mrs. Lila have four children, Jim in the Air Force, Georgianna who is living in a Milwaukee suburb, Clifford of the Town of Hull and Ramona of Whiting.

Although a hunter and fisherman, Lila said, he hasn't had much time for those avocations in recent years. They'll be getting more attention now that he has retired.

But the immediate future will see him stepping up work on a house, next door to his present one, which he purchased last year and has been remodeling during free time since last winter.

He said he has not decided whether he'll sell the house when remodeling is completed.

A handy man with a power saw, Lila is refurbishing the frame structure's interior.

He has joined in various building projects with his offspring but tooling cabinets is one of his pet projects.

Asked if he intended to stay in Amherst Junction, Lila replied that he had made many friends during his 45-year residence there and although "a lot of people want to move to larger towns, I'm going to stay here."

JULIAN LILA'S retirement from railroading should give him more time to spend on remodeling a house he owns near his Amherst Junction residence.

Julian Lila

6) Julian Henry was the sixth child of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. He was born May 21, 1894 at the family home in Plover. Baptized as Julianus Lila on May 24, 1894 at St. Peter's church by Rev. Quiryn Zielinski. His sponsors were Leo Worzella and Maria Hamerski. Confirmed on October 30, 1907 at St. Bronsilava church, Plover.

He attended St. Bronsilava parochial school.

As a young man, helped his mother run the farm while his father and some of his older brothers were in the store and saloon business in the Village of Plover.

Julian played the clarinet by notes.

His first job of employment was with the Plover-Whiting Paper Mill at a wage of 10 cents per hour. The work was unusually heavy. About a year and a half later, thinking there must be something better, he found another job. Then on August 21, 1921 he started as a section hand with the Green Bay Western Railroad and a few years later was promoted to section foreman.

In the evenings, Julian courted a young girl by the name of Mamie Pehowski with the use of the same railroad motor car he operated during the day while patrolling Green Bay and Western tracks. The Fancher parish priest could hear it as Julian returned from her home. The priest asked Julian to marry Mamie so he could be spared interruptions in his sleep.

When the time came, there were two marriages the same week in the Pehowski family, Mamie became the bride of Julian Lila of Amherst Junction and her brother Frank to Alice Waldoch of Fancher.

On October 25, 1920 at 9 o'clock Monday morning Julian wed Mary Ann (Mamie) Pehowski daughter of Joseph and Julia Pehowski at St. Mary of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Fancher. The Rev. Julius Chylinski officiating.

Mamie was dressed in a gown of white charmeuse and carried a shower bouquet of white chrysanthemums. The bridesmaids were Miss Agness Pehowski, sister of the bride, Miss Fances Lila sister of the groom and Miss Laura Zeromski. Miss Pehowski wore a blue organdie gown, Miss Lilla a dress of pink organdie and Miss Zeromski a blue organdie gown. Each wore a hat to match her gown and a corsage of bouquet of carnations. The flower girl, Miss Lillian Trader, wore a dress of pink georgette and carried a

basket of carnations. The groomsmen were Alex Pehowski, the brother of the bride, and Theodore Lilla, brother of the groom and Edmund Kubisiak.

A wedding dinner and supper were served at the home of the bride's parents to about 100 guests, most of whom were relatives. The home was decorated with carnations and smilax and a dance was held in the evening. The couple will make their home at Amherst Junction.

Julian's diplomacy had resulted in the formation of a new church, the saving of a bank from closing, and supervision of a crew that maintained a seven-mile stretch of railroad in the area for nearly a half century. He also served in every elective village position except president, which included 39 years as assessor. Also, was a clerk of the local school district before consolidation.

When they were married 66 years, they were asked by a journalist, what's the secret to such a long marriage? We've loved each other, said Julian, and I still love him added Mamie.

Julian had hand-crafted a replica of his ma's spinning wheel and butter churn. You will see them in many of his family and relatives homes, plus Julian had mentioned, at least one has been unassembled and shipped to every state.

One thing I remember about Uncle Julian was the comment he made a one of the Lila Family Reunions. A pot luck dinner was to be served at noon. When the time came and past some, he look at his pocket watch and said with a stern expression, I thought we were suppose to eat at noon and noon it should be.

Julian said he had a good life-even licked cancer several times. He had undergone surgery for malignant growths on his colon and face.

Julian died at the age of 93, on July 11, 1987 at 7 a.m. at his home. Immediate cause of death was cardio respiratory arrest due to liver ademocarcinoma. The Junger-Holly Funeral home were in charge of arrangements. The services were held at St. James Catholic Church, Amherst with the Rev. Robert Pedretti officiating and burial in the parish cemetery.

Julian and Mamie were parents of:

- 1) Georgeanna
- 2) Clifford
- 3) Ramona

4) James

More information below:

- 1) Georgeanna Lila sps/Roger Hibicke (now deceased)
Remarriage sps/Warren Williamson
Residence: 17792 Norwood Park
Tustin, CA 92680

Georgeanna and Roger's children:

- 1) Genell Pilon sps/John Thomas
Residence: 222 Morris Street
Pewaukee, Wi 53702

Their children:

- 1) Melissa

- 2) Paul Pilon sps/Darrell Iverson
Residence: 1401 Pleasant View Ave.
Waukesha, Wi 53186

Their children:

- 1) Samatha

- 2) Clifford (Cliff) Lila sps/Gladys Sikorski
Residence: 1160 N. Reserve Drive
Stevens Point, Wi 54481

Cliff died on September 25, 1992

Their children:

- 1) Richard Lila sps/Jill Hussong
Residence: W 8795 Nibick Rd
Beaver Dam, Wi 53916
- 2) John Lila sps/Patricia Krieger
Residence: 5244 Gerald Rd
Stevens Point, Wi 54481

Their children:

- 1) Jonathon Lila
- 3) Mark Lila - divorced
Residence: 612 Glenwood Drive
Lafayette, Co 80026

Children:

- 1) Jessica
- 4) Robert Lila
Residence: 9162 Boelter Lake Rd
Almond, Wi 54909

- 5) Thomas Lila
Residence: 1226 Carleton St
Berkeley, Ca 94702
- 3) Ramona Lila sps/George Nugent
Residence: 4101 Hoover Av Plover, Wi 54467
Their children:
 - 1) Nancy Nugent sps/Lawrence Sparhawk
Residence: 6460 Cty Ttk O
Rudolph Wi 54474
Their children:
 - 1) Tiffany Sparhawk
 - 2) Julie Sparhawk
 - 2) Patrick Nugent sps/Sheryl Brooks
Residence:
Their children:
 - 1) Christy Nugent
 - 2) Ryan Nugent
 - 3) Michael Nugent sps/Sandra
Residence: 931 Kuhn Ave
Wisconsin Rapids, Wi 54467
Their children:
 - 1) Ryan
 - 2) Jessi
 - 4) Mary Jo Nugent sps/ Orie Sjoberg
Their children:
 - 1) Beth
 - 2) Kandra
 - 3) Andy
- 4) James Joel Lila sps/Barbara Petroske
Residence: 8424 S. Verdev
Oak Creek, Wi 53154
Their children:
 - 1) Daniel James Lila born - May 25, 1964
died - April 18, 1983
 - 2) Cynthia Marie Lila born - June 28, 1965
marriage on Sept, 28, 1996
to Amante Udarbe
 - 3) Craig Anthony Lila born - Aug. 21, 1967
sps/Kim (Weber) Lila
married - March 30, 1996
 - 4) Catherine J. Lila Thiry sps/Daniel Thiry
married - June 15, 1996

Julian & Mamie's family



James & Barbara Lila; Gladys & Cliff Lila;
Ramona & George Nugent; Georgeanna Hibicke

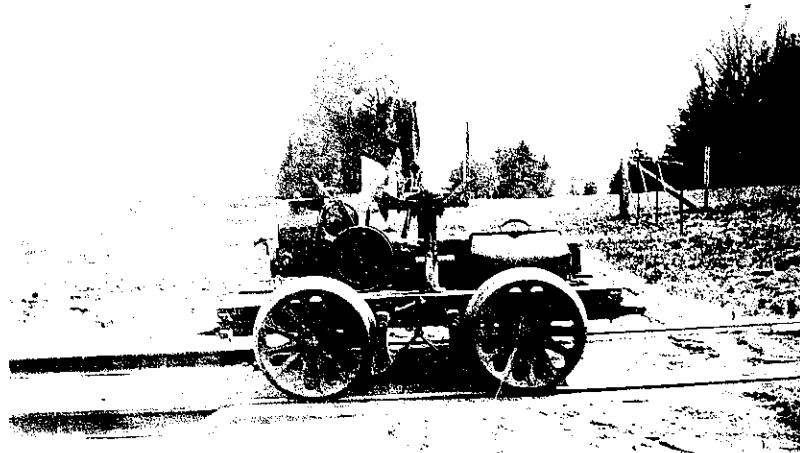


John, Mark, Tom, Richard & Bob Lila

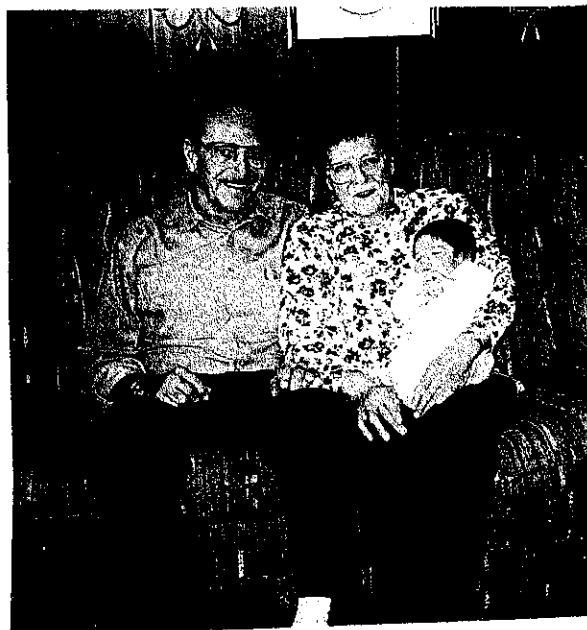


Jess, Gladie & Jonathon

The gas driven section car Julian would use



George & Ramona Nugent
with Derek (First great grandson)



Nugent Clan - 1994



Nancy & Lawrence Sparhawk



Tiffiney

Julie



Sandy

Michael Nugent's

Ryan, Jessi,



Megan Nugent, Stephaine Tomczak, Sheryl &
Patrick Nugent, Jermie Tomczak, Christy Nugent



Ryan Nugent - Pat's son



Derek - Christy's son



Mary (Nugent), Beth, Orie,
Andy and Kandra Sjoberg





James Joel Lila
Cathy, Barb & Jim, Craig, Cindy



Daniel



Cynthia & Amante



Craig & Kimmerly

Catherine & Daniel



Theodore Lila

7) Theodore Casimer Lila was the seventh child of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. He was born on July 1, 1896 at the family home in Plover. The baptismal name shown on the records at St. Peter's church, was Theophilusm Lela and his sponsors were Theodore Worzella and Anna Amerska. Confirmed on November 21, 1911 at St. Bronsilava church.

Theodore attended St. Bronsilava parochial school.

As a young man worked on the family farm. Played the concertina, tuba and was a drummer with a band called "Smile A Little Bit". I understand the drum is still around.

He enlisted in the United States Army, Provost Guard Co. on October 24, 1918. According to his brother Frank, the war was on, Theodore was to go overseas but got the flu and stayed here. Out of that division, one hundred men came back. He was discharged on September 27, 1919.

After that he farmed in the area and was a part time employee for the highway department with the Town of Plover until 1950.

He was a quite fellow. Frank recalled one story with his brothers Theodore and John hunted skunks and dug 22 out. In those days all black hides went for \$6.00 each, strips on - less money. Also oil could be made from the skunk, this was quit in demand then. Sometimes the skunks got the best of them, that was another story, you then stood down wind from everyone else.

Theodore would pick Greg, Richard & Jeanette up in his truck by Barney Kluz's Tavern, (this place was situated on the left hand curve leaving Plover on Business 51, around 3 blocks from their house). When they got into the truck, there were their cousins Jerry, Patsy, Dennis & Antoinette (Tony). With everyone all aboard they were on their way to McLarky's, east of the present McDill School, where outdoor movies were shown. It wasn't like the Hwy 51 Outdoor Theater with the large screen with individual speaker systems that could be attached to each vehicle we went to years ago. Out in the field was a much smaller permanent screen, film projector sitting on a stand, and a amplifier for sound. They would either stand up in the back of the truck or sit on wooden benches which were provided up in front of the screen.

Theodore died at the age of 78 of an apparent heart attack. Dzikoski Funeral Home was in charge of

arrangements, where visitation was held. Services were held at St. Bronislava's church, officiated by Rev. Frances Przybylski with burial in the parish cemetery.

Thedore never married.

Wedding of William & Frances (Lila) Galecki



Top Row: John Lila, William, Theodore Lila, Michael Galecki
Bottom Row: Prexeda Luknasavitz, Catherine Lepinski, Frances,
Laura Galecki, Elizabeth Shafrański

ORIGINAL

License Number 982

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Department of Health—Bureau of Vital Statistics

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

PLACE OF MARRIAGE

County of Portage

Township of Plover

or
Village of

or
City of

I, Rev Leopold N. Blum hereby certify that on
the 12th day of September A. D. 19 21 at St. Bronislawa's Church, Plover in the County
of Portage State of Wisconsin, Valentius (William) Galecki of Plover of the State of Wisconsin
and Franciszka (Frances) Lila of Plover State of Wisconsin
were by me united in marriage and authorized by a Marriage License issued for that purpose by the County Clerk of Portage
County and State of Wisconsin, numbered 982 and dated the 6th day of September A. D. 19 21.

We, the undersigned, were present at the Marriage of _____ and
_____ as set forth in the foregoing certificate, at their request, and heard their declarations
that they took each other for husband and wife.

TWO { Francis Lila and
WITNESSES { Valerka Galecki } Signature of
person officiating
and P. O. Address { Name Rev L. N. Blum
P. O. Address Plover, Wisc.

GROOM

BRIDE

Name William Galecki
Residence Plover, Wis.
Age 23 Color white { Single
Widowed
Divorced } No. of Marriages First
Birthplace Wisconsin Nationality American
Relationship None
Occupation Laborer
Name of Father, Guardian or Curator Barney Galecki
Maiden name of Mother Mary Sroda

If previously
Married { Date of Marriage _____
To whom Married _____
Date of Death _____ Date of Divorce _____
Where Divorced _____
By what Court Divorced _____
To whom Divorce granted _____

Was a special dispensation issued? No

Date of Issue Sept. 6th 19 21
Filed _____ 19 _____

Name Frances Lila
Residence Plover, Wis.
Age 23 Color white { Single
Widowed
Divorced } No. of Marriages First
Birthplace Wisconsin Nationality American
Relationship None
Occupation _____
Name of Father, Guardian or Curator Frank Lila
Maiden name of Mother Marie Wilneski

If previously
Married { Date of Marriage _____
To whom Married _____
Date of Death _____ Date of Divorce _____
Where Divorced _____
By what Court Divorced _____
To whom Divorce granted _____

Maiden name of Bride {
If previously Married }

J. E. Dwyer County Clerk
Ray Huth Local Register

Frances (Lila) Galecki



Frances K. (Lila)

8) Frances Katherine Lila, was born on January 29, 1898, in the Town of Plover. She was the daughter of Frank & Marcjanna (Jelinski) Lila.

Frances was baptised by Father Kurzyka on February 6, 1898 at St Bronsilava's Church and her sponsors were Bernard and Mary Galecki. Her sons, daughter-in-laws, and other family members filled in the bits of information on Frances's life for me.

Frances received all her sacraments at St Bronislava's Church, and attended school there. She had dolls made out of corn husks and used to play with them in her dad's carriage, using the floor of the carriage and the cushioned seat like a doll house.

As a young girl she learned how to knit. Winters were spent knitting socks & mittens. As she grew older, she kept house & learned her culinary skills and made rootbeer for the family.

The Galeckis & Lilas were neighbors as part of their farms touched each other. Frances, told her daughter-in-law Marie, that the Galecki, Lila and other neighborhood boys would get together down by the railroad tracks in front of the Lila home. She couldn't figured out what the big deal about this was until Uncle Frank said this was kind of like their teenage meeting place without the parents around. Sometimes they would have a bonfire and Frances would come and join them after supper once in awhile. Later on, Bill, started coming to the Lila farm and would initiate a conversation with Frances. According to Marie, Frances mentioned this happened quite regularly and thought, I think he cares for me.

Well, a romance started to blossom between the two of them and Bill and Frances, took their wedding vows on Monday, September 6, 1921, at a 9 o'clock ceremony at St Bronislava's Church, performed by Rev. Leo Blum. The bridesmaids were Laura Galecki, Prexeda Luknasavitz (future sister-in-law) and Elibabeth Shafranski. Catherine Lepinski (a niece) was flower girl. The groomsmen were Theodore Lila, John Lila and Michael Galecki.

Frances, was dressed in a gown of white satin. Her, veil was white silk and carried a shower bouquet of white roses. Her bridesmaids were dressed in white organdie with hats matched and carried bouquets of pink asters. Her

flower girl was dressed in white organdie and carried a basket of pink asters.

A reception and dinner for 50 families, relatives and friends of the bride and groom was held at her parents home. Marie, was told by Frances, that she baked all the cakes for their wedding. Uncle Frank, recalled that their wedding wasn't as big as their sister Minnie's, but they held the dance under a tent. Bill & Frances used their wedding money to get a start in their married life.

Their son Bill remembers his parents and Grandma Galecki going shopping to Point with their Model T Ford once a week. One of the boys, I'm thinking it's Bill, would climb up the Box Elder and watch for them to come home. From up there you could see down the road about a mile, this being years ago when Plover had a lot of open country. These trips always meant a bag of chocolate covered peanuts bought by their dad for them to share. Bill also chuckles about the time his parents, brothers and Jeannette would go and visit Uncle Mike and Aunt Julie on a Sunday afternoon. The kids would always stay with them and his folks would tell them they were going fishing by the river, but they never took any fishing poles along. "I presumed they were in the boat by shore", Bill shook his head, and chuckled again.

Aunt Julie would tell me and others how they all would always stay for supper. She wasn't to happy with that arrangement.

Frances, had a piano in the parlor. She could play but she was by no means a concert pianist. The parlor set and piano came from the Lila farm. Years later, she gave the piano to church towards a money making project at the picnic. Her four piece parlor set was sold after her death, to a party that reupholstered and refinished the set. It is now at a Bed & Breakfast House on Brawley Street in Stevens Point called "Dreams of Yesterday".

Before Bill died, he bought her a fur coat. After his death when she would wear the coat, comments were made "The coat was bought through insurance money". She felt uncomfortable and didn't wear the coat much after that.

A short time before Bill died, they both had a life insurance policy on themselves. Frances's health, around that time wasn't the best and being short of money they cashed in his policy, but kept hers. The reasoning for this was that he had no health problems and would be around for along time. A short time later, Bill died without any life

insurance. Her motto of, "Make Do With What You Have", would follow her through life.

When Grandma Mary Galecki died, Uncle Mike made sure she got grandma's coat and the wringer washing machine. She had that machine for many years.

After Bill's death, Frances, didn't work outside the home as Jeannette was ten, Greg six, and Richard was newly born. Also Frances, had been told by Dr. Kidder that she had a heart murmur and was to rest daily or she wouldn't live very long. She out lived Dr. Kidder by at least 40 years. Her older sons, Ed, Vic, Bill, and Tom helped out with the household chores.

World War II broke out and eventually her older sons entered the service. Ed, in the Air Force, Bill the army and Tom joined the Navy when the war was over. Vic ended up in the Merchant Marines. The boys allotment checks that were being sent home were to, Frances's thinking, the government giving "her" a monthly check because Ed, Bill and Tom were in the service. She put this money to good use. One of her purchases were the heavy crochet type curtains she had in her parlor. They were still there when she died, looking just like new.

Another one of Frances's talents was being a good seamstress. When the boys were younger, she sewed their trousers, all Jeannette's clothes, including coats and whatever accessories possible.

One of Greg's favorite stories was when his mom said, "Today is canning day", and she pointed to the chicken coop and he knew what his job entailed. Get the ax, catch twenty chickens and chop off their heads. As he was getting this chore done, every once in awhile he would lose track of how many he had killed. Then he would start recounting, and if the number didn't reach twenty, he would have to go around searching for them. You see, with their heads off, their nerve reflex was still there, and they would just run around all over the place.

Frances also had a large garden, from which a lot went into canning. From the chicken coop north, on two lots, she grew green beans and pickles as a cash crop.

Greg said, growing up, they were raised on a lot of soup, casseroles, chicken, and pork steak. Her sons, still talk about her "kloska's" (potato dumpling), texture of the dough made on the pluggy side. She then added them teaspoon sized into boiling water and then put them into soup. What wasn't used was later fried up at another meal. Greg asked

me once, why mine weren't as gray as hers? She grated hers by hand, which took longer, I used the osterizer. Took me around twenty five years to finally match hers. I gave Marie grandma's recipe last year and she also has it mastered now. Maybe this will be one of those hand-me-down recipes through the generations? Frances also had a knack at making delicious ponczakas.

As time went by, Frances worked at Soik Potato Farm cutting potato's, peddled potato's with her brother Dave, at the Laurl Motel as a housekeeper, Sky Club as dishwasher, and her favorite job was taking care of Joannie Mansavages children, as she thought the world of those kids. She also helped take care of her sister-in-law Suzie for a short time when she was ill.

Her only daughter Jeannette, died on November 18, 1968. I always felt her sons had given their mother some good daughter-in-laws, but it is never truly like your own.

Her favorite pastime was reading and playing cards. She was in a card club where once a week they took turns playing at someone's house. Frances's golden years were spent at the Plover Senior Center once a week, held a officer position of the club, where she enjoyed taking an occasional day trip with them, and socializing with her friends there. Later, going once in awhile for a fish fry with her sister Minnie Lapinski and her niece Helen Adams.

Frances made sure each grandchild received their birthday card with a dollar on time. Always keep track of them all in her address book.

Frances always was religious person and she instilled religious beliefs in her sons and today they remain good practicing Catholics. Marie tells, Bill still kneels and says his evening prayers and blesses himself when he dresses.

Frances, told me on several occasions that years ago, when attending Sunday mass you were in church for at least several hours. Father Polaczak would say mass, then go have a lunch, while the congregation sat in church, and then came out and finished the two hour service.

She always took pride in her clothes and home. I told Greg, that Frances's face expression when she laughed is shown also in Vic, Bill, Jeannette, himself, and our son Michael. Resemblance of her younger years, is in her granddaughters Diane Konkol and Dawn Galecki.

All her daughter-in-laws agree her greatest accomplishment was, the beautiful job she did in raising her family after her husband's death.

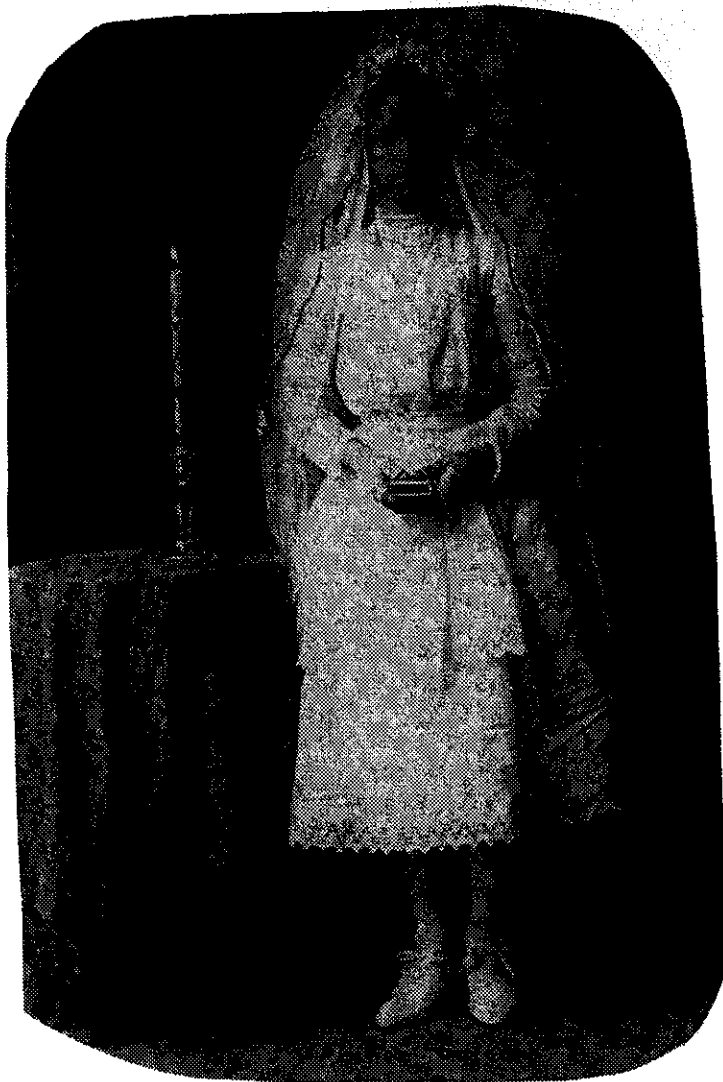
Frances Katherine, died April 4, 1985 at the age of 87. A Portage County resident all of her life, living in the Village of Plover, she died at home around 1:00 A.M. on Holy Thursday. Immediate cause of death, ceubral vascular accident, due to hypertension and generalized arteriosclerosis for years. Attending physician was James Sevenich M.D.

Arrangements were made through Dzikoski Funeral Home, with visitation and rosary on Sunday nite. A requiem mass was celebrated on Monday by Rev. William Moeschler at St Bronislava's Church in Plover, committal rites followed in the parish cemetery. Pallbearers were her six sons; Edmund, Victor, William, Thomas, Gregory and Richard. Frances, had her son's together one last time on Easter. Greg, felt his mother started out caring for them and they ended up caring for her.

William and Frances Galecki's Children:

- 1) Edmund John born - November 14, 1922
- 2) Victor Frank born - June 19, 1924
- 3) William Walter born - February 25, 1926
- 4) Thomas Eugene born - January 15, 1928
- 5) Jeannette Mary born - February 9, 1930
- 6) Gregory Robert born - May 25, 1934
- 7) Richard William born - December 17, 1940

More information about them on the following pages.



First Holy Communion



Victor, Richard
& Frances



age - 73



Bill & Tom



Frances
sons - Victor & Edmund



Ed, Frances
Bill, Tom, Vic,
Jeannette, Greg

Bill, Marie, Frances, Jeannette
Vertie and Vic.
Richard, Tom, Greg,
Lynda - Vic's daughter
July 6, 1949



Richard, Ed,
Tom, Greg, Mom, Bill & Vic



80th birthday



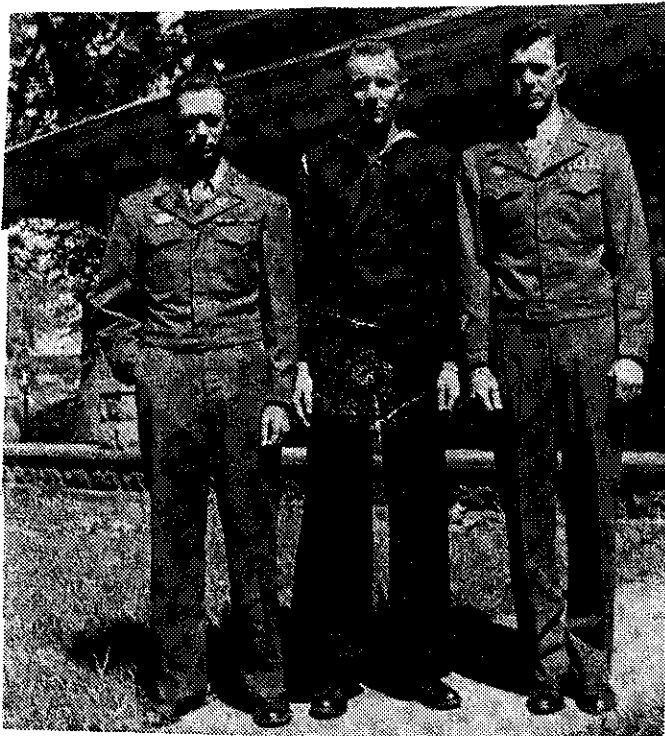
Bill, Vic & Ed



"Ace" Bill



Ed, Vic, Bill, Tom
Rich & Greg



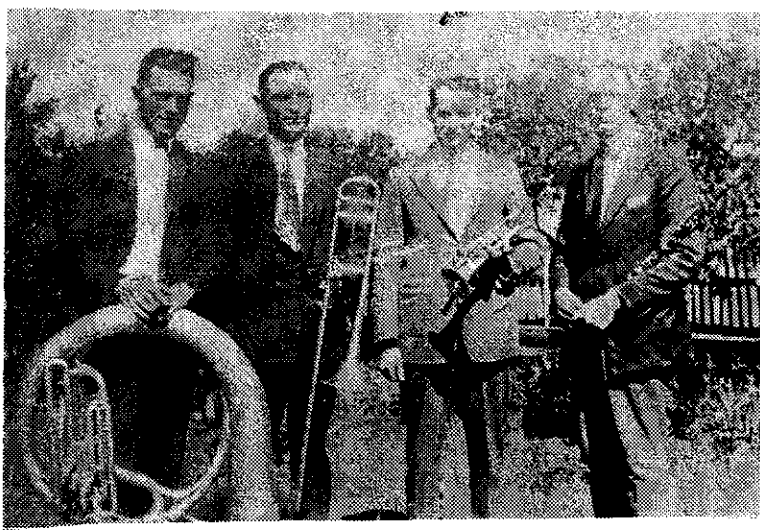
Bill, Tom & Ed



Frances & Bill in their younger years



The Galecki Home - purchased in 1921



Theodore, ?, Bill & John Galecki



↑ Bill ↑ Frances - rest unknown
(Mock Wedding)



Flover Band

Bill, Guy Tech, others unknown
were releasing pheasants



Richard's Dad
Bill Galecki



William Galecki, husband of Francis Lila

1) Valenty (William) son of Bernard and Mary (Sroda) Galecki, their first child. He was born on September 1, 1898 at 11 a.m. on the farm near Meehan St, in the Town of Grant, Portage County. William was baptised Valentine Galecki on September 4, 1898 at St Bronsilava's Church by Father Kurzyka and his sponsors were Francis Lila and Anna Shroda.

William (known as Bill), had wavy hair and was very good looking. In his younger years, Bill worked on the family farm. There always were jobs to be done in the fields and as his brother Mike and as sister Bernice got older they were out there also. Bernice remembers, taking those "Dam" potato bugs the off plants in the early morning hours, helping her brothers with haying, shucking grain and picking potatoes in boxes. I'm sure there were alot of other chores they did.

Bill, received word he was suppose to enter the service in two weeks. He never had to report because W.W.I ended in 1918.

At the age of 23, William Galecki married Frances Lila, daughter of Frank and Marcjanna (Wielinski) Lila, on Monday, September 12, 1921. Their marriage took place at St Bronislava's Church at 9 o'clock, with service performed by Rev. Leo Blum. Their witnesses were Fevdar (Frank) Lila and Valerya (Laura) Galecki. On the marriage certificate all their names were listed in polish, including Valertices (William) Galecki and Francisca (Frances) Lila.

In 1921, Bill began working at the Whiting-Plover Paper Mill, known now as Kimberly Clark of Neenah. He worked on the Calender Machine, (put a coating on the paper to make it more smoother), on three shifts. Before Bill died, he worked the day shift as Size Maker, (mixes the stock of raw material before it went to the paper machine), at 40 cents a hour.

Bill and Frances purchased a house on Elm Street, (was situated on the south/east side behind the current strip mall on Business 51), on September 15, 1921 from Martin & Josephine Peskie. The Abstract Records at the court house show the previous owners, Martin & Josephine Peskie purchased the house from William J. & Julia E. Calkiers in September 18, 1919. William J. & Julia E. Calkiers purchased the home from Lucy E. Lindorer & John Lindorer M.D. on October 3, 1910. Lucy E. Lindorer purchased the

home from Hans M. Sandager & wife. Have been told the house was built in 1884.

As time went on with the marriage of Bill & Frances, so did memories by family members. Ed, remembers going with his dad on the farm to help Mike, (Bill's brother), when he was short handed. They were asked by Grandma Mary, like any mother, she was looking out for her sons.

Bill, was an avid sportsman and liked to hunt and fish. His younger brother John would tag along, but never carried a gun. his son Victor was a companion on the hunting trips. His sons Ed, Vic, and Bill went with their dad at one time or another to the sloughs behind the Galecki farm netting mud minnows to be used for fishing. They were mostly to be sold at 10 cents a dozen or 3 dozen for a quarter.

Around 1920, Bill and some family members and friends formed a band with 10 to 12 members. Ed, recalls when he was a mass server for midnight mass one year they played and sounded real good. To his recollection some of the members were, his dad, Bill - cornet, Mike Galecki - trumpet, John Lila - Clarinet, John Lapinski - french horn, Theodore Lila - tuba, John Wozniak - another horn and, Pete Hamerski - trombone, plus did the arrangements. All were suppose to be able to read notes. Frances, mentioned to her daughter-in-law, Ann Galecki that once in awhile she would accompany them on the piano. The band practiced mostly in the garage.

December 16, 1940 was a tragic day for Bill's wife, Frances. At this time she was expecting their seventh child, and tragedy was in the winds. Bill had played cards in the afternoon with his older sons and decided to go find Al Teck about something. The following information was taken from the Stevens Point Journal, dated Monday, December 16, 1940.

"About 5:15 o'clock Sunday night a car driven by Bill was involved in a collision in the 500 block on Church street. The collision was between a Pontiac Sedan, owned and driven by Bill Galecki and a Lincoln Zepher Sedan owned by Arthur Johnson, Tomah. Officers said that Galecki was traveling south on the wrong side of the street and that his car struck Johnson's which was traveling north. A front fender of the Zepher was damaged. Officers took him to the police station, placed a reckless driving charge against him and released him, but retained his car as a

bond. Galecki, was walking south, on the west side of South Church Street, (son Greg, figured his dads reasoning was because there was less snow, making it easier to walk). Around 8:00 o'clock Sunday night he was struck in the back by a car driven by Woodrow Weaver, Wisconsin Rapids. The car also was traveling south, (this happened to be south of the current Copps Grocery Store). Galecki was taken to St Michael's Hospital by ambulance. Visibility was bad that day because of a six inch blanket of heavy snow and sleet which came down over central Wisconsin."

John Galecke, was living across the street from the hospital at the time. He was called to the hospital to help identify an accident patient, since he was familiar with quite a few people in the area. Looking at the patient, John remarked, "that's my brother". Mike Galecki, brother-in-law of Frances was contacted and brought her to the hospital that night. His son Bill remembered that on Monday, he and his brothers were brought from school to see their father in the hospital. Bill died that afternoon, December 16th, 1940 at 1:20 P.M. of head injuries. Bill, was 42 years, 3 months and 15 days old at time of death. Attending physician was P.N. Sowaka M.D. Frances delivered their son, Richard, at 12:10 P.M. on Tuesday, December 17th. I, cannot begin to imagine what her thoughts were then. Her husband was dead, a new born son, and a large family to raise.

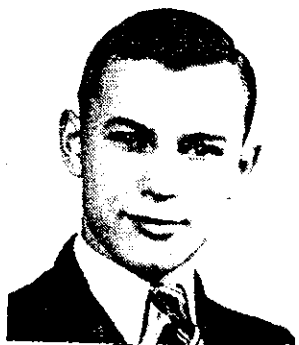
Funeral arrangements were made through Prais Funeral Home with visitation on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, there was a requiem mass with Rev. W.B. Polaczak officiating at St Bronislawa's Church in Plover. The organ music was provided by Thomas Kaczmarek. Following the services, the remains were placed in a vault until burial in the spring. Pallbearers were: Peter Adams, Casimir Benske, Richard Hojnacki, Bernard Bannach, Peter Suski, and Felix Sroda.

Aunt Julie, told me a few times how she could still remember them coming after Mike, on that (snow) stormy nite, and Greg, just a little tike, holding his rosary in his hands at the funeral home.



Ed, Vic, Bill, Tom, Greg & Rich
Date - 1988

H.S. graduation dates



1941



Jr. yr.
1944



1951

1942



1946



1959





Family reunion of the Galecki brothers at Ed's place on Redstone Lake.

Top Row: Vic & Vertie Marie & Bill
 Bottom Row: Ed & Tom



Only brother to play
 sports in High School.

Galecki

Wedding of Edmund & Delores (Konkziela) Galecki

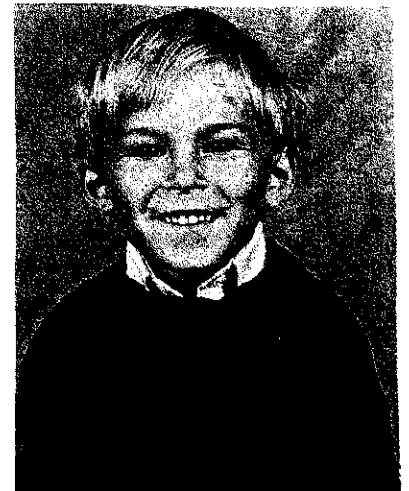


Wedding of Tim & Denise Galecki
Tim, daughter Gail Peter, son Chris, Denise,
son Tim, Delores & Ed, Carol and son Chuck

Granddaughter,
Carolynn Peter



Grandson,
Robbie Peter



1) Edmund was born at home on Tuesday, November 14, 1922 at 9:40 A.M. in Plover, WI. Received the Sacrament of Baptism on November 19, 1922 by Rev. A Torysiak and his sponsors were Bernadus (Bernard) Galecki & Monica Lapinski. First Holy Communion on June 9, 1932, and Confirmation in August of 1932.

On his First Holy Communion, he can remember his attire very well, a wine colored suit. Aunt Minnie (Lila) Lapinski provided the suit jacket, which had belonged to her son Ben. Frances and Ed headed down to Pasternack's Clothing Store for a pair of trousers. The price was \$1.25, but mom only had \$1.19, so she bargained him down. After church a breakfast was held for the communicants. Aunt Minnie gave Ed, 50 cents. He said, that would have been like \$5 dollars today.

Ed was a mass server, which was the start of a tradition in the Galecki household down to Richard. He later graduated to usher.

When Ed was a little tike, he would accompany his dad and grandfather Bernard to his Aunt Monica Bannach's farm to cut wood on a 50-50 split. When he wanted to warm up his dad sent him into the house. To pass the time he went into their attic, played marbles and looked into a early version of what we now call a view master. Greg and I have one of these, from my grandfather Baldus Baker.

Ed Sankey, former resident of Plover, now a Wisconsin Rapids retired fireman, mentioned if memory served him right, Ed was wicked with a hockey stick. Asked if there was any thing to add he smiled with a grin and said that would be telling secrets.

Ed, attended St Bronislava's Catholic School till the 6th grade, when a fire burned the school down. He then attended Roosevelt Grade School. While in the 7th & 8th grade he was on the school baseball team. Held the position of pitcher. Remembers when he pitched a no hit, no run game and another time losing the championship game because Ralph Schudarek wouldn't go after the ball when it flew over his head. He graduated in 1941 from P.J. Jacobs High School in Stevens Point. He held the position of treasurer for the Plover Baseball team on which brothers Bill was a pitcher and Tom was a outfielder.

Ed, worked on the Lila farm for two years and was paid 50 cents a day. The high school policy was, you purchased your books at the beginning of the school year and sold them

back at the end of the academic year. He recalled, Uncle Stephen gave a cash advance to purchase his books.

In his younger years Ed worked at Lila's Store with Uncle Dave. After Ed finished Business College, he inquired about buying the store from Uncle Dave but he didn't have any money so that was the end of that. He started in January 1941 as a spare hand at Whiting Paper Mill for three years.

Ed tells the story about duck hunting with his neighbor Frank Barnsdale. (Frank was a midget, and his family was with the circus, also had his shot gun stock cut to fit his size). One time Ed was impatient to get to the river, so he ran ahead through the brush and tall grass. Meanwhile Frank, with his short legs, couldn't keep up. Frank, started calling to get Ed's attention, looking back, Frank, couldn't be seen. Ed, went back to get him and then led him to the river. Never did hear how many ducks were brought home that day.

He enlisted December 29, 1942 in the Air Force. He was a flight engineer first but because of air sickness, became a air plane mechanic on a B-24 bomber, ending up in Okinawa. According Greg, Ed would pay a quarter to him for each time he wrote a letter to him in service. He was discharged on January 12th, 1946. He later went to Milwaukee looking for employment.

Ed, married Delores Kondziela on February 1, 1950 at Old St Mary's Catholic Church in Milwaukee. Dolores was the daughter of Nick & Ann Konkziela. They had a small wedding. His mom attended, Tom was best man, her sister Dorothy, was maid of honor. Their first residence was an apartment on 69th Street.

He worked at Butter Fetting Inc. starting as a office manager and worked himself to director of the company. One day after quitting that job he went to work at Concrad Schmitt as office manager. This company is well known in church redecorating.

Dolores tells when Ed worked at Butter Fetting, long unpredictable hours were common. Gail was always daddy's girl. After her nap, she would pull a chair next to the window with her nose pressed against it, asking with those big brown eyes, "when's daddy coming home"? Supper time came, bed time came, finally Ed would come through the door. Family life change working for Conrad Schmitt and according to Delores, it was the best thing that could have happened

to Ed and his family. Ed was office manager at his retirement.

Years ago, Ed liked to go up north fishing in the Tomahawk area. Dolores tells how every Sunday morning he would get up early looking through the papers at real estate ads for a place on a lake with good fishing. Ed and Delores are now living on Redstone Lake near the City of LaValle. They both enjoy fishing, and reading, having their children and grandchildren at their home on the lake. Then, there's trips with their motor-home visiting.

Ed, was born on a Tuesday and so were all of the children. Dolores also attended the same schools as Ed. Their children are:

- 1) Charles John
- 2) Hedi
- 3) Gail Ann
- 4) Christopher David
- 5) Timothy John

More information about them on the below:

1) Charles (Chuck) John Galecki, was born on February 6, 1951 in Milwaukee. His marriage to Carol Joyce Maynard took place on September 7, 1978. Chuck is a physicial therapist. They reside at 21742 Little Bear Way, Boca Raton, Fl. 33428. Their children are:

- 1) Anthony Galecki born - January 20, 1979
- 2) Andrea Galecki born - October 15, 1982

2) Hedi Galecki, was born on January 7, 1954 and died on March 1, 1954. Hedi is laid to rest at the St Bronsilava's Cemetery.

3) Gail Ann Galecki, was born on March 18, 1957 in Milwaukee. Her marriage to Timothy Jon Peter took place on June 9, 1979. She is a medical technologist. They reside at 1270 Waterburg Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256. Their children are:

1. Carolynn Peter Born - September 5, 1989
2. Robbie Peter Born - April 2, 1990

4) Christopher (Chris) David Galecki, was born on February 5, 1958 in Milwaukee. Chris is single and is working for the Navy Department as a Engineer in Philadelphia, where he also resides.

5) Timothy (Tim) John Galecki was born January 16, 1962 in Milwaukee. His marriage to Denise Blaskowski took place on October 17, 1992. He is a custom cabinetry maker with a Industrial Arts Degree. They reside in Jefferson, WI.



Wedding of Victor & Vertle (Storey) Galecki

2) Victor Frank, was born at home on Thursday, June 19, 1924 at 4:45 A.M. in Plover, WI. He received the Sacrament of Baptism on June 22, 1924 by Rev. S Lapinski and his sponsors were Frauciscus and Marcianna Lila. First Holy Communion on July 18, 1937 and was Confirmed on August 3, 1937, all at St Bronislava's Church.

He attended St Bronsilava Catholic School and Roosevelt Grade School, attended Emerson School, and graduated in 1942 from P.J. Jacobs High School.

In 1941, Victor worked on Lila's farm for \$2.50 a week from 5:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. every day for three months during the summer when a Junior in High School. After that, he worked in Uncle Dave's store for 10 cents a hour until he finished high school. He lived in WI, Ill, Calif., and ended up in Tenn. He was chief cook on The S.S. Becher Island, a 1000 foot oil tanker while in the Merchant Marines, during WW II between 1943-1944.

Vic married Vertie Mae Storey on July 3, 1947 at St Ann's Catholic Church, in Memphis, Tenn. Vertie was the daughter of Gurney and Emma Storey of Arkansas.

Vic has been employed at Preway Inc., as railroad breakman for 1 year, Hunter Fan for 12 years, U.S. Post Office - (from which he retired), and while retired, a convenience store manager for six years.

The house Vic and Vertie presently live in, started out as a four room house, with outdoor plumbing. Through the years Vic did most of the construction, with help from the family and added a bedroom with adjoining bathroom, a family room, sun room, enclosed deck, and a sunken swimming pool. Vic, with his son-in-law Mike Chambers and daughter Linda enlarged the deck area. Now, Linda and Mike have enclosed the car-port into a kitchen, rearranged the sunroom into a living room, and opened one bedroom into their part of the duplex. Now, if Vic and Vertie need someone for their old age, family is right there.

The grandchildren really have gotten their enjoyment out of the pool. Vic and Vertie are both retired and enjoy their children, 16 grandchildren and his 8 great-great grandchildren. Vic still enjoys his fishing and playing cards. Their children are:

- 1) Linda Kaye
- 2) Leon Victor
- 3) Kenneth Chesley
- 4) Jeanne Naria
- 5) Donna Mae
- 6) Sandra Ruth

More information about them below:

1) Linda Kaye Galecki was born on June 6, 1948 at St Joseph's Hospital, Memphis. She married William Michael Chambers on February 4, 1967 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Memphis. Linda is employed with the Post Office as a Rural Letter Carrier. Mike is a postmaster at a Post Office Branch. They reside at 1450 Hindman Ave, Memphis Tenn 38127 Their children are:

1) Robert (Robbie) Michael Chambers, Born November 14, 1968 at Baptist Memorial, Memphis. He married Margaret Elizabeth Knox on August 29, 1992 in Greenwood, MS. Robbie and his wife are both Pharmacists and reside in Memphis area

2) Richard (Rickey) Christopher Chambers was born January 13, 1970 at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis. He married Shelia Ann Hugheson December 3, 1987 in Memphis. Ricky is employed with the U.S. Post Office, in Memphis. They reside in Walls, MS. Their Children:

- 1) Justin Christopher, born - Aug 17, 1988
- 2) Michael Carlton, born - Nov 3, 1990
- 3) Ashley Suzanne, born - Nov 15, 1993

3) Charissa (Chrisy) Lynn Chambers was born on December 20, 1970 at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. She married Alan Wallace on September 14, 1991 in Memphis. Since then have divorced.

2) Leon Victor Galecki was born November 16, 1949 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Memphis. First marriage was to Vicki Lynn Siefert on August of 1968. Divorced, and married Patricia Frandinstien in May, 1987. Retired as a Lt. Commander from the U.S. Navy. His wife Pat is in the Navy Reserves. They reside in Alabama where there are in the process of building a long home on a farm they bought. Children by first marriage:

1) Andrew Victor Galecki, born on December 12, 1969. Married Tracy in Pensacola, Fla. Andrew is a construction worker. Their children:

- 1) Stephanie , born - March 13, 1989
- 2) Andrew Victor Jr., born - November 4, 1990
- 3) Alyssa Galecki born in 1993

2) Angela Lynn Galecki, born on March 8, 1972. Married Scott McKay on April 10, 1991 in Pensacola, Fl. Angela is a secretary for a construction co. Their children:

- 1) Constance Brooke born - Mar. 4, 1990
- 2) Erin McKay born - Mar. 25, 1992

3) Benjamin Edward, born July 8, 1974 Single resides in Pensacola, Fla.

3) Kenneth Chesley Galecki was born on January 3, 1953 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Memphis. His marriage to Sharon Denise Deyo took place on June 30, 1973 in Memphis. Kenney was in the Navy for four years and now is a mail handler for the U.S. Post Office. Their children:

- 1) Jacob Chesley Galecki born - April 25, 1979
- 2) Courtney Brooke Galecki born - July 19, 1982
- 3) Matthew Aron born - Nov 16, 1983

4) Jeanne Maria Galecki was born on November 12, 1957 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Memphis. Her marriage to Barry Louis Booth took place on May 14, 1976 in Memphis. Jeannie is into Home Craft Shows and also a cashier. They reside in Mississippi. Their children:

- 1) Mark Louis Galecki born - Oct 17, 1979
- 2) Maria Nicole Galecki born - Aug 20, 1981
- 3) Michael Jeremy Galecki born - March 20, 1984

5) Donna Mae Galecki was born on June 16, 1963 at Methodist Hospital Memphis. Her first marriage was to Dennis Burlison on July 3, 1981. Divorced, married Randy Skinner on August 7, 1986 in Memphis. Donna is a Rural Letter Carrier for U.S. Post Office, and Randy works at the

Vic & Vertie



Leon, Sandy, Kenneth, Jeanne,
Linda & Donna - Vic Galecki children



Robbie & Margaret Chambers



25th Wedding Anniversary of
Linda & Mike Chambers
Rickey, Chrisy & Robbie



Rickey & Shelia Chambers



Grandchildren of Linda
Justin, Mikey & Ashley
Chambers



Paper Mill in Memphis. They both enjoy fishing and camping. They reside in the Memphis area. Step-children: twins

- 1) Jason Skinner born - October 27, 1981
- 2) Jeremy Skinner born - October 27, 1981

6) Sandra Ruth Galecki, was born on April 11, 1964 at Methodist Hospital. Her marriage to Michael Scott Starkey, took place on March 16, 1982. Sandy is Branch Manager of Mega Bank, and Scott is manager at Wal Mart, both in Saint Louis, Mo where they work and reside. Their children:

- 1) Christopher Michael born - Nov. 9, 1982
- 2) Kimberly Anne born - July 10, 1984

Leon Galecki, sons: Ben & Andy sps/Stacy
daughter: Angela sps/Scott McKay
Vicki, mother of Leon's children



Leon & Pat Galecki



Kenneth & Sharon Galecki
Children: Matthew, Courtney & Jacob



Jeanne & Barry Booth
Children: Mark, Maria & Michael



Donna & Randy Skinner
Step-children: Jason & Jeremy



Sandy & Scott Starkey
Children: Kim & Christopher



William & Marie (Check) Galecki



TUCKER STUDIO
STEVENS POINT

3) William Walter Galecki, was born at home on Thursday, February 25, 1926 at 5:30 P.M. in Plover, WI. Bill, received the Sacrament of Baptism on February 28, 1926 by Rev. Lapinski and his sponsors were David Lila and Bronislava (Bernice) Galecki. First Holy Communion on July 14, 1937, and was Confirmed on August 3, 1937 all at St Bronsilava's Church.

He attended St Bronislava Catholic School and Roosevelt Grade School, graduated from P.J. Jacobs High School, (didn't attend his graduation because he enlisted in the service).

He has told me different times how years ago they would play marbles. He was the champion marble shooter of Portage Co. Said, was all in the way he positioned the marble between his thumb and finger, which made the difference in competition.

Bill & Tom were both mass servers. When they served mass in the chapel they got a ride to school. Bill can remember caring out the cinders from the stove in the rectory,

While attending school, his summer jobs included packing cranberries and working as a farm hand. He wanted to get a job at Port Edwards Mill but it didn't work out as one of the job requirements was your weight had to be least 100 lbs. (which he wasn't). His son Bill, broke out into a loud chuckle as he happened to be at the house when his dad was telling us the story. He also worked at Vetter's before the service. He had to sign a waver, releasing them from giving his job back when he returned from his tour of duty.

Bill tells a story where he bought himself a pair of wire rimmed glasses. The following afternoon he lost them in the McDill Pond. He tried using a magnet to find them but never did.

Entered the service in June of 1944. His rank was Army PFC, in the heavy artillery, during the war on a 8" haunitzer. Spent 18 months over seas with the 9th armor division occupation taking basic training there to go to Japan. Towards the end of the World War II Bill, saw the gas chambers in Germany where Hitler was in the process of making his master race, (that population was only to consist of blonde hair and blue eyes). He guarded Hitler's SS Women after the war to prevent them from killing their babies and themselves. While overseas Bill self-taught himself to play the harmonica. He mostly plays German tones and did play

for his kids once in awhile when they were younger, now only played for Diane occasionally.

Bill played baseball for four years for the Town of Plover. Greg said he was a good left handed pitcher. Every once in awhile we will meet some of the old softball players from years back and Greg will mention through conversation about his brother Bill, playing in those good ol days. They say, you mean "Ace".

Marie, tells how Bill and her, in the single years, would go dancing to the Wildwood Gardens on Hy 10 on Thursday nights, and the good times with Ray Singer and Camille, his wife. Now they might occasionally dance at a wedding.

The marriage of Bill & Marie Check, daughter of Peter and Lillian Check took place on February 26, 1949 at St Peter's Church. They had their meal at her parents home and the dance reception was held at the Armory, behind P.J. Jacobs High School. Greg remembers this day because he was fourteen then and chief bartender. His mother bought him a new pair of shoes and trousers for the wedding and he was ankle deep in beer behind the bar. He thought he was the cat's meow but his mom saw it differently.

Bill, with pull from Uncle Tony, started working at the paper mill, Consolidated Wis. River Division, in 1946. He started as a spare hand working his way up the ladder as super calendar operator. When he retired on December 7, 1988 with 42 years in he said some his working partners were still talking about how you were suppose to start in the yard first and how come he never had to?

Bill & Marie started a minnow business, in their basement years ago. They added a garage and a room so they could move their business upstairs. Now this has been turned into a TV room where Bill enjoys watching his favorite sport, baseball.

His son Dennis told me the other day how when their dad took him and his brother Bill who were around six and eight or so out catching minnows. Well, dad stepped into a bees nest and all of a sudden there were bees all over. The brothers both made a bee line for the car, jumped in and shut all the windows. Their dad was standing outside of the car swatting left and right and no minnows.

Then there were those times Bill let his sons use the family car. There was always a blank expression given when, he wanted to know where all that grass came from under the car when he was ready to use it.

In the 1970's Bill contacted the disease called Bar Sullivan. This is a disease where all your muscles stop functioning. Bill was finally released from the hospital in a wheel chair and rehabilitation would be his next step. The first day, Marie was to take him out of the front door, from their house, down the ramp, this was a experience he'll never forget. Their front yard faces Highway 54, with a culvert in between. Well Marie came zipping down the ramp, on to the lawn, going like a speeding demon. Bill, had visions of going through the culvert, across Hy 54 through traffic. Marie and Bill managed to stop some how before this could happen but Bill decided at that precise moment he was going to walk again soon.

In the 1980's Bill was the second brother to have By-Pass surgery. His had a quadruple by-pass but it wasn't to successful so the doctors followed up with a balloon job. This was over seven years ago.

For the past 10 years, Bill & Marie have been helping care for their daughter, Diane who has MS while her husband, Bill is at work. One way of relaxation was an occasional trip to the casino and chatting with others there. There's always shopping or going out to eat also.

Now my two cents worth. From the time I got to know Bill & Marie, there is something special about these two people. They have a unique relationship. Marie's favorite word for Bill is, "honey e e e ", when Bill hears this, he is like putty in Marie's hands. Don't get me wrong, Bill can be stubborn too. Their children are:

- 1) Dennis
- 2) William
- 3) Roger
- 4) Carol
- 5) Diane

More information about them on the following page:

1) Dennis William Galecki, was born on September 15, 1949 at St Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point. His marriage to Penny Rae took place on September 23, 1978 in Oshkosh, WI. Dennis works for the City of Oshkosh as a Civil Engineer. They reside at 2020 Crane Street Oshkosh, WI 54901 Their children:

- 1) Jennifer Lynne Galecki born - April 20, 1983
- 2) Thomas Jason Galecki born - August 2, 1987

2) William (Bill) Thomas Galecki was born on March 1, 1951 at St Michael's Hospital. His marriage to Bernadine (Bernie) Wroblewski took place on October 11th. They divorced and he married Bernadine (Sys) Landowski on June 10, 1988. Bill is employed as a fork lift operator at Donaldson Co, Stevens Point, and Sys is employed at River Pines Nursing and Rehabilitation Center as a Diateric Aid. They reside at 3211 Wanta Dr Plover, WI 54467 His children from first marriage:

- 1) Misty Galecki born - June 12 1978
- 2) Ben Galecki born - March 4, 1981

3) Roger Lee Galecki, was born on December 19, 1953 at St Michael's Hospital. His marriage to Pat Wood took place on December 29, 1991 in Alaska.

4) Carol Marie Galecki, was born on May 17, 1955 at St Michael's Hospital. Her marriage to James (Jim) Kalpinski took place on May 18, 1974 at St Bronsilava's Church. Carol is a Escrow Coordinator, First Financial Bank and Jim is with the Copps Food Corporation. Their children:

1) Jo ann Kalpinski born - Sept. 17, 1975
Married Jerry Houtman on July 14, 1995.

2) Carrie Kalpinski born - October 21, 1977

5) Diane Galecki was born on November 13, 1959 at St Michael's Hospital. Her marriage to Bill Konkel took place on May 24, 1980 at St Bronislava's Church. Diane was employed at Celestial Farms and a line worker at Ore-Ida Co., till 1985. Has had multiple sclerosis for ten years. Diane may have be bed ridden, but her face lights up when you mention a dog's named "Lucky" and her favorite race car driver, "Dale Earnhardt". Her & Bill had watched many laps in the grand stands of the Daytona 500 Speedway Races. Bill is a Public Works Mgr. with the Village of Plover. Diane, died on August 4, 1995 at St Michael's Hospital. Services were at St Bronsilava Church, Rev. William Moeschler officiated and burial was in the parish cemetery.

1980 - Family picture



Carol, Diane, Marie & Bill, Dennis, Bill, Roger

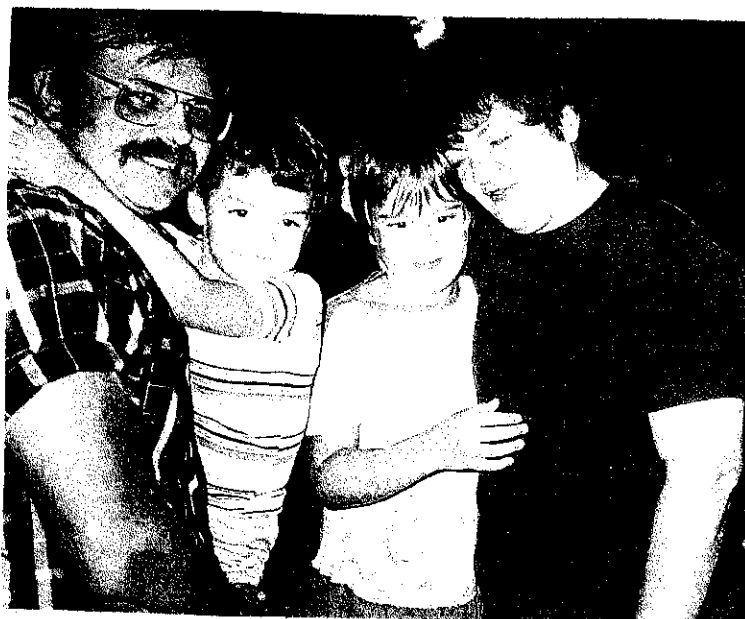


Left to right - Bill,
son Ben, Sis, daughter Misty



Bill & Diane (Galecki) Konkel

Dennis, Thomas,
Jennifer & Penny
Galecki



Jim, Carol,
Carrie & Jo ann
Kalpinski

Jerry & Jo ann
Hautman



Marie & Bill
Galecki



Tom & Beverly (Wawrcyn) Galecki



4) Thomas Eugene Galecki was born at home on Sunday, January 15, 1928 at 4:30 A.M. in Plover, WI. He received the Sacrament of Baptism on January 29, 1928 by Rev. S. Lapinski and his sponsors were Joamis (John) Lapinski and Maryanna (Mary) Galecki. First Holy Communion on July 29, 1939, Confirmation on July 8th, 1941, all at St Bronislava's Church.

Greg, mentioned that he and Tom shared a bed upstairs. Came in handy on those cold nights, then there was no furnace and only a grate in the parlor ceiling.

Another time the older boys went bumming, Tom thought they went towards Uncle Mike's. Uncle Mike bought him home and asked their dad, (Bill), you missing someone?

Richard told of the time coming home in Tom's car. As Tom was making the usual approach into the driveway, Richard, for some reason, leaned on the passenger side door knob. Before he knew what had happened, the car door swung open. It was a little hairy for a few seconds. Tom, gave Rich a 50 cent bribe, not to tell their mom.

He attended St Bronsilava's Catholic grade school and graduated in 1946 from P.J. Jacobs High School.

He worked in Lila's Store while in high school.

Tom, played baseball on the Portage County League in Plover as outfielder. According to Greg, his mom didn't know Tom played football for P.J.Jacob's. as an end. It was over shortly after she found out. I asked Greg how did Tom got home?, I guess he walked. Later in Milwaukee, he played softball for Square D.

Tom enlisted in the U.S. Navy on January 4, 1946 and after basic training he was a storekeeper in Kodiak, Alaska. He held the rank of Seamen 3rd Class when honorably discharged November 11, 1947. He had a spot on his lung and a 1/3 removed, after his discharge he recuperated at home. During that time by himself he scraped and painted his mom's house.

Bill tells that Tom had a bought himself a used 1948 Buick convertible and they used it for their honeymoon trip.

After this period Tom head for Milwaukee to seek employment and boarded with his brother Ed.

Tom had told me he and Beverly meet at a dance. Tom and Beverly, daughter of Edward and Katherine Wawrcyn, were married on April 26, 1955 at St Elizabeth Catholic Church in Milwaukee. Greg, remembers how impressed he was because they served strawberry short cake for dessert. When they

they returned from the wedding to Plover the next day, there was six inches of snow on the ground.

Tom was employed by the Square D Co. as an electrical tester for forty years, until his retirement in 1990. In 1986, Tom was the first brother to have by-pass (triple) surgery.

Tom & Beverly both enjoyed dancing and dining out and dancing with his daughters at their wedding. His favorite summer pastimes were fishing and golfing. One of his prized possessions was a trophy he received in May of 1985 for a hole-in-one he shot while on a golf outing with his son-in-laws.

His son Larry has pleasant memories of the many hours the two of them spent fishing in northern Wisconsin and locally at Big Cedar Lake.

His daughter Darlene says she has many good memories of her dad. He was usually kind of quiet but he would always be there if you needed help with something at the house or to help watch the kids. His grandchildren say that grandpa was a great back scratcher. They would always sit on his lap and get their back scratched while watching T.V. His grandson misses listening to the Brewer games with grandpa on their screened porch with their soda and can of peanuts.

Tom was 64 years old when he passed away on April 27th, 1992 of colon cancer. (One day before their 36th wedding anniversary). He is deeply missed by his family.

His brothers tell me Tom was just a quiet fellow, didn't know when he was around. Their children are:

- 1) Karen R.
- 2) Darlene M.
- 3) Larry P.
- 4) Connie L.

More information about them below:

1) Karen R. Galecki was born on January 31, 1957 in Milwaukee. Her marriage to Ronald L. Martin took place on August 6, 1957 at St Catherine's Catholic Church in Brown Deer. Karen is a homemaker, works as food server at her childrens school and is involved in making crafts for shows. They reside at W. 164 N. 9918 Robins Way Germantown, WI 53022. Their children:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Robin E. Martin | born - January 19, 1982 |
| 2) Michelle L. Martin | born - July 29, 1983 |
| 3) Amanda R. Martin | born - June 5, 1986 |

2) Darlene M. Galecki was born on May 27, 1959 in Milwaukee. Her marriage to Louis B. Mueller took place on May 10, 1980 at St Catherine's Church in Brown Deer. Darlene is a homemaker and a teacher's aid, and makes crafts. They reside at 1838 Wicker Lane in Richfield, WI 53076 Their children are;

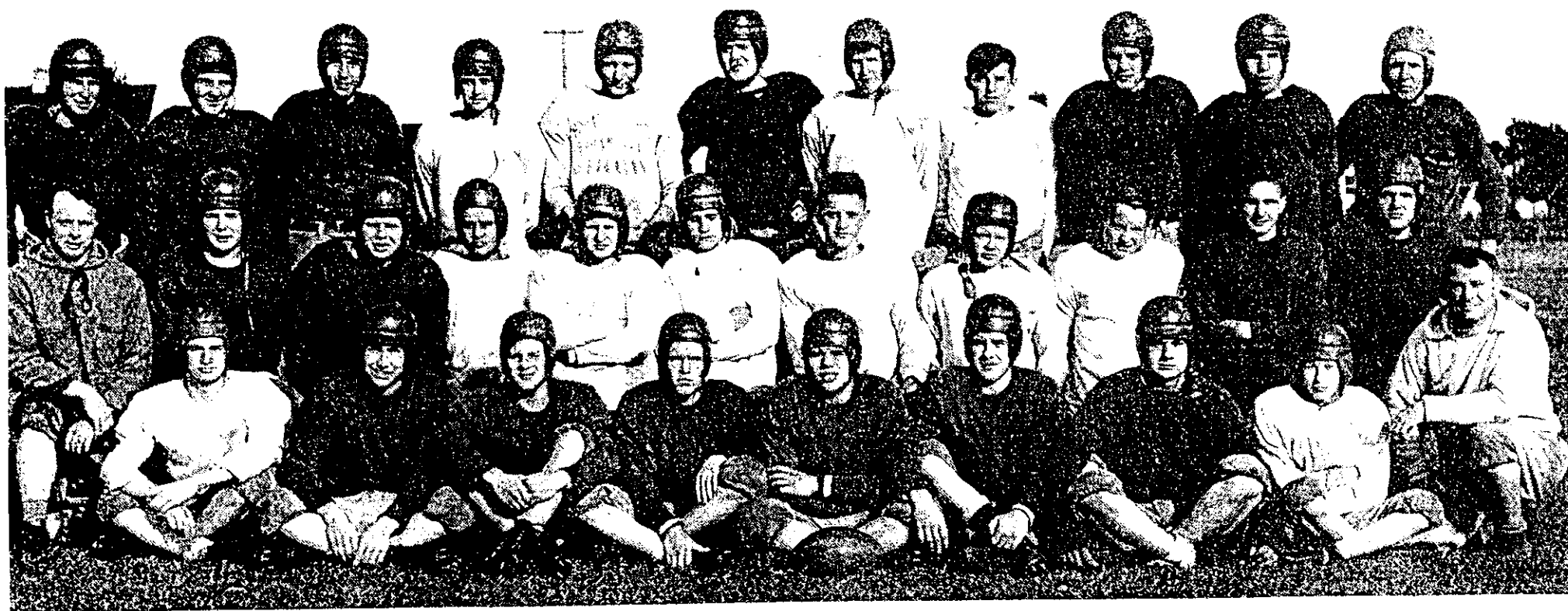
- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Jeremy M. Mueller | born - October 6, 1982 |
| 2) Jamie L. Mueller | born - Dec. 20, 1984 |
| 3) Jesse T. Mueller | born - January 31, 1988 |

3) Larry P. Galecki was born on January 15, 1965 in Milwaukee. Larry was born on Tom's 37th birthday. His marriage to Wendy Hofmann took place on August 26, 1989 at St Catherine's Church. Larry is an electrical engineer as a design engineer group leader. They reside at 4730 Ney A Ti Court, West Bend, WI 53095 Their children are:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Taylor C. Galecki | born - August 19, 1991 |
| 2) Tanner J. Galecki | born - May 21, 1994 |

4) Connie L. Galecki was born on May 5, 1966 in Milwaukee. Her marriage to Jeffrey P. Wimmer took place on May 2, 1987 at St Catherine's Church in Brown Deer. Connie is a homemaker and works part-time at Kohls Department Store. They reside at 3985 Patricia Lane, Richfield, WI 53076 Their children are:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Kristie L. Wimmer | born - Dec. 2, 1988 |
| 2) Nicole M. Wimmer | born - Sept. 12, 1990 |
| 3) Daniel T. Wimmer | born - Feb. 14, 1993 |



Varsity

Row 1—J. Kluck, R. Vallin, J. Thompson, E. Brekke, J. Karner, E. Whelihan, S. Stenz, R. Laszewski,
Mr. McDonald

Row 2—Coach Rebholz, P. Love, L. Kraus, E. Zurawski, S. Augustiniak, D. Gruba, T. Mabie, H. Campbell,
R. Dehlinger, J. Dubinski, J. Mendyke

Row 3—E. Klasinski, W. Snow, A. Bostad, R. Schiebe, T. Galecki, G. Rogers, R. Helm, D. Coulthurst,
G. Tuszka, H. Feigleson, H. Koshnick



Beverly

The Martin's



Ron, Karen (Galecki), Robin, Michelle, Amanda

The Galecki's



Wendy, Larry, Taylor, & Tanner

The Mueller's



Louis, Darlene (Galecki),
Jeremy, Jamie, Jesse

The Wimmer's



Jeff, Kristie, Connie (Galecki),
Daniel, Nicole

5) Jeanette Mary Galecki was born at home on Sunday, February 9, 1930 at 6:45 A.M. in Plover, WI. She received the Sacrament of Baptism on February 16th, 1930 by Rev. S. Lapinski and her sponsors were Francescus Lila and Suzanna Lila. First Holy Communion on July 6, 1941 and Confirmed July 8, 1941 and attended Roosevelt grade school.

Jeanette loved to dance and go to weddings. She did help her mother Frances and Aunt Minnie wash dishes for the Rosary Society at weddings. She did occasional baby-sitting for her brother Bill and Uncle Tony's family.

Jeanette was ill for a year and died of cancer at St Michael's Hospital on November 18, 1968. Funeral arrangements were made through Dzikoski Funeral Home with visitation and a requiem mass officiated by Rev. Francis Przyblski at St Bronislava's Church with burial in the parish cemetery. Pallbearers were her nephews Charles, Dennis, and William Jr. Galecki and cousins David, Jerome, and Dennis Lila. Jeanette never married.



June - 1959

school
picture



Marie, Bill, Tom, Jeannette



Rich, Jeannette,
Dennis



Ed
Delores
Jeannette
Marie
Bill

Gregory & Maxine (Nitka) Galecki

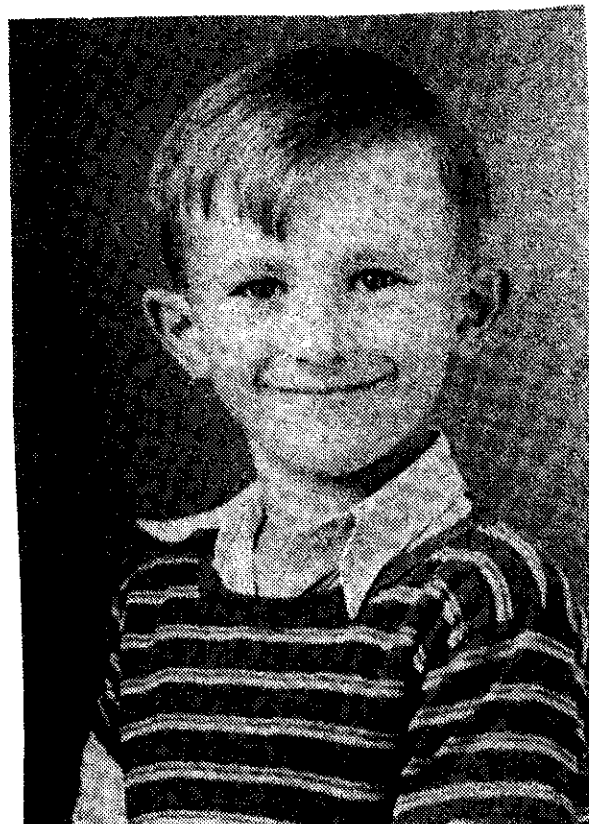


charleworth studio



Jeannette - 6

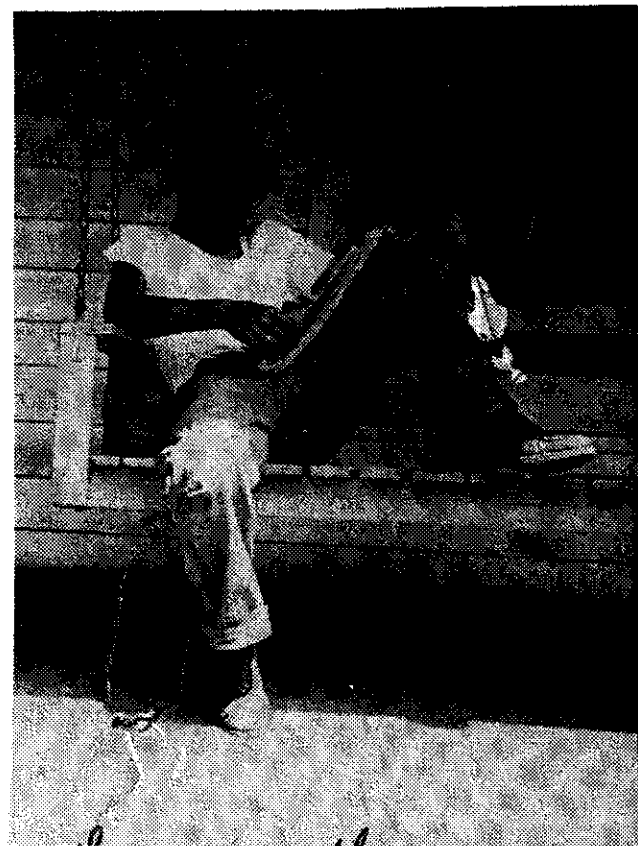
Greg - 2



Greg - 7



Top Row: Bucky Eiden, ? Elaine
Adams, Jeannette
Middle Row: Elaine Lepinski,
Kathleen Murray, Mike
Slowinski, Greg Worzella
Bottom Row: Greg, Jim Cisewski,
Fatsy Kruger, Joan Shannon



Greg - 14

6) Gregory Robert Galecki, was born at home on May 25, 1934 at 7:00 A.M. His mom said that he weighed ten pounds at birth and the temperature felt like it was a hundred degrees between her labor and delivery. Then, when she was nursing him, she almost starved him. He wasn't getting any nourishment from her, she started to notice something was wrong when Greg started to loose weight, and was crying a lot because he was hungry.

Greg was Baptized on June 3rd, 1934 and his Baptismal sponsors were Mike and Victoria Worzalla. He received his First Holy Communion on July 6, 1941, and was Confirmed the same year, all at Saint Bronislava's Catholic Church. Greg would occasionally accompany his dad to the tavern as the story was told by one of his brothers. They looked forward to the treats of candy bars when he came home. Greg was suppose to have had long eye lashes and a cute smile. Even then, he knew when to turn on the old charm. That would get them every time, then they say, "get the kid something too".

Another time Greg's dad Bill, was going to tar their second floor tin roof which had a 5/12 pitch. Bill, climbed the ladder, walked to the peak of the roof, and proceeded to start tarring. For some reason he turned around and there was Greg standing, right behind him. You think about this, what would have been your reaction?

Greg was five when he started first grade at the old Roosevelt School. Attended P.J. Jacobs High School, and Industrial Arts at Emerson School, graduating in June 2, 1951. Greg followed in his brothers footsteps and around the age of seven was also a mass server at Saint Bronislava Church. In those days he walked a mile and half to church when it was your turn for daily mass. Just like the postman through rain, sleet or snow. One day the temperature was 20 below, when he finally reached church, he sat behind the pot belly stove to warm up. The other server never did show up.

Greg was an avid reader like his mom, except around then his favorite reading materials were comic books. He didn't have any money so he would go to Uncle Dave's store and sit in an out of the way spot and read. I don't know if Uncle Dave appreciated this, presumed being family did pull a little weight. Now, his reading material is the newspaper, golf magazines or Tom Clancy novels. Several summer years, in high school were spent on Uncle Steve's farm. After school let out, his cousin Jerome would talk him into coming home and throwing his clothes out the

up stairs bedroom window, trotting down the back stairway, and out of the house for the farm. There were stories told about a pitch fork, shot gun, F-12 tractor, painting the car, and a poke in the nose. Turned seventeen a week before he graduated from high school, being under age, couldn't get a factory job. So he picked up odd jobs working at Okray's Potatoes irrigating, cranberry marshes as raker, and three months with a tree trimmer company. In June of 1952 started at Preway as spot welder, making \$1.29 a hour and a little more on piece work.

After high school, played outfield that summer for the Plover American Legion Junior League. Later, basketball for Wille's Bar with the Badger Amateur League as guard. Growing up Greg liked to go hunting squirrels, jack rabbit, duck and deer. Also, liked to go trout, and muskie fishing. If his dad wouldn't of died so young, Greg might have been his fishing companion like his brothers were previously.

When Greg was nineteen he purchased his first car, a used 1949 Ford from Vic Wasineski. The car he always talks about, was a 1958 Ford Fairlane 500. According to him that was THEE car. Greg had some good memories and fish stories up north at Uncle Dave's cottage on Madeline Lake. One of those times happened to be with his cousin Dave. Around this time Dave was peddling potatoes, came across a Chetk mahogany strip boat converted for water skiing and knew Greg was in the market for a good used one. The following June, the usual Plover bunch headed for Holiday Creek and later on a island not far from Galecke Park for a Sunday of skiing.

Around this time I came into Greg's life, and three years later our marriage took place on October 26, 1963 at Saint Peter's Catholic Church. My parents were Henry and Joanna Nitka. My Aunt Helen Wilkowski, cooked the breakfast and dinner which were served at Johnny's Tune-In for three hundred and fifty families. Brother Richard, was best man. Our home was started the first week in July of 1963, and moved into the house in June the following year. The house was framed by Ed Sankey, Greg and I doing a lot of the construction, with guidance and help from my dad, Henry Nitka. Volunteer help was appreciated from brothers Bill and Rich, and Maxine's Uncle Eddie and cousin Ronnie. Greg left Preway Inc. and accepted a night custodial job at the University of Stevens Point on April 1, 1967. This was quite a decision for him to make, since he was taking a cut in pay. Meanwhile, Greg attended night classes taking various courses at the local Technical School for

advancements purposes, later became a maintenance mechanic. Through the university, took engineering seminar courses at the UW-Madison and different courses at Johnson Controls in Milwaukee. This led to his present position of control specialist.

After the birth of our three children, involvement with the family came first. This was done through participation in PTO, school fund raisers, coaching basketball, cub scout program, water-skiing, downhill skiing, canoeing, camping, fishing and encouraging the boys to do their best in school. He considered our sons, his investment in life. Had one dark cloud in our married life, the death of our daughter Kim at the age of six, of cancer. Also, felt he had a second chance in life, by having a five by-pass surgery in June 29, 1989.

As life continued on with a few changes. We made this pack, he likes to golf, so if I take up the sport and give it my best, he'd do the same with dancing. So far its working. Now, we have gone from fifteen years of tent camping to a travel trailer. This idea took a lot of persuading on my part, felt camping is with a tent, a trailer is not, he's starting to mellow some. Our children are:

- 1) Michael Robert
- 2) Patrick James
- 3) Kim Marie

More information about then in the following pages

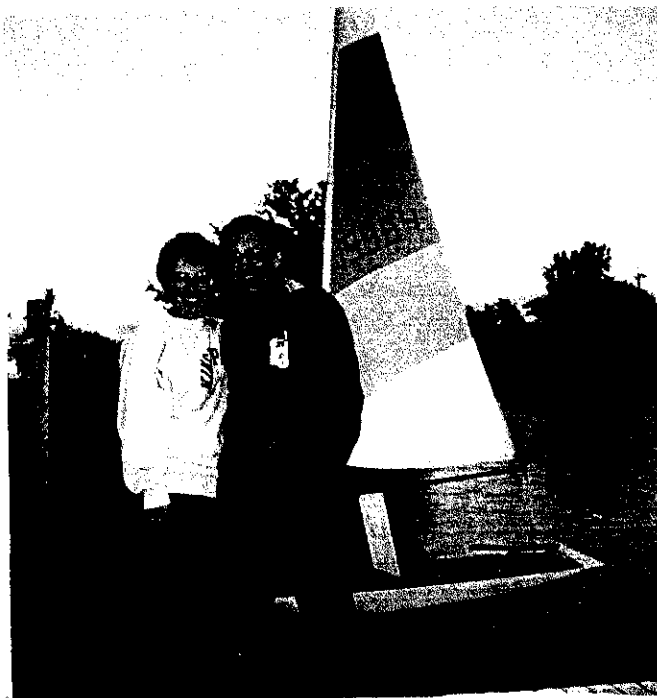
1) Michael Robert Galecki was born on October 2, 1964 in Stevens Point, Wi. His marriage elopement to Stacy Welch took place in State of Virginia on August 14, 1993. Mike is a graduate of US Merchant Academy and UW-Madison Graduate School. He is presently with the Department of Commerce in Washington DC. His wife Stacy, is a Electricial Engineer, with a communications consulting firm. They presently reside at 1507 Deer Point Way, Reston Va 22094

2) Patrick James Galecki was born on September 21, 1967 in Stevens Point, Wi. Graduated from UW Stevens Point and UW-Madison Graduate School. Has excepted a job with Cummins Engine in Columbus, Indiana.

3) Kim Marie Galecki was born on January 6, 1971 in Stevens Point, Wi. Kim, died on June 20, 1977 at Milwaukee Children's Hospital. Cause of death was pulmonary

hemorrhage, due to congestive heart failure, due to Adriamycin toxicity. All started with a malignant tumor in her kidney which had to be removed. This type of kidney malignancy can occur in two periods of life, infancy or mid-adult life.

Maxine & Greg



Patrick & Michael
Greg & Maxine



Greg & Maxine
Michael, Kim, Patrick

Stacy & Michael



Richard & Ann (Pulchinski) Galecki



7) Richard William Galecki, was born at Saint Michael's Hospital on December 17, 1940 at 12:10 P.M. Richard's dad had just died on December 16, 1940 at 5:10 P.M. resulting from traffic accident injuries. Richard was baptized on December 29, 1934 by Rev. W. B. Polaczyk and his sponsors were John Walkush and Regina Golka. He received his first Holy Communion on July 2, 1950 and was Confirmed the following 20th of November, all at Saint Bronislava's Catholic Church.

When Richard was a little tike around two, big brother Greg was around eight. Greg was baby-sitting that particular day. Nature was calling, there being no indoor facilities, and the woodshed was the nearest building, that's where they went. As Greg tells it, Richard was under extreme pressure, and wanted to know how high Rich could spray. Greg standing behind Richard, bent over him to guide, instead of hitting the ceiling of the woodshed, Greg got an instant part in the center of his hair. Greg decided that was enough experimenting. Said, wasn't the Galecki-Lila genes which caused his loss of hair on top of his forehead. Richard speaks out now, this was all my "big brothers idea".

Richard recalled he needed a little straightening out occasionally. He decided to take matters into his own hands by throwing the mahogany strap down one of the out-house holes. Greg, added his two cents worth with this. Rich and Jeanette repeated this process a few times but mom, always had a replacement.

Richard continued the tradition set by his older brothers of being a mass server for four years at Saint Bronislava's. Richard had a Milwaukee Journal Route, which was inherited when Greg went to work the summer on Uncle Steve's farm. This route went from south of Springville Pond to southern edge of Plover by Ann's Cafe. Frances, could never figure out why her son was never hungry at various meal times. Her daughter-in-law Ann, when told about this, remembered the answer in the back of her mind. Richard had told her how he would spend his profits on hamburgers and pop before he came home for supper. Jeanette would help her brother out with the route.

During summer breaks from high school, Richard would accompany his Aunt, Susie Lila, up to the Woodruff area. She would pull their trailer up old two lane Hy 51, going up the Brokaw Hills, seemed like the trailer was really holding back. Down the hill, it was just the opposite, as it was pushing the car, to Rich this was rather scary. At that time

they were using site 16 on Carol Lake. This story Rich couldn't stop laughing as he remembering what Aunt Susie had told him. One hot morning around 3 A.M. in July, she decided a refreshing swim was in order. Enjoying herself, all of a sudden a couple of fisherman appeared with their boat and lighted lanterns. She quickly moved herself under the dock since she was skinny dipping, when he reached for his fish net and another three inches would have had her nose. Also mentioned when the fish were biting and nearby fisherman were trying to see what bait they were using, she would do a quick bait change to confuse them.

Rich also worked at the Beli- isle Supper Club, to help his mom pay for his tuition at Pacelli High School. His means of transportation to Minocqua from the Lila cottage on Madeline Lake was a bike. This was around five miles each way and was tough peddling your bike back in the middle of the night with a flashlight. Richard attended Roosevelt School grades one through eighth and graduated from Pacelli (all boys then) High School in 1959. Attended college for one year, worked at the Whiting Plover Mill from 1960 to 1961 and went back again for another year. The way Greg tells it, Richard learned most everything about driving a car from him. Richard still remembers how he was taught to park between two cars. Richard would let Greg off and Greg would stand like he was the back finder bumper of the car ahead of the parking space. If he touched Greg with his front bumper, try again.

When Greg, had his 1958 Ford with a interceptor motor, four barrel carburetor, Richard, decided he would see how fast it would go. Rich, backed off when he hit a hundred twenty five miles a hour. Of course Rich didn't tell Greg about this till years later.

Richard, sold White Cross Life Insurance, worked at Thorp Finance, and First National Bank in Wisconsin Rapids as head book-keeper. Richard meet his wife (Ann) at an Easter dance at Starlite Ballroom. Since Rich needed some polishing on his dancing, he and Ann practiced in her parents garage.

Richard's marriage to Ann Pulchinski, daughter of Ed and Mary Pulchinski, took place on September 7, 1963 at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Knowlton, WI. Witnesses were, Greg Galecki and Maxine Nitka. His daughter Debra, recalled several stories about her dad. One hot summer day, Debra thought her dad, delivering mail on his walk route, might like a coke to help quench his thirst.

Since his route was near the vicinity of their house, she jumped on her bike to look for him. It was some time before she found him and by then the soda was pretty warm. Warm soda does not taste the best, but Richard finished off the can. Debra knew that the soda was warm and was very impressed with her dad's attitude.

Another time she had a math problem at school on giving back the right change. Richard just sat down with her by the kitchen table and patiently used different canned goods, to play the game of customer and cashier.

Their first residence was on 104 1/2 Fourth Avenue, Stevens Point. Their first home was in the Town of Rudolph, 4631 Reddin Road, around five north of Wisconsin Rapids, then in Wisconsin Rapids on 431 19th Street N. Presently living on Lake Camelot in Adams County at 829 Richmond Way, Nekoosa, WI 54457.

Richard worked at Consolweld for five years and a mail carrier and now a vehicle route carrier for the Post Office since 1968. Ann's, favorite hobby is painting pictures. She has sold quite a few, plus has had art shows in various locations.

Richard and Ann are parents of:

- 1) Daniel
- 2) Dawn
- 3) Debra

More information following below:

1) Daniel Galecki, was born March 10, 1965 at Saint Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point. Daniel's marriage to Susan Grumley, daughter of Neil and Shirley Brumley of Boulder, Co. on June 6, 1992 in Portland, Oregon. Dan graduated from UW Stevens Point and is a Forest Consultant for Northwest Forestry Services. Susan, is a Account Executive, for Pacific North West. They reside at 720 N. Main Newburg, Or 97132

2) Dawn Galecki, was born on January 31, 1967 at Saint Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point. Dawn is single and graduated from the Milwaukee School of Engineering. She is a senior engineer with Motorola Inc. in Chicago. Dawn resides at 842 Bristol Barrington, IL 60010

3) Debra Galecki, was born on October 13, 1968 at Saint Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point. Debra was born two month premature. She was so small, her dad held her

mostly in the palm of his hand, she fit in a shoe box and was perfectly healthy. Debra is single and graduated from UW Stevens Point and is in sales with Fleet Farm. Debra resides at 3200 Ellis St. Stevens Point, Wi 54481.



Rich - feeding chickens
→ that mom raised

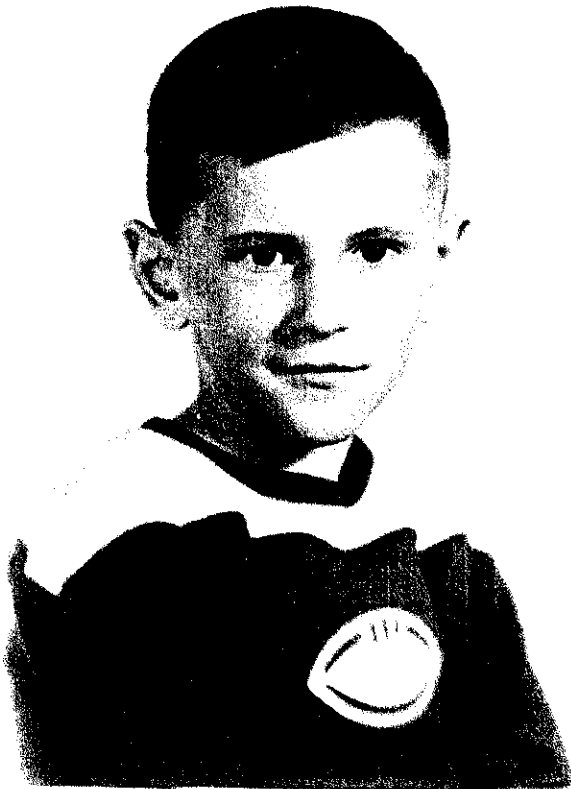


Background - Brother Bill's car
Rich - with home made plow, made by Greg

Around eight years old



Buster & Rich



Richard's Family
Daughter Dawn, Rich, Son Dan,
Daughter-in-law Susan, Daughter
Debra, and his wife Ann



Pictures of Stephen



Stephen

Theodore



Please present this card at
Capital Amusement Hall
for the
LILA OSTROWSKI
WEDDING DANCE
Tuesday, May 9, 1933

Stephen Lila

9) Stephen J. Lila was the ninth child of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. He was born on December 14, 1899 at the family home in Plover. Stephen was baptized on December 16, 1899 at St. Bronislava church, Plover by Rev. John Pciecha with Michael Jaszewski and Mary Jaskzewski as his sponsors. Confirmed on November 21, 1911 at St. Bronsilava.

As a boy he attended the old St. Bronislava parochial school. He also worked along with his brothers on the farm in his younger years. Was employed at the Port Edwards Mill with along with brother Frank.

Steve and Sophie Ostrowski meet at the Oriental Gardens. Sophie had came with her sister Elizabeth, who was dating Bernard Coulthurst. She thought he was a nice guy, time passed. The Shopinski place was having a dance in their granary. Musicians were Theodore and Felix on his concertina. Romance then blossomed.

Stephen wed Sophie Ostrowski, daughter of Felix and Martha (Hoffman) Ostrowski, at 8 o'clock on Tuesday May 9, 1933 at St. Peter's church. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Julius Chylinski. Lillies and ferns decorated the altar that day.

Sophie's gown was fashioned of white satin with a lace jacket and her lace trimmed veil fell from a cap headdress caught with pearl beads. Her flowers were roses and sweet peas.

Miss Emma Woztalawicz, the maid of honor, wore a blue dress with a pink jacket. The bridesmaids were Miss Helen Lepinski in pink, Miss Elizabeth Ostrowski in blue and Miss Catherine Lepinski in pink. They all had pink and white carnations. Marion Lepinski, the flower girl, wore pea green silk crepe and carried a basket of sweet peas and ferns.

John Ostrowski was best man, while the ushers were Ernest Adams, Gerald Coulthurst and Edward Walcks.

Breakfast, luncheon and dinner were served to 40 families during the day at the home of the brides parents. Then followed a wedding dance, held at the Capital Amusement Hall.

In those days it was a common practice to hand out dance cards. These would be for the people who were not invited for the meals but you still wanted them to be part of the celebration.

After their wedding Stephen and Sophie had resided and worked the Lila farm except for a short time spent in Milwaukee. Here they raised their family of six children.

When asking family members to share some tidbit about their dad with us, the replies were: From his daughter Antoinette (Tony), he was a very caring and loving dad. Always used to tell me he saw two weeks of the old century. Every summer dad always would have a nice big patch of beans and pickles for his children to pick. That is how we made our extra spending money. Dad was a religious man, always made sure we made it to mass and to catechism classes. Enjoyed playing cards and pool, baseball games, playing his concertina and sometimes played at the neighborhood tavern. Played his concertina in a band called "Smile A Little Bit".

His son Joe, wrote my dad was a quiet man, but strong and confident. His enjoyment of playing cards and the concertina and listening to the Milwaukee Braves on the radio. What I strongly remember about daddy was that he was a good and honest man. He would kneel down and say his morning and evening prayers, and never miss church services even if he would have to walk in a blizzard.

From his nephew Greg Galecki, the dollar he got from Uncle Steve for his first holy communion.

Steve died at the age of 66 at his farm in Plover on August 10, 1966 of cancer. Immediate cause of death was carcinoma of the gall bladder.

Visitation was at the Dzikoski Funeral Home. Services were officiated by Rev. Francis Przybylski at St. Bronislava's church, with burial in the parish cemetery.

Pallbearers were Clifford Lila, David Lila Jr., Franklin Lila, Ben Lapinski, Greg Galecki and Ralph Kozickowski.

Stephen and Sophie were parents of:

- 1) Jerome
- 2) Patricia
- 3) John
- 4) Antoinette
- 5) Dennis

6) Joseph

More information below:

- 1) Jerome Lila sps/Nancy Deuster
Residence: at 1501 Coolidge Ave.
Plover, Wi 54467

Their children:

- 1) Robert Lila (deceased)
- 2) Michael Lila sps/Jame Steage
Residence: 2001 Jefferson Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Children:

- 1) Jessica Lila
- 2) Jennifer Lila
- 3) Benjamin Lila
- 3) Scott Lila sps/Pamela Getzloff
Residence: 146 River Hghts Dr.
Plover, Wi 54467
- 4) Denise Lila sps/Rodney Radomski
Residence: 931 Williams
Wisconsin Rapids, Wi

Children:

- 1) Emily Radomski

- 2) Patricia Lila was born on 1938
died May 16, 1952

- 3) John (Jack) Lila (deceased), sps/Bonnie Niemczyk
Their children:

- 1) Rodney Lila sps/Linda Iwanski
Residence: 2111 Lepak Dr.
Plover, Wi 54467

Children:

- 1) Nichole Lila
- 2) Tara Lila
- 2) Brad Lila

- 4) Antoinette (Toni) sps/Norbert Kirschling
Residence: 1304 Okray Dr
Stevens Point, Wi 54481

Their children:

- 1) Sandra Kirschling sps/James Sadogierski
Residence:

Children:

- 1) Steven Sadogierski
- 2) Bryan Sadogierski
- 2) Judy Kirschling sps/Tom Galecke
Residence: 4000 Jay Ct
Stevens Point, Wi 54481

- 5) Dennis Lila sps/Bonnie Lila
Residence: 4508 Grant Ave
Plover, Wi 54467

Their children:

- 1) Tiffney Lila

- 6) Joseph (Joe) Lila sps/Linda Sackman
Residence: 6310 Hilltop Dr
Stevens Point, Wi 54481

Their children:

- 1) Jeffry Allen Lila
- 2) Cynthia Mae Lila
- 3) Kristin Sophie Lila
- 4) Rochelle Lynn Lila



Norbert & Toni Kirschling, daughters Sandra & Judy



Joe, Cynthia, Linda, Jeffry
Rochelle & Kristin Lila



Patsy Lila



→ Celebrating Sophie's Birthday
Joe, Dennis, Toni & Jerry



Denise & Rodney Radomski



Jerry & Nancy Lila Family

Jame, Benjamin, Michael,
Jennifer, Jessica Lila



Pamela & Scott Lila





Dennis & Jack Lila



Jack Lila, Richard Galecki,
Joan Groshek & Hubert Cordy

Jack receiving the Highest
Salesman Realtor Plaque →



Tiffney, Dennis, Bonnie,
Rodney, Linda, friend Chris & Brad

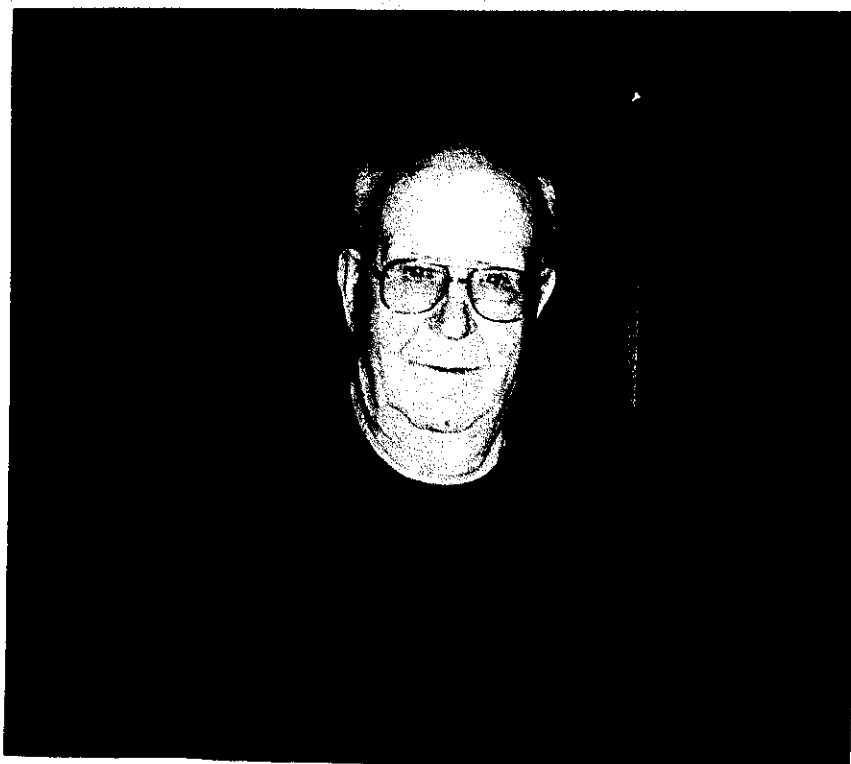


Linda, Nicole, Tara
& Rodney Lila

WEDDING - Evelyn & Irene Dulek, Helen Ingham
 Brides - Joseph Dulek, Stephen Lila & Ferdinand Boyer
 Maid of Honor - Catherine Lejinska
 Groom & Johnnie (Dulek) Lila



Frank



Here might have been some of the 32 boys that
Uncle Frank talked about.

William

Stephen



Frank Lila

10) Frank J. Jr. was the son of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. Their tenth child, was born on March 25, 1902. The family supposedly lived in the Village of Plover. The house was then situated on the corner of Bus 51 & 54.

His records at St. Bronsilava church, had him baptized on March 29, 1902 by Rev A. Elbert and his sponsors were John Orłowski and wife Frances. Confirmation on August 24, 1914.

At home the predominant language was Polish, Frank eventually learned the English language as he attended school. His sisters, Minnie & Frances would help him with his homework.

Frank attended the parish parochial school for 7 1/2 years. He didn't like his first teacher, a man. "Somebody might be talking, and he'd turn around and fire a book at them. He'd take a big stick and hit them across the back. "Then we got a woman teacher, and she was wonderful.

Frank recalled a humorous story he wanted told. Greg and I asked him are you sure, we don't want your family mad at us. He insisted, just tell it! When his Pa had the dry good and grocery store in Plover, Frank had been up stairs in the living quarters. Nature was really calling, and in those days there weren't indoor facilities. Seeing the heat grate on floor, Frank figured he had the his answer to his problem. Unbeknown, on the first floor, just below the grate a salesman was busy talking with his dad. The conversation was abruptly stopped by a unexpected shower. We asked, was Pa pretty upset? I guess so, Frank grinned from ear to ear.

The back of the tavern had a kitchen. Frank would tend bar, filling up pails with beer and selling them for the required nickel.

Around the Plover neighborhood, an unusual Christmas custom was practiced. Half a dozen young men with disguised faces, would make the rounds of the farms. At each place they would dance around in a circle and have a few drinks. As the evening wore on, they could get mean. Then, the boys would hid and Frank's sisters in their younger years have been told would run to the barn and hide in the hay loft.

One time, he put a letter in the chimney for Santa to pick up. "I wanted a sled because my job was to haul in

firewood. The letter was still there the next day, Apparently, there was no Santa Claus."

Out back of the farm was the Wisconsin River. On a summer Sunday, most of the neighborhood's 32 boys could be found swimming in their underwear. They'd have a baseball game, looser bought the beer. Then asked him, did you fellas every fight? "No! Were there as many girls? No, not as many."

Fishing was good. A boy might come home with a stringer of suckers reaching from his shoulders to his heels. He'd throw out a line with five hooks, go home and later return to find there were five fish hooked.

Told of rendering skunk fat. They got \$1.00 a jar. That was a pretty good price.

He liked to play ball with his brother Steve, Frank was good with an outside curve.

He liked to sit on the front porch on the farm and watch the cars drive by. It was his way of relaxing, like sitting by the lake.

When the train went by, the windows would rattle. As they went through Plover, the bed would just shake as they sped through at 60 mph.

His brothers went to service in World War I, and Frank ran the farm. When they came back, there were too many farmers to earn any wage to speak of for one farm. Started working at age 16 1/2 at the Port Edwards Paper Mill.

In the winter Frank rented a room at the Port Edwards Hotel. One night around 2 o'clock, Frank felt something. Started killing bed bugs with his shoe, they were all over the place. When he finally finished, counted 87 of them. Making all that noise, the owner thought he was drunk and start making a fuss. Frank, answered back, what in hell kind of place you running here.

Starting wage was 22 cents a hour, with 11 hour days and 13 hours nights. His accident and health insurance then was a \$1.00 a month. Started as a water boy, bottom man on machines, finished as a foreman. Held that position for 15 years. When he retired in 1967, he was making \$5 an hour. Was very good money at that time.

Frank's first car was a new Model T-Ford with a hand pump for \$400. Second car a new Model A-Ford for \$700. Gasoline, 10 cents a gallon pumped.

During the depression Frank worked 2 days a week. Times were tuff then, jobs hard to find, took most any job

to put meat on the table. My brother John, was cutting grass to make a little money for his family.

Meet his wife to be at a dance. He had gone with a neighbor Mike Galecki and brother Steve. Sunday night was party night, drink, eat and dance. Frank said he liked to dance, Johanna not as much. They went together for 4 years.

One year the mill had given their employees a jack knife, a pretty good one. He traded it for an accordion. Then learned to play by ear. Music kind of ran in the family. All his brothers played some type of instrument except Dave. He played one time from 2 till 4 in the morning, didn't get a penny. Everywhere he went, the accordion went. He could also play a mouthorgan.

On June 28, 1930, Johanna Dulek, daughter of John and Ida Dulek of Plover became the bride of Frank, at one of the prettiest weddings performed at St. Bronislava's church that season. Rev. S. Lapinsky officiated and Sister Antoinette played the wedding march from "Lohengria" as the bride was escorted to the altar by her father. Peonies, palms and colored lights were used as decorations.

Miss Catherine Lapinski, the maid of honor, wore a peach colored gown of satin and lace with an uneven hem line and carried pink and white gladiolies. Miss Evelyn and Irene Dulek, sisters of the bride, and Helen Thomasheski, the bridesmaids, wore satin gowns made alike with ruffled skirts with uneven hem lines in shades of green, maize and blue respectively, and carried pink and white peonies. Joseph Dulek, brother of the bride, was best man, and the groomsmen were Stephen Lila, the groom's brother and Ferdinand Boyer.

For her wedding dress the bride chose white satin, made with a tight bodice and a long skirt trimmed with net and Spanish lace. Her lace-edged veil had a cap headdress and her flowers were Easter lilies and lilies of the valley and fern, tied with wide white satin ribbon.

Breakfast, luncheon and dinner were served at the Dulek home during the day. The decorations were red and white streamers and bows.

The bride and groom went on a two week trip to Niagara Falls. They returned to their home in Nekoosa where Frank was employed as a paper maker. Johanna had been a employee of the Whiting-Paper Paper Company.

Frank and Johanna had lived in a new house in Port Edwards he had purchased for \$500 down. It was by a grade school, to much noise. Moved out in the country, liked

that, had a cow. Then moved to Rudolph for 4 years. Had some big parties there. Then they settled at 320 Market Ave, Port Edwards.

Frank told us he liked fishing, hunting, and trapping. When on the farm hunted partridge, rabbits, but never saw a deer.

Built a cottage up north on Lake Nekomas for himself and the family.

Told us, when he and Johanna took a Caribbean Cruise with her sisters. They were having skeet competition. Just sitting and watching, some younger fellows, (Frank's in his eighties) challenged him to a little competition. Their figuring, (Frank's quote) "the old fart couldn't hit the broad side of a barn." Frank took first place.

Frank has been noted to pull out the accordion for family gatherings for his personal enjoyment or mostly entertainment.

Frank, made the headline in the Wisconsin Rapids news paper when he was 90 years young with open-heart surgery, with a five bypasses. Told he had a body of a 70 year old.

Johanna, now is in a nursing home, Frank would visit his wife twice a day. His daughter Barbara says, dad was so good to her and always took her treats to eat - which ended up in her drawer uneaten. They would eat their noon day meal together and then pray the rosary.

His daughter Barbara added, dad is always happy-go-lucky the same way he has been all his life. Likes to visit and tell jokes with anyone he can. Loves his family and his wife dearly. The best hearted person in this whole world and the most loving also.

Frank 93, died on Sunday Feb. 18, 1996, at Edgewater Haven Nursing Home. He had suffered a stroke Feb. 1st. Funeral arrangements were through Ritchay Funeral Home, with visitation. Services were on Thursday at St. Alexander Catholic Church, Port Edwards, with Rev. Rex Zimmerman officiating. Burial followed at the Port Edwards Village Cemetery.

His 10 grandsons were pallbearers and three of his granddaughters participated in the readings.

Besides being stricken with a stroke, had also been diagnosed with cancer.

Frank and Johanna would have celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in June of this year.

A lot of the information on the Lila family is because of Uncle Frank. Spending time interviewing him was a

pleasure. Just watching his facial expressions and the twinkle in his eyes reliving the past. Recalling family practical jokes, and at the same time watching him chuckling along with tears of laughter in his eyes. In front of us, and later on in the tribune correspondent tape, we had been given a mountain of information to use. Thanks, Uncle Frank

Frank and Johanna are parents of:

- 1) Barbara
- 2) Franklin
- 3) Marcine
- 4) Kenneth
- 5) Thomas
- 6) Larry

More information below:

- 1) Barbara Lila sps/Carl Greeneway

Residence: 2920 Shady Lane

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Their Children:

- 1) Mark Greeneway sps/Susan

Residence: W233N7058 Blacksmith Court

Sussex, WI 53089

Children:

- 1) Claire Greeneway

- 2) Halley Greeneway

- 2) Michael Greeneway (single)

Residence: 3847 Cynthia Lane

Blooming Groove, WI 53704

- 3) Mary (Greenway) sps/Gregg Barta

Residence: 2S524 Burning Trail

Wheaton, IL 60187

Children:

- 1) Evan Barta

- 4) Todd Greeneway sps/Susan

Residence 1705 Jeanette Avenue

St. Charles, IL 60174

- 2) Franklin Lila sps/Delores Severin deceased on 5-27-93

Residence: 201 Morrill Ave

Port Edwards, WI 54469

Children:

- 1) Franklin Lila (Single)
Residence: 1106 Martin Island
Stevens Point. WI 54481
- 2) Amy Lila sps/Tim Osowski
Residence: Rt 722 Box 165
Lincoln, VA 22078
Children:
 - 1) Cecelia Osowski
 - 2) Annatasia Osowski
- 3) Daniel (Dan) Lila sps/Robeory
Residence:
Children:
 - 1) Joshua
- 3) Marcine Lila sps/Ronald Amundson
Residence: 1331 22nd Dt. N
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Children:
 - 1) John Amundson
Residence: 10620 S Young
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
 - 2) Joni Amundson sps/James Freis
Residence: 800 6th St
Marshfield WI 54449
Children:
 - 1) Lillie Freis
 - 2) Derik Freis
 - ñ 3) Joseph Freis
 - 3) Eric Amundson
Residence: Hwy 47
Rhineland, WI 54501
 - 4) Maria Amundson
Residence: 1306 Fish R
Madison, WI 53711
- 4) Kenneth Lila sps/Carol Spice
Residence: 1931 Russell St
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Children:
 - 1) Kathleen Lila
 - 2) Jeffry Lila
 - 3) Carrie Lila
 - 4) Joseph Lila (deceased)

- 5) Thomas Lila sps/Mary Breseman
Residence: 931 Seneca Rd
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Children:
1) Alan Lila
2) Tammy Lila
- 6) Larry Lila born - February 10, 1950
died in infancy



Daily Tribune/John R. Hart

STILL PEDDALING: Ninety-year-old Frank Lila of Port Edwards is back riding his bike, less than three months after having open-heart surgery.

Heartening: 90-year-old's recovery from open-heart surgery remarkable

By **BARBARA SHAY**
Tribune Staff Writer

PORT EDWARDS — He has the body of a 70-year-old, which isn't bad when you're 90, but Frank Lila's heart wasn't doing so well.

For 30 years, the Port Edwards man says he doctored his angina with a daily shot of brandy. But not long ago, Lila's home medicine stopped working, and the pain became unbearable, he said.

On April 4, Lila had a heart attack. On April 10, after having been transferred to St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, the father, grandfather and great-grandfather underwent open-heart surgery, during which he had five bypasses, he said.

And according to Dr. John Douglas-Jones, who per-

formed the surgery, Lila may be the oldest person to have undergone such surgery in Marshfield.

It's not often when a man Lila's age has that kind of surgery, the doctor said, but it's even more uncommon to have one as healthy as Lila.

"He was fairly active, living on his own, and had no other health problems," the doctor said. "The older-age population is increasing, yet 90-year-olds in the population is still a rarity."

Lila came through the operation with virtually no problems, Douglas-Jones said, and he should be able to resume his usual activities soon.

For the elderly gentleman, that's good news. Less than two months after returning to the home he shares with his wife of 62 years, Johanna, Lila

already is pedaling his way around town.

Wednesday marked the day Lila could drive his car again, he said. Even Mrs. Lila was waiting for that day because she wanted her husband to take her shopping, she said.

Lila said he's still "lying low," as the doctor has asked, but he's making plans for a fishing trip at the end of July with his daughter, Barbara Greenaway, wife of Wisconsin Rapids Mayor Carl Greenaway.

"I plan on going fishing one of these days, and I'm going to go deer hunting, too," he said. "That's the plan."

According to Lila, he hasn't missed one deer-hunting season since 1934.

"Not to say he always gets one," his wife added, "but he goes."

There was lots of living at the Lila house

Port Edwards resident helped build the town of Plover landmark

By DAVE ENGEL
Tribune Correspondent

PLOVER — In its last days, the Lila house looks abandoned and lifeless.

Anyone who talks to her father, suggested Barbara Greenway, 2920 Shady Lane, would find the Plover farmhouse had been full of life. The better part of a century ago, Frank Lila helped build the house now in the way of an expanded Highway 54.

At his Port Edwards address, the 93-year-old retired papermaker told how his father had come from Milwaukee to buy 80 acres west of Plover in 1890 or so. The farmhouse he built on the property was used by the local Polish-Catholic community for Mass.

After the original house burned, the elder Lila moved the family to Plover and operated a store and tavern. Frank, born in Plover in 1902, said that, as a young boy, he used to tend bar, filling up pails with beer and selling them for the required nickel.

When he tired of the business, Frank's father gave the store to one son, the tavern to another and moved back out to the farm. In 1910, a basement



was dug, and a ceiling of split jack pine and concrete was laid over it, so it would be livable until the "upstairs" was completed.

In winter, rock was hauled across the nearby Wisconsin River. The ice sunk under the weight of four horses and two sleds of rock.

"You thought you were going to go down," said Frank.

Much of the framework was constructed of jack pine that grew on the farm.

Nine-year-old Frank helped shovel sand for the porch and threw bricks up as his brother laid them along the house.

Inside, the first floor was composed of kitchen, dining room, front room and two bedrooms. The second floor was four bedrooms — needed for seven boys and two girls.

Above it all, a large, windowed attic extended the length of the house.

There was no electricity or plumbing. A hand pump inside provided water, and gasoline lamps glowed brightly.

Shortly after the first Lila house burned, the St. Bronislava

Catholic Church was built in the vicinity.

"My dad was head of it," Frank said. "He was a good carpenter."

Most local children attended the Catholic school at St. Bronislava. Frank said he didn't like his first teacher, a man.

"Somebody might be talking, and he'd turn around and fire a book at them. He'd take a big stick and hit them across the back.

"Then we got a woman teacher, and she was wonderful."

Frank's dad also served as "undertaker" for the St. Bronislava community, transporting the dead to the church and cemetery with his team and buggy.

Frank's mother, upon the purchase of two 80-acre parcels, told Frank's dad that she, at 106 pounds, would grub out one "80" and he would do the other. She meant it.

As the farm increased toward its final 400, the Lilas grew potatoes for sale and rye to be made into flour. They raised cows, pigs, sheep, chickens, geese and rabbits.

In winter, jack pine and oak was cut for sale to the pulp mill at McDill.

Out back of the farm was the Wisconsin River. On a summer Sunday, most of the neighborhood's 32 boys could be found swimming in their underwear.

Fishing was good.

A boy might come home with a string of suckers reaching from his shoulder to his heels. Frank said he'd throw out a line with five hooks on, go home and return later to find five fish hooked.

Plover village, composed of a couple dozen houses, two taverns, a depot, a potato ware-



Submitted photo, courtesy of Frank Lila

It was old home week for this lineup of Lila boys at the family farm, when Highway 54 was a dirt road and Plover was a quiet village.

house, two stores and a church, was within walking distance of the farm. Frank said he used to go with his dad to Saturday night poker games.

"One time, they wanted something to eat, so they swiped a couple chickens from a butcher shop and had a nice stew up in our store. When the guy got up the next day, he followed the trail of blood and knew right where they went."

For Thanksgiving, Frank's mother boiled up a chicken with potatoes, carrots, beets, squash, "whatever you got, the whole works," at the same time baking bread in the wood-burning cook stove.

Sometimes, there would be a barrel of apples for Christmas. A home-grown goose might be substituted for the chicken. There also were beef and pork.

When pigs were butchered, blood sausage could be made. Pig blood also was good for charrina, a mix of raisins and other dried fruit with milk added to taste.

Potato dumplings went well with chicken soup. Homemade

sausages hung in the attic, usually undisturbed.

"Ma came down one time mad as the dickens," said Frank.

"What's the matter?"

"A mouse got up and chewed up the sausage," his mother complained.

"We found out later my dad had taken a spoon and was digging in there," said Frank.

Around the Plover neighborhood, an unusual Christmas custom was employed.

Half a dozen young men would have a few drinks, disguise their faces and make the rounds of the farms. They would dance around in a circle and if they saw any children, they would "switch 'em a little bit."

"You had to hide sometimes," Frank said. He said he did not believe in Christmas.

"One time, I put a letter in the chimney for Santa to pick up. I wanted a sled because my job was to haul in firewood."

The letter was still there the next day. Apparently, there was no Santa Claus.

On Christmas eve, the family would catch a ride with some of the friendly people coming by on sleighs for midnight Mass at St. Bronislava's.

His brothers went to service in World War I, and Frank ran the place. When they came back, there were too many farmers for one farm, and he went to work at the Port Edwards paper mill.

In 1930, he married Johanna and moved to Port Edwards. His parents stayed on the farm until their deaths in the late 1930s, when two of Frank's brothers took it over.

Even in these later years, you can't look at the Lila house without appreciating the porch. In Frank's day, you could sit and watch the horses and buggies go by on the road.

It was a perfect place for summer parties on Sunday nights: eating, drinking, card-playing, maybe even dancing.

Sitting on the porch when he was 15 or so years old, it was a good place to watch an electrical storm, not expecting to see lightning strike the old Bronislava church. (It burned to the ground.)

Now, when Frank thinks of his mother, she is on the porch, sitting quietly and saying her rosary. After supper, on Sundays, anytime you come, there she is, fingering the rosary and looking out on the passing parade of Highway 54.

■ ■ ■

Postscript to hunting at Devil's Elbow: Couple weeks ago, the author wrote a satire showing the wickedness of a young boy's "live target practice." As a consequence, some readers consider the adult author wicked. If he is that, it does not result from killing animals for fun, a practice he has strictly avoided for 35 years.

Schneider: Firms shouldn't be allowed



Greenway grandchildren
Carl & Barb with Evan, Claire & Halley

Gregg Barta
Todd
Michael
& Mark Greenway



Susan Greenway
Claire
Mary Greenway Barta
Halley
Susan Greenway



Ken & Carol Lila
Kathy, Joey & Rick Petrak



Carrie & Andy Stephens
Joey Petrak
Jeff & Lynn Lila

Joseph Lila

11) Joseph was the son of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. Their eleventh child was born on March 8, 1903. He also might have been born at home in the Village of Plover, Portage County.

His records at St. Bronsilava's church had him baptized on March 9, 1903 by Fr. Albert and his sponsors were Peter Worzella and wife Johanna.

Joseph, died on April 2, 1903. Burial followed in the parish cemetery. Records show he was buried in Section L, #8.

Dominic Lila

12) Dominic was the son of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. Their twelfth child was born on July 6, 1904. He also might have been born at home in the Village of Plover, Portage County.

His records at St. Bronsilava's church had him baptized on July 4, 1904 by Klosowski and his sponsors were Michael and Josephine Bannach.

Dominic, died on July 12, 1904. Burial was in the parish cemetery in Section A, #12.

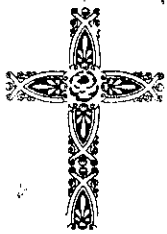
Catherine Lila

13) Catherine (Katie) was the daughter of Frank and Marcyanna (Wielinska) Lila. Their thirteenth child was born on April 6, 1907. She to might have been born at home in the Village of Plover, Portage Co.

Her records at St. Bronsilava's church had her baptized on July 8, 1907 by Rev. Klosowski and her sponsors were Paul and Marianna Hamerski.

Katie, died at home on July 25, 1907. Duration of disease was three days and attending physician was W. W. Grgory M. D. Burial followed in the parish cemetery in Section A, #22.

Lila family members laid to rest at St. Bronsilava



In Memory of
FRANK LILA

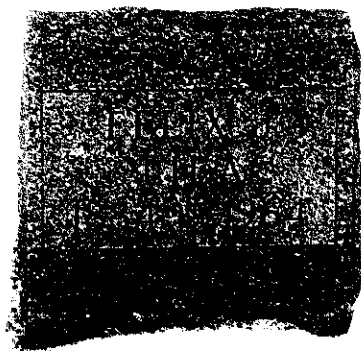
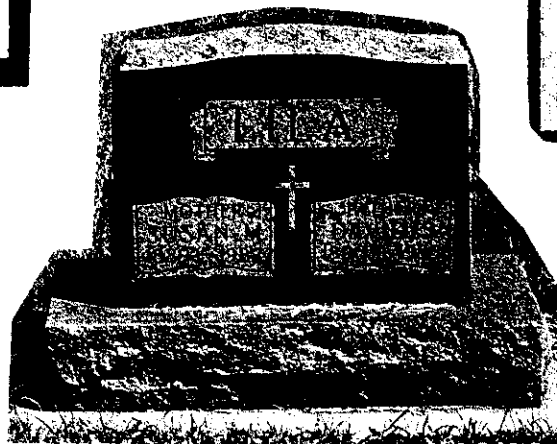
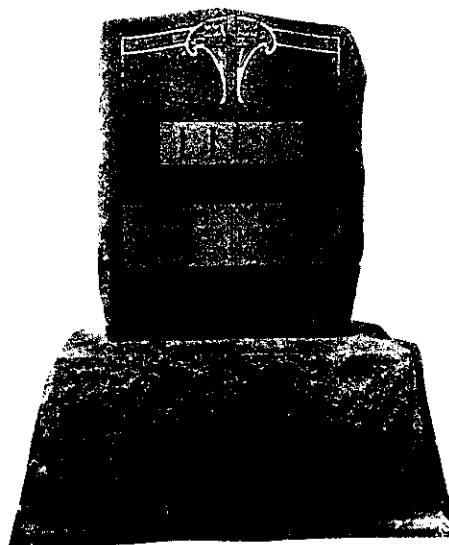
Born April 2, 1862
Died April 24, 1939

"Holy and salutary is the
thought of praying for those de-
parted, in order that they be ab-
solved of their sins".

(II Mach., 12, 46)

Eternal rest give on to him,
O. Lord, and let perpetual light
shine upon him.

VICTOR S. PRAIS,
Funeral Director



"Błogosławieni smutni, albowiem zb-
staną pocieszeni"

Sw. Mateusz V. 5.

MARCJANNA LILA

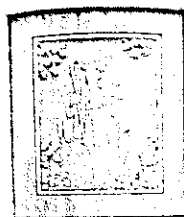
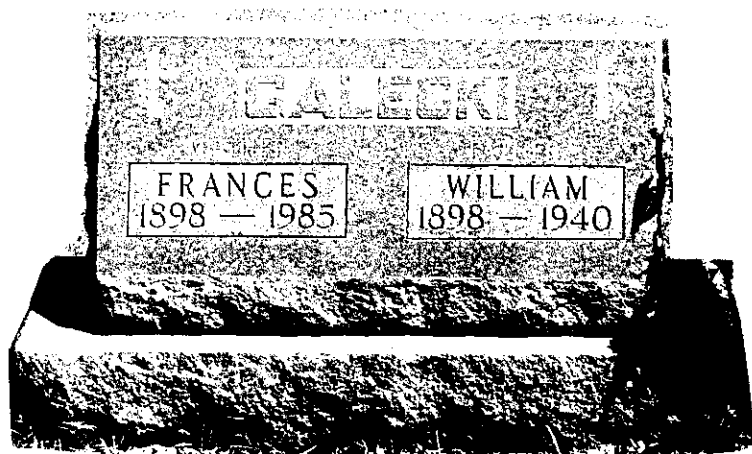
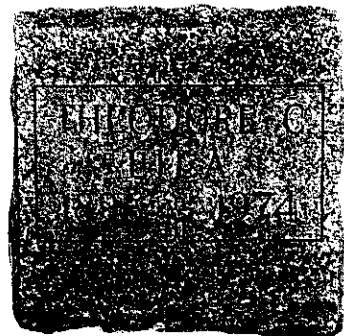
Urodziła się 6-go Stycznia, 1862
Umarła 12-go Września, 1937

MODLITWA

Najśłodsze Serce Jezusa sawsze obecne
w Przenajświętszem Sakramencie, zaw-
sze przejęte gorącą miłością dla bied-
nych dusz uwieczonych w czyśćcu, zmi-
luj się nad duszą Twego odeszłego
sługi. Nie bądź srogiem w Twojem
sądzie, lecz zezwól aby kilka kropeł
Twjej cennej krwi spadło na pożerają-
ce płomienie. I Ty o pełen miłosier-
dzia Zbawicielu zeszlj Twych anio-
łów, aby zaprowadzili Twego odes-
złego sługę do miejsca ochłodzenia,
światła i pokoju. Amen.

Niech dusze wszystkich wierzących,
zmarłych za łaską Bożą odpoczywają
w pokoju. Amen.

VICTOR S. PRAIS
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

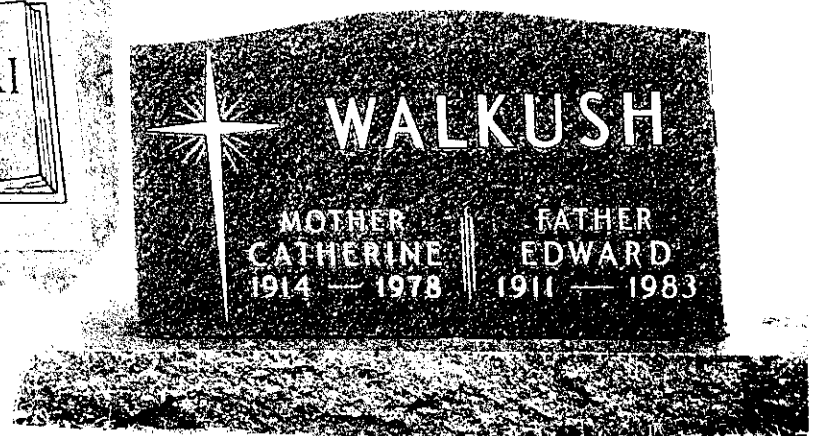
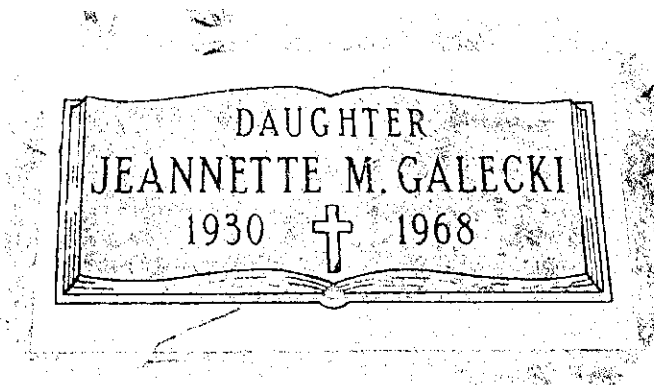
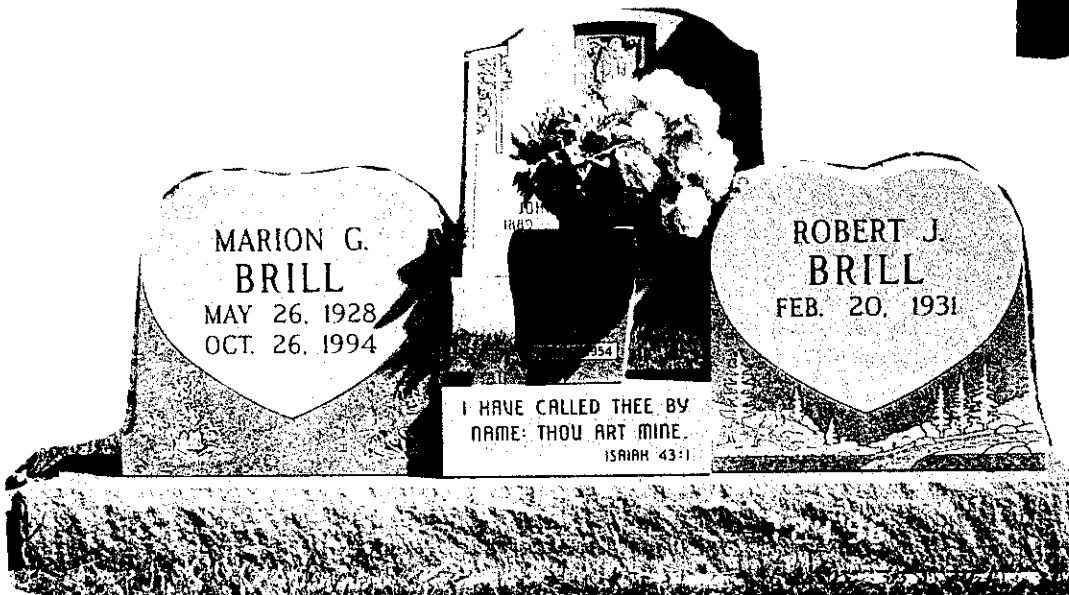
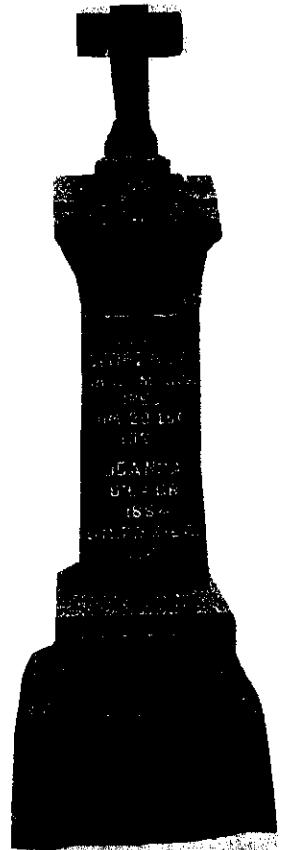
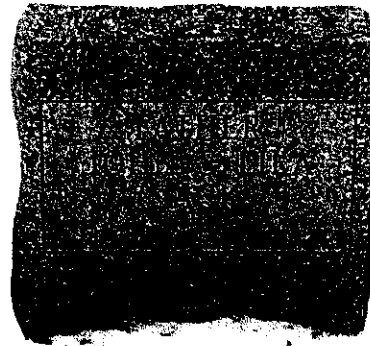
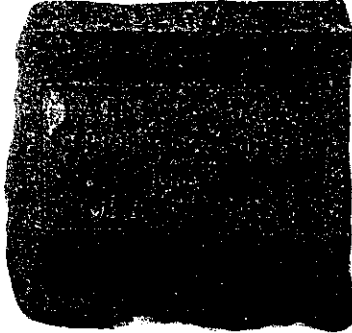
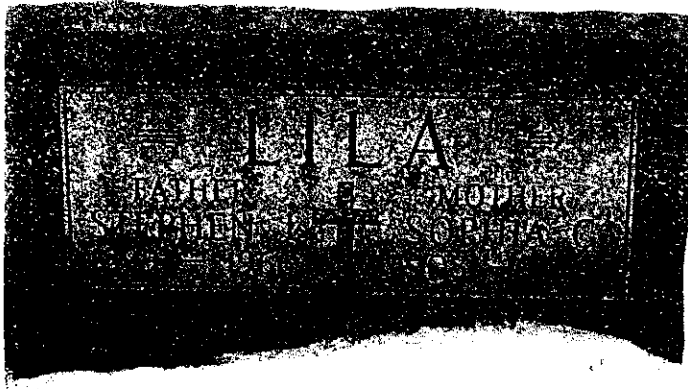


LAPINSKI

FATHER
JOHN F.
1889 — 1951

MOTHER
MONICA V.
1892 — 1990

Lila family members laid to rest at St. Bronsilava



Polish Traditions

Some Polish Customs, from years ago, now have been changed or know longer practiced. Was found in "Polish Traditions in My Family", sent to me from Susan Brumley Galecki, Newburg, OR. I added a few comments referring to the present time.

Christmas was actually an extended season in Polish families, starting with Christmas Eve ending with the Epiphany (Feast of the Three Kings) on January 6th. Epiphany was the twelfth, and last day, of Christmas. That's when the family took down the Christmas tree and put all the decorations away. Before the recent Church reforms, Polish Catholics observed Advent (the four weeks before Christmas) with many days of strict fasting. So they welcomed Christmas with all its gaiety and abundance of food. Christmas was also a mixture of Catholic and pre-Christian beliefs, especially those concerned with fertility.

Traditionally, the family did not begin the Christmas Eve supper (wigilia, pronounced vee-GEEL-ya) until the first star was sighted -- in remembrance of the Star of Bethlehem. Christmas Eve is part of Advent and thus a bountiful, but meatless, meal was served. No one ate a bite, however, until everyone present shared the oplatki (pronounced o-PWA-tki) with everyone else. Oplatki are like communion wafers, only rectangular and larger. If relatives lived far away, the family sent them oplatki so that they could also participate in the sharing.

The area of Poland the family was from, seemed to determine the number of dishes; some served seven, some nine, some eleven dishes. It was usually an odd number to "allow for the possibility of increase". Some, however, served twelve dishes; one for each of the apostles. The dishes represented each of the five major food sources: wheat or millet for the field; peas and cabbage for the garden; prunes for the orchard; mushrooms for the woods; and fish, especially herring, for the waters.

This person remembered having pierogi as a part of wigilia. She remember having chrusciki and Polish coffee cake. Others in the family remembered having: prune pudding, paczki, potato pancakes and soup, mushrooms and sauerkraut, horseradish or garlic, potatoes, pickled herring, rice with prunes, and either yellow or green peas.

Now Christmas Eve suppers aren't necessarily meatless anymore.

In Poland, even the table was set in a special way; hay or straw was put under the table cloth to remind everyone of Jesus' birth in a manger. At the end of the meal, everyone pulled straws to tell their fortunes. If someone pulled a long straw, it meant a long life, a short straw, a short, life. If a girl pulled a straw with a tuft, she would be married within the year. Some Polish families brought this custom of putting hay under the table cloth to this country.

In Poland, the family also shared the oplatki with the animals. After supper, they fed the hay from under the tablecloth to the animals, so that they could "feel the holiday spirit. It was commonly believed that, at midnight on Christmas Eve, cows, donkeys, and sheep are able to speak with human voices. The animals are given this gift each year because they were among those present at the first Christmas.

At midnight, all but the youngest family members went to the Shepherds Mass, or Pasterka. The choir sings Christmas carols in Polish, both before and during the service. The church's manger is typically left empty until Christmas Day, since Jesus wasn't born until then. At midnight, while the choir sings Cicha Noc (Silent Night), a procession makes its way through the church and the statue of baby Jesus is placed in the manger.

For Poles, the eve of a festival is usually more important than the day itself. This is true of Christmas. Those family members who didn't attend midnight mass, go to church on Christmas Day but typically spend the day with your immediate family. The children received presents from their grandparents and other relatives on Christmas Eve. Family members with non-Polish spouses usually spend the day with that side of the family. The only time complications arise is when both sides want to celebrate on Christmas Eve.

In Poland, children were not given gifts at Christmas time. Instead, on December 6th, St. Nicholas would visit and question the children about their catechism. If the child knew the answer, he/she would be rewarded with candy and small gifts: otherwise, he/she was punished. Once here in the States, St. Nicholas was changed to Santa Claus, who came on Christmas Eve with presents for everyone. In our parents time there were not elaborate presents, as there are now. Fruit, candy, homemade clothing, maybe a wagon for the younger kids to share. My Aunt, Mary Nitka and her sister

received a store bought doll from their aunt which she cherished for years.

One Polish custom in the Old Country, was that of hanging the Christmas tree--point down--from the ceiling. None of the sources used for this paper explain why it was done this way. However, since the family brought some of the smaller farm animals into the house during the winter, it may have been a way to keep the animals away from, and out of, the tree.

In Poland, the Christmas tree was decorated with paper chains and cutouts, apples, nuts wrapped in gold or silver foil, gingerbread figures, and colored ribbons. My Uncle, Chester Baker, recalled having candles and candy or cookies decorating their tree. Now, families decorate their tree more elaborately, including lighting the tree outside with lights and may even decorate the yards. If there are young children in the family, ornaments made in school are also put on the tree.

The Magi were supposed to have visited Jesus on Epiphany, or the Feast of the Three Kings. In Poland, the priest blessed, and distributed to the parishioners, chalk, gold, and myrrh; now chalk, incense, and water. The homeowner used the chalk to mark K+M+B, or sometimes "19+K+M+B+the year" on each door of the house. The K, M, and B, are the initials of the three kings: Kasper, Melchior, and Balthasar. After the doors were marked, they burned the incense and sprinkled the house with the holy water. The baptism of both Jesus and the members of the household were celebrated with this ritual. I still like to carry on this practice in my house.

The other big Polish religious celebration has always been Easter. Like Christmas, it is an extended season preceded by a period of strict fasting and solemnity. Since parties and wedding were forbidden during both Advent and Lent, the Poles filled the six week period between Christmas and Easter with both. Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday. The day before, known as Shrove Tuesday, they hold the last of the parties and eat paczki to celebrate "the sweetness of life."

Now, the custom around here are ponczakas, especially made for church sales or ponczaka dances. Ash Wednesday, mostly everyone goes to church and ashes are used to mark a cross on your forehead. As the cross is made, the priest reminds you that "You are dust and unto dust you shall return".

On Palm Sunday, the priest blesses and distributes palm fronds to the congregation. In Poland, pussy willow branches were often used instead of palms. The family then used the catkins to cure or ward off sore throats. Whether palms or pussy willows were used, the family took the branches home and put them behind the religious pictures that were usually present in every Polish home. Here, I continue the practice of my dad inter-crossing four sections of the palm, before putting behind the religious picture.

Years back, you spent the hours from noon to three on Good Friday in church--on your knees. The stations of the cross and other special services were held during that time period. If anyone complained about having to kneel for so long, the nuns would say "If Jesus could hang on the cross for three hours and not complain, you can kneel without complaining." I'm sure Frances's sons remember her talking about this years ago. All that has changed now; at Saint Peter's Church there are two separate services at 12:15 and 1:30. At one time, there was a tomb constructed with a life size figure of Jesus placed up in front of church and on Easter morning, the tomb was empty as a sign of the resurrection.

Holy Saturday is still marked by Swieconka (pronounced SHEE-son-ka), the blessing of the food for Easter Sunday. Families may bring to the church a basket containing at least a small sample of each food that will be served. A family traditionally served ham, kielbasa, decorated hard-boiled eggs, horseradish and lamb cake. Saint Peter's, has two different times on that day to bring your food to be blessed, which I have gone and participated.

The Monday after Easter is called Dyngus, Smigus, or Swiety Lej in Poland. It was dedicated to punishment, or oblewanki, in which everyone was doused with water. The dousing was supposed to bring rain needed for spring planting. The boys doused the girls on Monday and the girls retaliated on Tuesday. At dawn on Monday, the boys "broke" into the girl's homes, took them by surprise while they were still in bed, and drenched them "for health and good harvests". Usually, the break-in was carried out with the permission, if not the actual help, of the parents. Dyngus could be carried to extremes. In Poland, girls were sometimes taken, still in their bed, and deposited in the nearest pond or river. Anyone could pay a ransom and avoid

dousing. In fact, Dyngus comes from the German word Dingnis, which means ransom.

The traditional Polish wedding was famous, or infamous, for its length and extravagance. It must be considered, however, in light of the importance which the Poles attached to marriage. Marriage was considered to be not the start of a family, but also the real start of "complete human stature". Bachelors and spinsters had no real status in the family or in the village. Unmarried women were considered to be economic liabilities and unmarried men were thought to have something seriously wrong with them.

In Poland, there were eight distinct stages involved in marriage. During many of the stages, the bride was expected to show reluctance, to cry and protest at her changing status. The eight stages were:

1. wywiady - the inquiry and proposal when the match makers or relatives ascertain whether the proposal would be welcomed by the bride's parents and the dowry for the bride and groom were set.
2. zareczyny or zrekowiny - the betrothal and the reading of the banns. The bride personally delivers invitations to all the friends and relatives as part of this stage.
3. korowaj - the baking of the wedding cake by those women in the village who were thought to be happily married. Each women mixed a part of the cake which was then assembled into a huge whole. Sometimes the cake was so large the oven had to be taken apart to get it out.
4. dziewicy wieczor - the maiden evening or unbraidng, usually the night before the marriage. The bride's hair was put into an "obstacle" braid and an auction was held for the privilege of undoing the braid.
5. wesele - the actual wedding day which began with food and ceremonies at the bride's home, continued at the church for the actual marriage, and then returned to the bride's home for more feasting and ceremonies.
6. pokladziny - the putting to bed when the couple were escorted to a room in her parent's home and actually put to bed.
7. oczepiny - the capping ceremony which followed the wedding night and marked the change of status from carefree young girl to married woman with duties and responsibilities. Sometimes the bride's hair was cut; sometimes just the hair style changed.

8. prznosiny - the removal to the groom's home when the young bride left her parent's home and went to live with her husband.

In earlier times, any person of Polish descent was expected to marry another Pole. The religion of the spouse was important, but not as important as the nationality; it was just assumed that every Pole was a Catholic. The person which wrote part of this article tells, when she married her husband, the family was scandalized because he wasn't Polish or Catholic. When her brother married a minister's daughter, the family didn't take it quite as bad. They were even able to rationalize: "At least they're going to some church". When her sister married, they were thrilled, her husband wasn't Polish, but he was Catholic. When her brother married his wife, they were ecstatic; not only was she Catholic, but Polish as well.

There have been many changes in wedding customs, especially in this country. Matchmakers are no longer used, dowries are no longer given (although the bride still has her hope chest), wedding cakes are bought from the bakery, the unbraiding and the putting to bed have been dropped, and the actual wedding has been shortened to just one day (with sometimes a poprawiny the following day). Her mother remembers hand-delivering invitations before her wedding in 1940, but without the elaborate bowing and kneeling that were part of the old Polish tradition. Now, the couple sends their invitations through the mail.

Some customs in our family seem to have no exact match in Polish traditions; at least they weren't described in the sources used for this paper. For example, during the wedding supper, the guests clink their silverware against their glasses. When they do this, the bride and groom are supposed to immediately kiss one another. Usually, there is a high rate of compliance by the bride and groom. However, the guests generally try to time it so that the clinking begins just as one, or both, has taken a bite.

Another family wedding custom is the grand march. The best man leads the wedding party and guests in elaborate patterns and figures throughout the hall and even outside. The finale of the grand march is a procession past the bridal couple, during which each guest extends best wishes to the couple and are given a drink and a cigar in return. Times have changed, now just a grand march around the hall with the attendants leading the procession followed by the bride and groom. The wedding party exchanges dances,

followed by the parents of the bridal couple joining in and circling the bride while she dances with her father. The band then plays a special tune called "The Tatusiu Waltz", with lyrics first in polish and then in English while they dance. Translation, telling the story about the bride and her dad. Recalling all those years together with his little girl and now is leaving him to be with her husband.

Years ago when our parents married there was a bride dance. There was a table set up with few of the uncles or closer relatives in charge. One was in charge of the money, then there were the cigars and the bottle of liquor with shot glasses. Various coins were thrown onto a plate placed on the table after a dance with the bride. Then you were given a cigar or shot of whiskey or both. Then of course if a bigger amount was laid down, the man would bring the bride to the table for a shot. I can remember as child, attending family weddings and this could be as long as a hour and a half. The poor bride by then was tugged and pulled in all directions. Starting in the 1940's the practice was a envelope with small amounts of cash.

The poprawiny (pronounced POH-pra-vee-ney) is usually held the day after the wedding. All the relatives, close friends, and members of the wedding party are invited to partake of the leftovers from the wedding. The bride and groom open their gifts and thank everyone for participating in their wedding.

Once the marriage ceremony was completed, the next big event was the birth of a child. In Polish families, "A woman enjoys greater prestige in the household and community when she becomes a mother; a man acquires greater status when he become a father". In Poland, the expectant mother was given special consideration from the moment it was known that she was pregnant. They believed that what she did and how she felt affected the unborn child. She was forbidden to do certain types of work entirely. In addition, the mother had to be on her best moral behavior, since that also affected the unborn child.

The parent's choice of godparents, the kum/kuma and kumoter, also affected the child. The child was thought to inherit more of the godparents' qualities than its parents' qualities. Not only that, but the godparents were thought to become part of the child's and each other's family. The godparents of a child, therefore, could not marry each other. Since there were so few Poles in the country in the early years, the practices of forbidding relatives to be

godparents and not letting the godparents marry each other were rather quickly dispensed with. If the rules had not been relaxed, no one in the entire community would have been able to serve as a godparent or to be married.

After the baptism or christening, which was held in the church, the family held a large reception that sometimes lasted for several days. Guests, neighbors, and family all bought gifts of food for the reception. Any who didn't bring a contribution were considered to be lacking in pride.

The mother's "churching" was a final birth ritual. Until she was blessed by the priest, she was considered to be unclean and severe restrictions were put on her activities, even to the extent of forbidding her to leave the house. This practice was also followed in this country's Polish neighborhoods years ago. One of the older generations remembers being scolded and called back into the house by her mother-in-law when her son was born in 1951. She had gone out on the back porch to hang a towel out to dry.

In Poland, the child was wrapped in swaddling to protect it from "prezelamanie", or breaking of the spine. It was also carried about tied to a long, firm pillow, again to prevent back injuries. The pillow was long enough so that the once the child was tied to it, the rest was folded over (until it reached just under the child's chin) and tied again. Remember the author's mother telling about the belly band. This was a more modern equivalent of swaddling. The reasoning behind this was it would prevent the child's back from breaking. Then the child was also dressed in long stockings that reached all the way up the legs and were pinned to the diapers. They stopped using both only when the family doctor convinced them that they weren't doing any good and were only making more work for her.

In Poland, death was seen as a natural part of the life cycle. The ideal way to die was in your own bed, with your family around, and with the last rites having been given to you by the priest. Once death occurred, the whole family participated in the ritual weeping and wailing, which were used by the community as a measure of grief. The family made the funeral as grand as its resources would permit, partly as a protection against the dead person's will. The Poles were very superstitious about the soul. They believed that any violation of the customs having to do with the burial could cause the soul to wander the earth and cause problems for the family.

In Poland, friends and neighbors came to the death watch, or pousta noc. They would offer a prayer and then remain for a time, eating, playing games, and singing. On the morning of the funeral, everyone sang more songs and took leave of the dead person, kissing him or shaking hands with him, just as if he were alive.

On returning from the cemetery, all the participants were guests at a funeral feast, or stypa (pronounced STEE-pa), which symbolized both the economic status of the family and the degree of grief. Like the funeral itself, the family made sure that it was as extravagant as they could afford. The family then remembered the dead relatives by repeating the stypa occasionally, by having masses said for them, by burning candles for them in church, and by carefully tending the graves.

In our family years ago, the members of the family would sit up all night with the body. The body was shown for two days in the home. Everyone would attend the funeral mass and the burial on the third day. They were invited back to the home for food and drinks. Now, the family arranges everything through a funeral home. The visiting is done only during restricted hours. Everyone is still invited to the stypa, which is now usually held in a restaurant. We still remember the dead in the same ways; the only change is that the repetition of the stypa is now for close family members. Since most parishes have only one mass said daily, there are not enough dates opened for masses to be offered. A memorial for the parish of the deceased is preferred.

As the contents of this paper demonstrate, families still follow one Polish tradition. We talk about the dead in general conversation and tell stories about them to the younger generations. By doing this, "The sense of the family -- and of continuity -- remains strong.