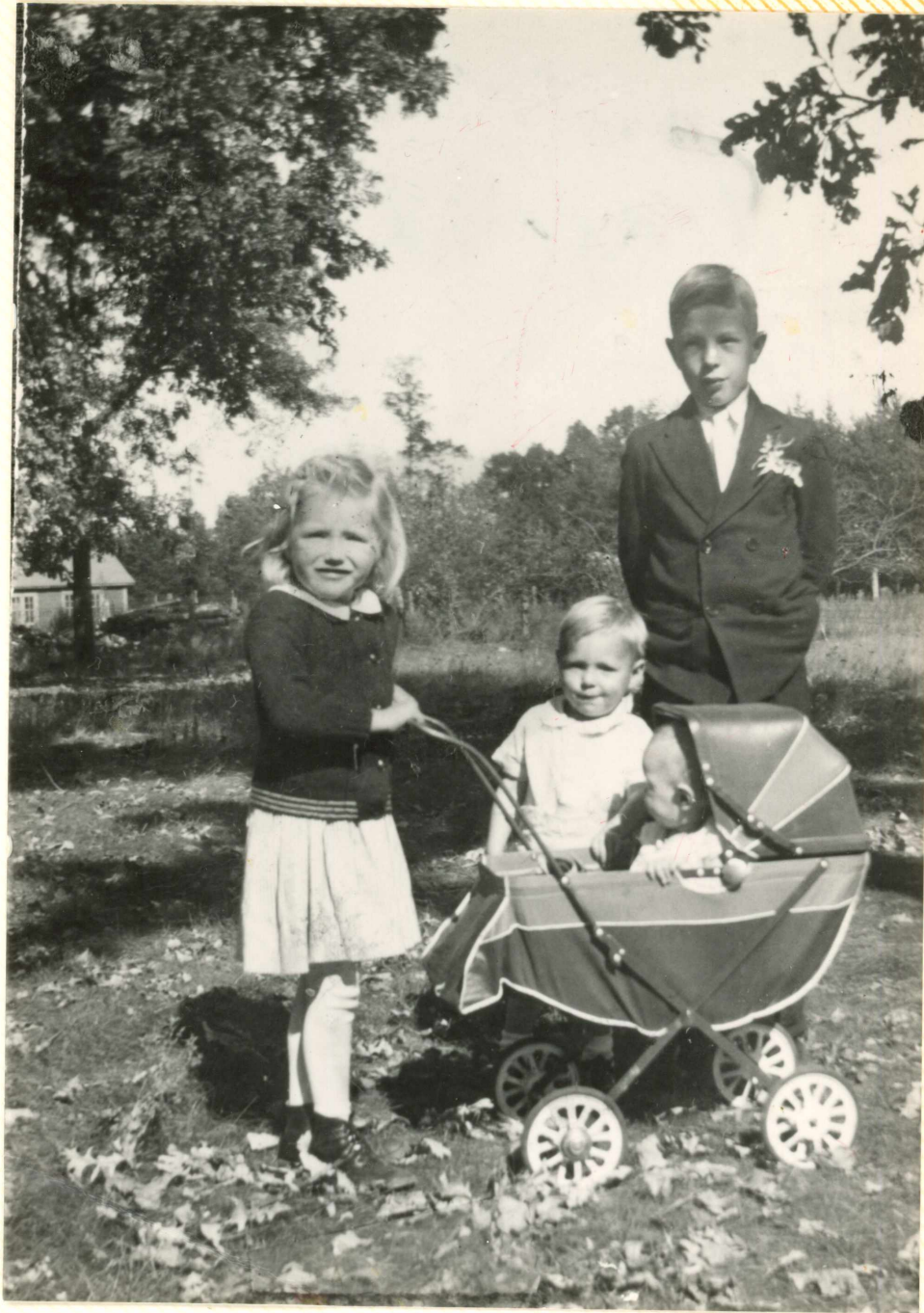




THEODORE, FELIX, JOHN, FRANK, JULIA, STEVEN, DAVID
FRANK, FRANCIS, MINI, MARCYANNA



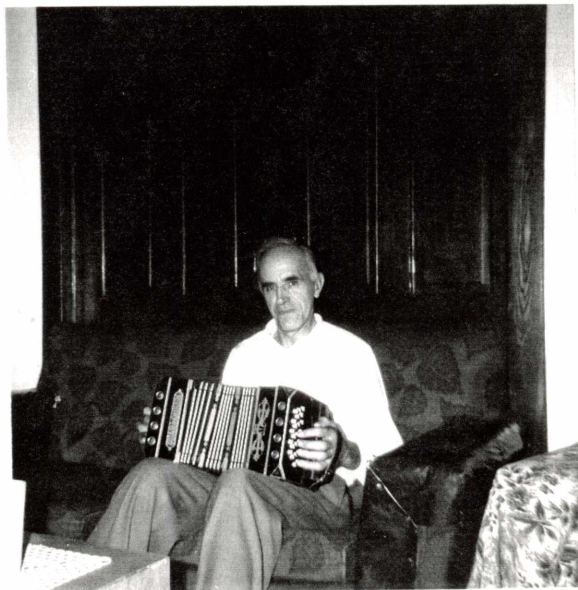








Stephen Lila













MAY 1995









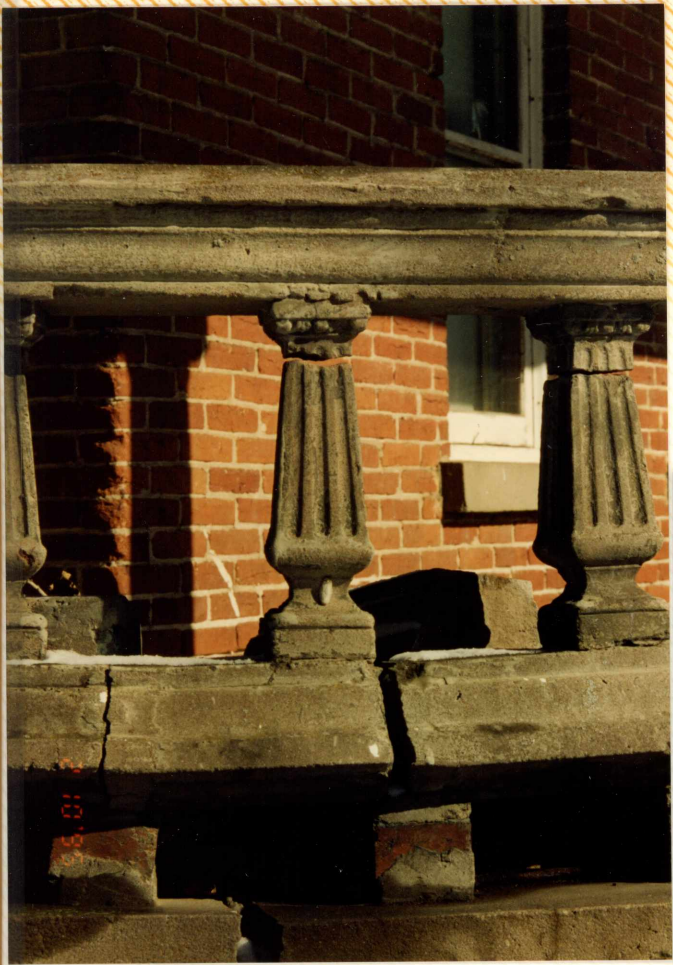














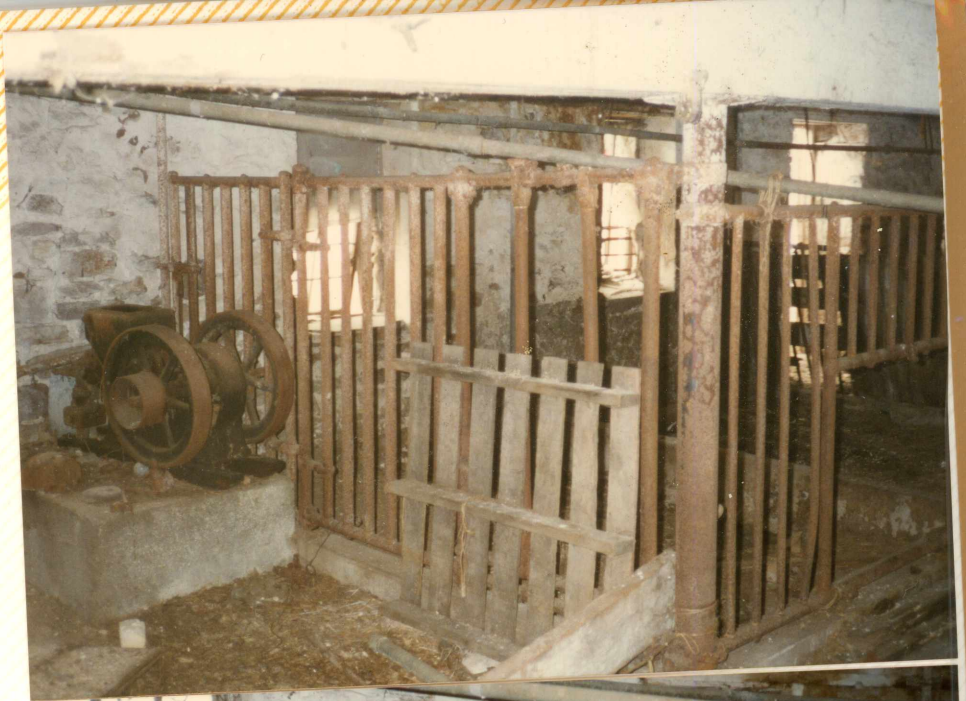












HITT MISS ENGINE LOCATION
TO RUN WATER PUMP





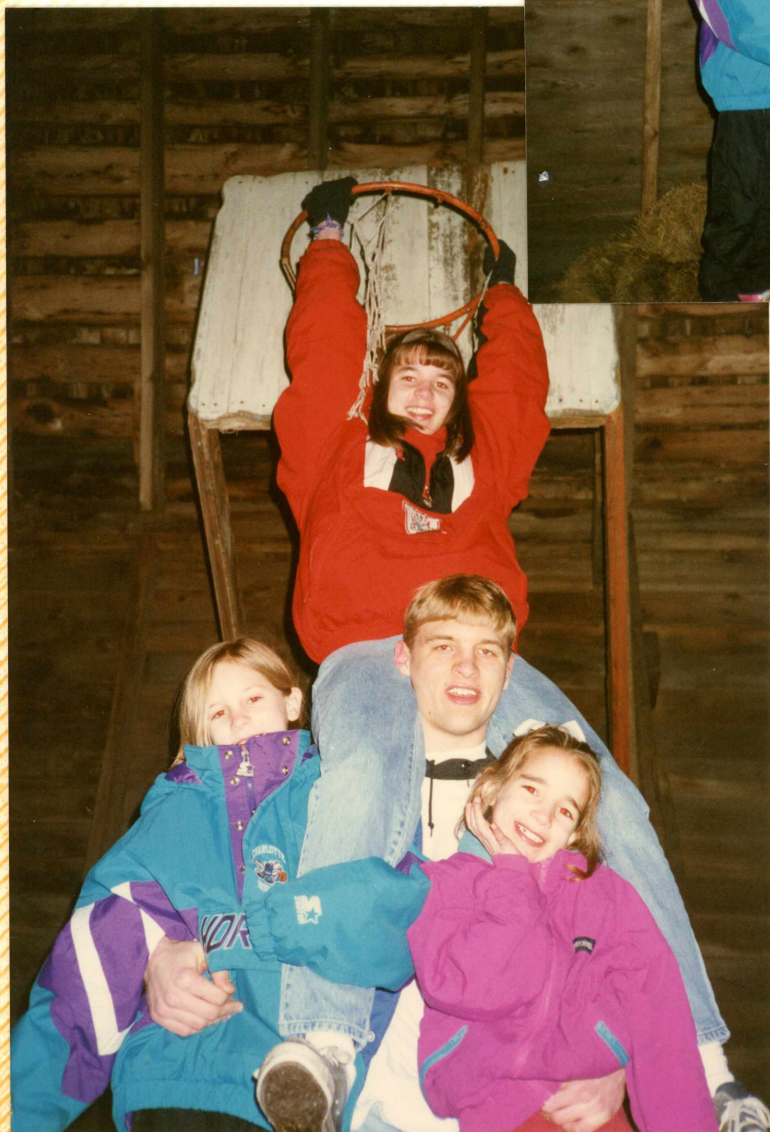


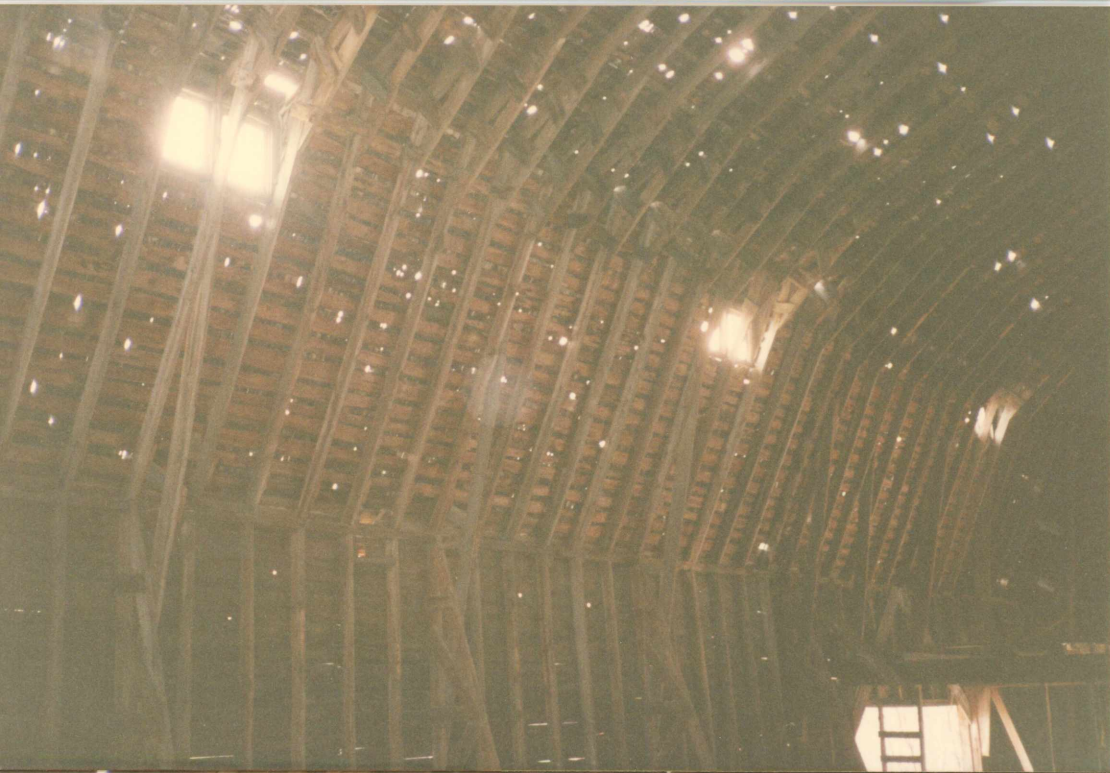
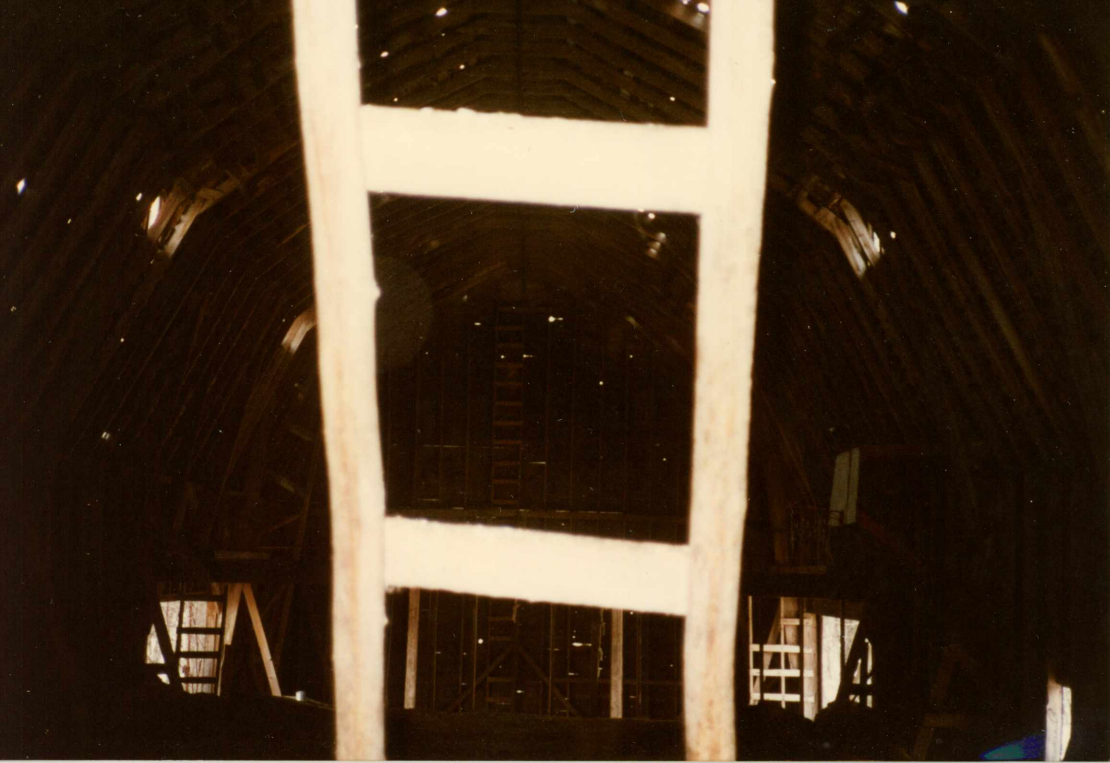
















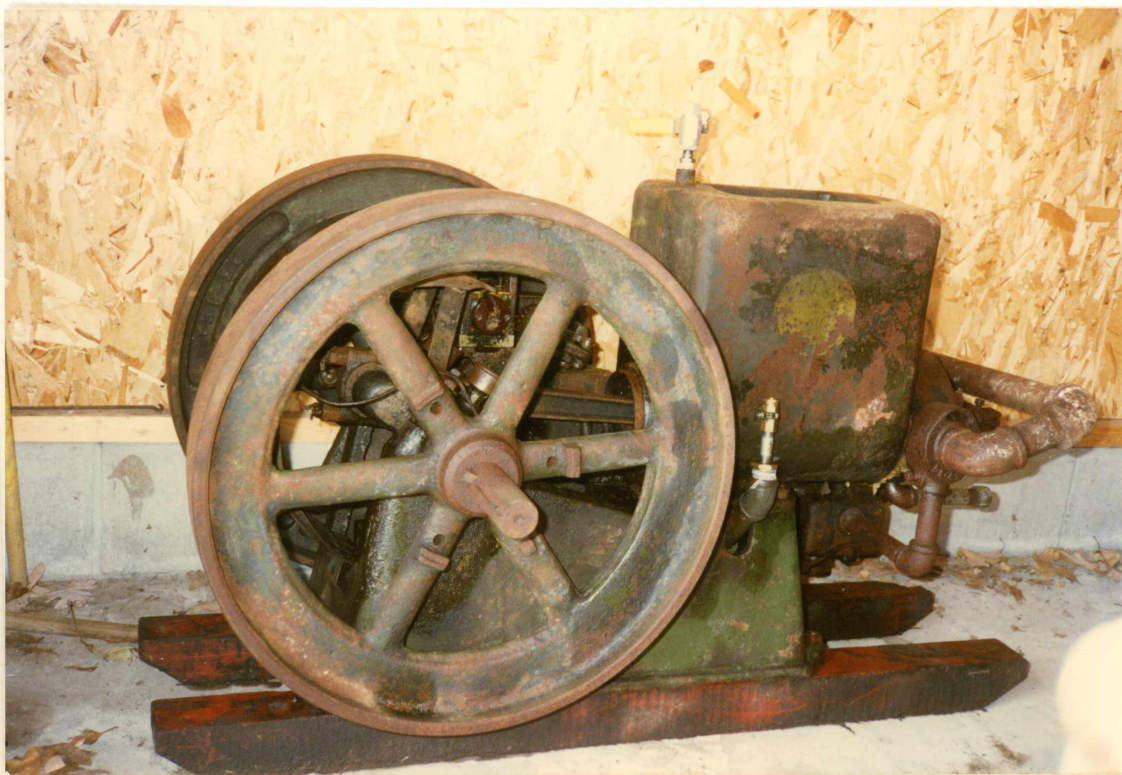












This Fuller Johnson, engine.

Serial number. 68170

H. P. 3 Type K

Date 8 - 6 - 2019

Bought by Frank Lila

Plover, Wisconsin

For his farm.

I have been able to obtain the following information from the original FULLER & JOHNSON Co. records on your engine

Serial No. 68170
H.P. 3 Type 1K

Date left factory at Madison, Wisconsin 8-6-19

Shipped To: IFBANK LILA
PLÖVIER
WIS

VERNE W. KINDSCHI —
S9008B Hwy. 12 - Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

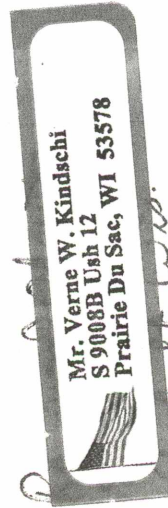


Verne W. Kindschi
S9008B U.S. Hwy. 12
Prairie du Sac, WI
53578

608-643-3915

Fuller & Johnson Records, Engines, Literature and
Decals.

Collector of Gas Engines, Hot Air Engines and
Hydraulic Water Rams.



Roswell, Wis.
54473

*Raymond Chautau
8635 Co. Line Dr.
Roswell, Wis.
54473*

*HIT + MISS
ENGINE*



Saint Bronislava Parish

3200 Plover Road • P.O. Box 158 • Plover, WI 54467-0158
Office 344-4326 • E-mail sbro@coredcs.com • Fax 344-6121

Second Sunday of Easter
April 14, 1996

PASTOR
Rev. Patrick Umberger

MINISTRY TO ELDERLY
Rev. William Moeschler

Centennial Question of the Week: No house of worship had yet been constructed by the Roman Catholic Community in Plover after Sebastian G. Messmer gave his approval for a new church to be named St. Bronislawa on October 12, 1896. So, when in Plover, **where did the Pastor Pro-tem of St. Bronislawa, Rev. Stephen Kasperski, lodge and say Mass until the Church building was constructed?** **Answer:** At the Frank Lila Home. The Lila family had a home & dairy farm about a mile west of St. Bronislawa on Hwy 54. He was the first treasurer of St. Bronislawa Church and he, along with John Gleszczynski, built the first church. The Lila family donated an altar which was consecrated on August 7, 1899 by Pastor, Rev. John Pociecha. Some of Mr. Frank Lila's descendants are still active members of St. Bronislawa Catholic Church.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, April 20

5:30 PM Jim & Ann Deckers, Becky Jankowski

Sunday, April 21

8:00 AM Dawn & Mike Pioznowski
Amber Engebretson

10:30 AM Tom & Mary Marty, Sandy Andrich
Laurie Bannach, Cindy Lila, Vickie Glen







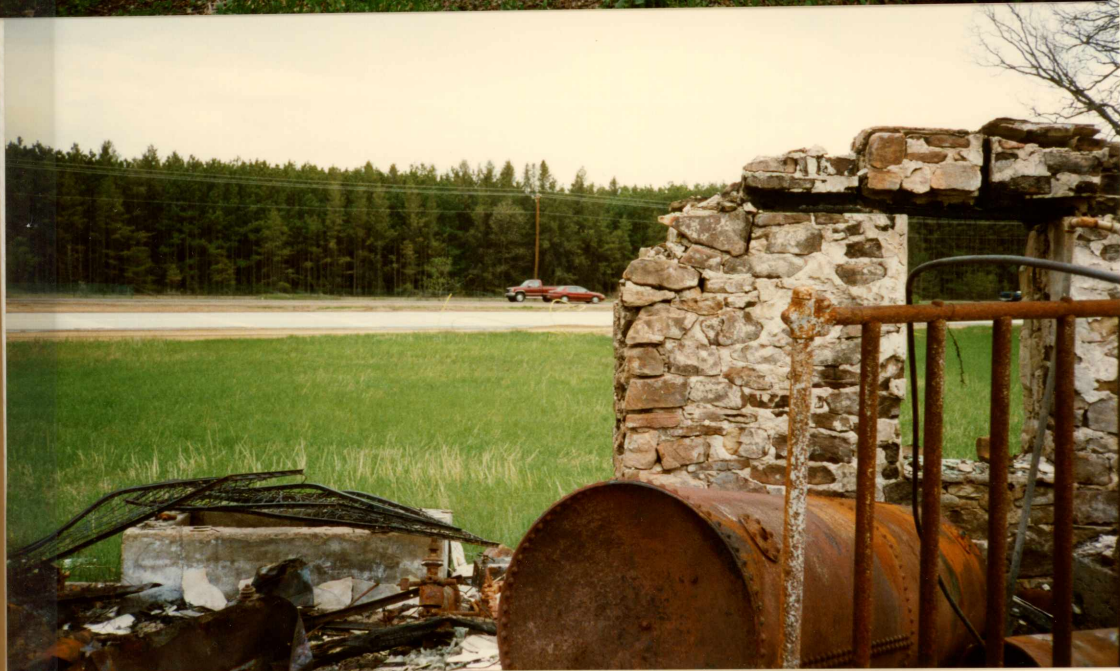




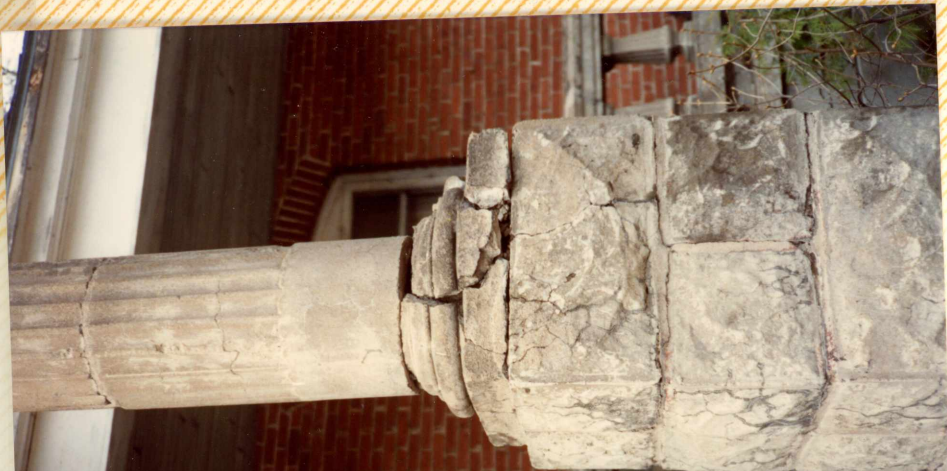




































2012









The Story

Blessed Bronislava, the cousin of Saint Hyacinth, in childhood she loved piety and innocence and worked in the convent huts, bringing aid to the needy and medicine to the sick. She lived at Zwierzyniec, just outside Krakow, a convent where she was developing a deep devotion to the passion of Christ.

The Norbertine rule was rigorous. They lived in poverty and cold. They followed a vow of extreme poverty and wore simple robes. Their spiritual exercises were dedicated to sewing, embroidery, and prayer.

Bronislava surpassed all the other Sisters in holiness and devotion. Among the Sisters and often knelt before them in prayer.

Her contemplation on the life and passion of Christ, as well as on the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she often experienced the grace of ecstasy. She learned to pray the rosary from Saint Hyacinth.

After 15 years of solitary, austere religious life, she accepted the burden of becoming a nun during times of unrest and civil wars, often in exile away from the convent. Her greatest burden was the loss of her solitude. She had to leave the convent with the Sisters during the invasion of Tartars in 1241. She set out with cross in hand, through rocky ravines, to caves, which were called "Maiden Rocks." After the Tartars were driven back the Norbertine Sisters returned to their convent ruins. As they rebuilt it, they had to take care of hungry inhabitants and many orphans. Krakow has remembered the goodness and compassion of Bronislava.

When a new church and convent for the Norbertine Sisters brought all the scattered Sisters together, they offered her prayers and sacrifices. In 1259, a second invasion by the Tartars again occurred. "Maiden Rocks." It was during this time that she died, on 29 August 1259.

Soon people began pilgrimages to her grave. When the invasion was ended, Bronislava was buried in the convent Church and buried in a crypt within its walls. Bronislava was named among the Blessed by Pope Gregory XVI designated the 30th of August as her feast day. She is considered patroness of a happy death and of the prevention of disease. Two Parishes have named Bronislava as their patron. The other is located in Illinois.

of Blessed Bronislava

and Blessed Chester, was born in Kamien in Silesia, about the year 1203. From early she was not interested in the joys of a powerful and rich world. She would visit the village when she was sick. When she was 16 years old, she entered the convent of the Norbertine Sisters built by her great-grandfather, Jaska of Miechowo. She lived a strict life of penance, fasting, and prayer.

cells in which there were no floors or stoves so they suffered intensely from cold and had no contact with the outside world. Visits of their nearest relatives were very rare. They lived lives of strict silence and prayer. Free time outside the convent was spent in mending church vestments and in the work of housekeeping and gardening.

ness. She loved the fasts, sacrifices, night vigils, and prayer. She wanted to be the least of the Sisters. She begged alms in the form of prayer for herself. Bronislava remained long hours in prayer to the Virgin Mary to whom she had a special devotion. During times of deep contemplation she would see the face of Christ and brought that devotion to the Sisters of her Convent.

ing a Superior. She carried that devotion to the Sisters. The most painful sacrifice for her was the loss of her family during the first invasion of Poland by the Russians. Since that time have been called, she has remained in her convent, only to find it in ruins. Over the centuries the people of

Sisters together again, Bronislava was exiled the nuns and people to the

slava's body was brought to the convent. Blessed of the Church. the last step was taken for the Diocese of Krakow. She is now canonized in the United States claim

Prayer for the canonization of Blessed Bronislava

O God, who hast chosen
Blessed Bronislava,
so that by her wondrous virtues
our hearts may be drawn closer to Thee,
deign to glorify Thy faithful servant
as Thou didst during the past centuries
by granting requests, favors and miracles
through her intercession.

Grant also, we beseech Thee, that by new miracles Thy
chosen spouse may soon be elevated to the honors of
the altar for the glory of thy Holy Name. Amen.



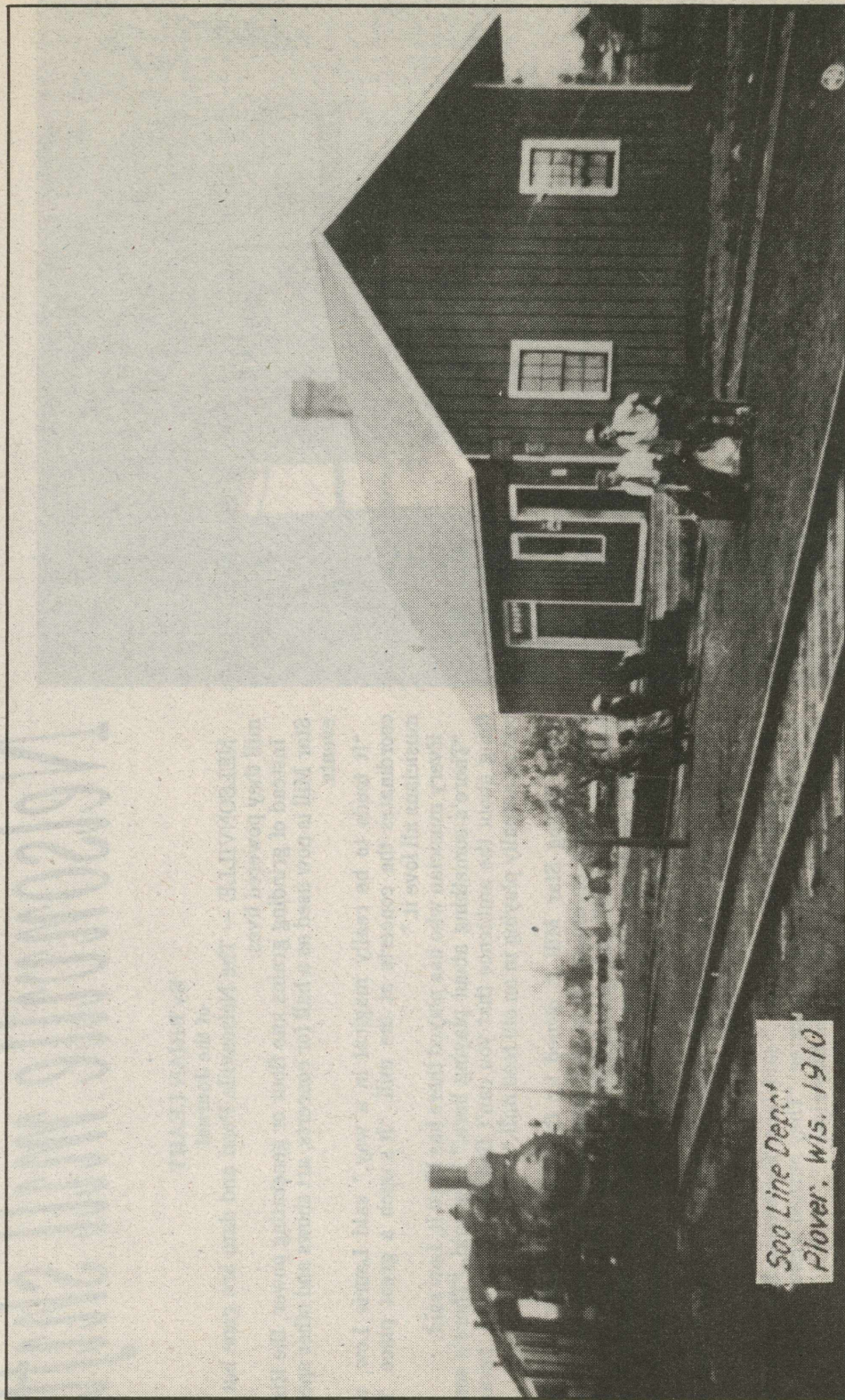




School Days 55-56



Glancing back



IT HAS BEEN MORE than 80 years, but here, in 1910, people kick back and relax while waiting for the train to come into the Soo Line Depot in Plover. (Photo courtesy of Virgil Peters)

507
22

No. 102671

To be given to the person
Naturalized.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF



NATURALIZATION

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 Sila nee Kielnska, age 46 yrs., Flower.
Names, ages and places of residence of minor children John Sila, age 20 yrs., David Sila, age 18 yrs.,
Marie Sila, age 16 yrs., Julian Sila, age 14 yrs., Theodore Sila, age 12 yrs., Francis Sila, age 10 yrs.,
Ben 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.)

I do remember that at a general term of the Circuit court of Portage County, Wis.
at Stevens Point on the 16th day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred
Eight, Frank Sila who previous to his naturalization was a subject of
Germany at present residing at number Town of Flower
of Portage County State of Wisconsin having applied to be admitted
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 for one year immediately preceding the date of
filing of his petition, and that said petitioner intends to reside permanently in the United States, had in all respects
conformed with the law in relation thereto, and that he was entitled to be so admitted, it was thereupon ordered by
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 attester.)

(Sheet No.11)

Book 58 of Deeds page 177

Life Lease

Frank Lila and Mary Lila, his wife
(she signed by mark)

)

Dated Jan. 15, 1895
Ack'd Jan. 15, 1895
Recorded Jan. 24, 1895
at 10 A.M.

27 and

*

Anna Lila (she signed by mark)

)

WITNESSETH that the said 1st parties for and in consideration of the sum of \$1.00 and other veluable 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, also the said 1st parties further covenant and agree to furnish to said 2nd party annually all the following, viz:

Half barrel of good wheat flour & 1½ barels of rye flour, 15 bushels of good eating potatoes, 150 pounds of good pork, two dollars in cash money, 1 quart of fresh milch every -, 4 pounds butter annually, 30 pounds of salt annually, 20 heads of good cabagges annually, the said 1st parties agree to keep 5 hans for the _ of said 2nd party, provide feed and shelter for same, the said 1st parties are to provide her said 2nd party with conveyance to and back from church on every other Sunday during her natural life time, also the 2nd party is to have free use of the well water and at the death of said 2nd party, the 1st parties are to pay \$25. for her funeral expenses, all the above mentioned articles which are to be delivered annually, the _ 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.

Signed and acknowledged by both parties before John Shippiy, Register of Deeds, Portage County, Wis.

SEE No. 44

Book 7 of Mortgages, page 492

Mortgage

Frank Lila and wife Marcinnay

)

Dated Dec. 7, 1898
Ack'd Dec. 7, 1898
Recorded Dec. 7, 1898
at 4:50 P.M.

TO

*

J. P. Malick

)

RIVERCITIES

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 Greenaway, 2920 Shady Lane, would find the

Plover farm-

house had

been full of

life. The better

part of a cen-

tury 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 prop-

erty was used by the local Pol-

ish-Catholic community for

Mass.

After the original house

burned, the elder Lila moved

the family to Plover and oper-

ated 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 re-

quired nickel.

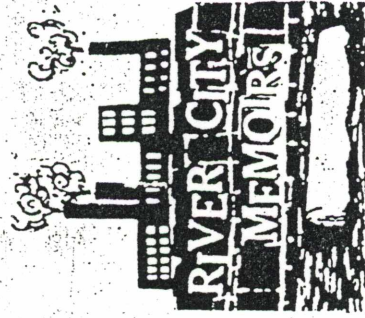
When he tired of the busi-

ness, Frank's father gave the

store to one son, the tavern to

another and moved back out to

the farm. In 1910, a basement



Frank Lila

lava 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.

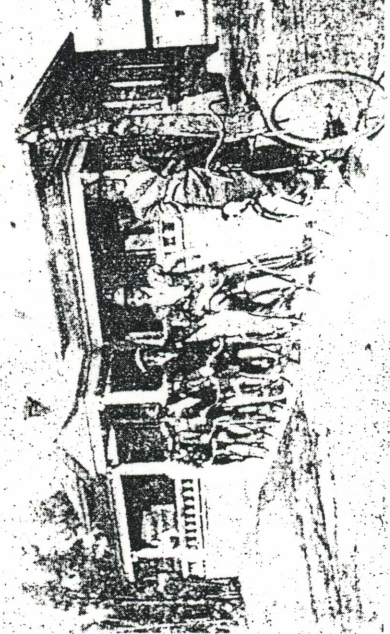
In winter, jack pine and oak was cut for sale to the pulp mill at McDill.

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

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

On Christmas eve, the family would catch a ride with some of the friendly people coming by on sleighs from 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 bug-

gies 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.

■ ■ ■

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.

① SOPHIA LILA (OSTROWSKI)
BORN MAY 31, 1908

There were a number of children attending St. Bronislava school during the 1920-21 school year. The students that stayed at school were Sophia Ostrowski (age 12), John Ostrowski (15), Evelyn Repinski (Dulek) (15), Joe Repinski (12), Helen Mondre, Jeneve Mondre, Lauara Garski (12) John Adams, Johanna Adams, Nick Zinda, John Sniadajewski, John Wisniewski, Joe Wisniewski, Helen Prutz (12), and Bowles Sawdoski. The students that would walk to school were John Wozniak, Kathern Lepinski (Walkush), Selma Ekendorf, John Galecki, and two Tomaszewski girls. ED SUSKI + SISTER

The school was held in the church basement during the week days. The basement was divided into two rooms by a cardboard like material. One room was the kitchen. It contained the kitchen appliances and the furnace. It had a wooden floor. The other room was the bedroom. The boys roomed on the right side and the girls lived on the left. It had a cement floor with a rug.

There were four members of the St. Bronislava faculty. There was Sister Grace, who taught polish. Sister Vanislava, who taught in english. There was a lady who cooked and cleaned. The last member was Fr. Brorowski who was very nice and who resembled Fr. Francis Przybylski? When the students didn't do their homework the sisters would become angry with them. They would break rulers on the students. Grandma, Sophia, would become scared and she would run to the bedroom and pray so that she would not get hit.

The daily routine was fairly simple. They all ate breakfast in the morning and then went to mass before attending school. Sister Grace taught in polish in the morning and Sister Vanislava taught in english in the afternoon. On the weekends the students got to go home.

②

SOPHIA LILA

The tuition for room and board at St. Bronislava was seven dollars a week. After the school year Fr. Brokowski, who had two parished in Plover and Plainfield, had to leave the parish. That school year was the only year that some of the students could stay and live in the church because it was against the law for the students to stay in the church.?

Later in the 1920-21 school year, a chapel was built in the basement of the church. It was built on the right side where the boys would have slept. They built the chapel so that they didn't have to heat the whole church upstairs.

There were many different customs in the church back then. The church seats were numbered and everyone had an assigned seat. However, sometimes people would sit in someone else's seat and had to be asked to move. The only time communion was served was at the first mass. If someone wanted to attend confession, they were given a 1" x 2" card. Before entering the confessional, people would hand the card under the curtain to the priest. There was also a red virgil hanging from the ceiling above the communion rails. It could be adjusted to various heights. All the masses were in polish.

There were many Lila family activities that happened at the church. Fr. Polachek was the first priest for Sophia and Stephen's wedding call in 1933. Later on that year, Frank and Mary Anna celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 12. Frank would die about five years later at the age of 77 while Marcy Anna died in 1937. Frank's son John was a mason and he was the mason who laid the brick for the present old church. The field stone for the church was brought in from across the river. It was transported during the winter across the ice by horse and sleigh. It was also the same stone used to build the Lila farmhouse.

FRANK LILA BUILT AN ALTER FOR THE CHURCH.

3-10-95

My experience in life has taught me that you have to let God take control of your life. I found that the harder I tried to control my life the worse it got. In the evening I would be totally exhausted from fighting this and fighting that. I'm thinking there has got to be a better and easier way. That's when I decided, what have I got to lose? Okay Lord, I heard so much about you, here is the steering wheel of my life, do your thing and good luck.

Now you know what, it's great. It's like I'm in the driver's seat, but the vehicle is in cruise. I'm just sitting back and enjoying the view. And it's much more beautiful than ever before. I can actually enjoy the beauty of life. It's easier to understand things, why they are the way they are.

Sometimes I'm cruising right along in life and ahead of me I can see nothing but rough roads and disaster. I'm thinking no way am I going to make it through this without a serious accident or injury in the days ahead of me on this road of life of mine.

Okay Lord, I know you're good, but this is going to be interesting. I said a few extra prayers and wished him good luck. You know what? I never even felt a bump in the road. Somehow the good Lord smoothed everything over by the time I got there. Totally remarkable.

Surprisingly as much as I have faith in him and say things like that, I find I forget to ask him to handle the problems I face during the day or through the course of the week. So I feel a person has to constantly remind yourself that the Lord is here to help, so ask him. "Ask and ye shall receive. "

I am writing this down because I feel this might help someone someday, maybe my children. I would have loved to read the thoughts and feelings of my parents and grandparents, or anybody for that matter. It might have saved me a lot of heartaches and pain.

Probably everyone should write down your feelings and thoughts so they can help someone cope with life a little easier, especially older people. Can you imagine the wealth of experience and knowledge that is trapped in the minds of

these people. Like Ben Franklin, the older he got the wiser he got and we were lucky to receive some of his knowledge with his writings.

I grew up on a farm that did not have inside plumbing, which was no big deal because most farms didn't at that time. But one day my family went to town to my aunt and uncle's house, which of course had indoor plumbing and a toilet. Low and behold I had to go number one, or go potty. I was maybe 6 years old? But because I was so accustomed to going potty in the outhouse I refused to go potty in the inside toilet. I was stubborn or bullheaded that I would not go potty in the inside toilet, so I went in back of the house. The point of this story is this: You have to be flexible in this world today. Things are changing so fast you have to be able to bend and go with the flow. Otherwise you're going to get ran over and left way behind. Yes, sometimes we have to change our ways. Can you imagine if I would still be going to the bathroom outside?

Try not to be narrow minded, open it up and get the bird's eye view. Let the Lord look at it from his point or view. Think of it at someone else's view point, get as many angles as you can. Everyone doesn't think and feel the same way as you.

What really got me thinking maybe I should write some of these thoughts down was when Linda volunteered us to be on a panel on Jeff's confirmation class. This was to answer questions about faith and religion in our adult lives. I felt this might be a good idea and hopefully we might have helped someone in that class. One of those questions was, what I thought faith was. I said that my parents were very religious and they tried to teach me to be religious. So I memorized a lot of different prayers and I tried to understand what they're trying to tell me. I still couldn't understand, but I believed in my parents so I continued to try. To me it was like these 3-D pictures or magic eye. You sit there with this picture of dots and spots all over it, but like there is no way there could possibly be a picture or any meaning there what so ever. But you have to believe, really believe. All of a sudden a picture or object in plain view will appear.

All you have to do is believe, concentrate, and focus and things will start to shape up in life for you, just as it does in the 3-D or magic eye picture. Concentration is very important. A laser is a concentration of light. A person generally knows what is right or wrong, or what is good for you or bad for you. If you want to stay slim and trim, you know you have to watch what you eat and do some sort of exercise. You know you shouldn't eat sweets or fatty foods. So you should take away all the temptations from your refrigerator or home because it's just harder to control your urges if they are so accessible. Same thing about any type of sin in your life- keep it at a far distance, because the devil knows and he will keep tempting you.

In "THE LORD'S PRAYER" He says "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." I feel this is very important.

Having a strong faith and saying prayers is the same thing as having a positive attitude. When you say a prayer and ask for something from the Lord, you are supposed to believe, really believe that whatever you asked for or prayed for, you as of that minute have already received that wish, if the good Lord feels that is the best for you. If it isn't, he will work out what's best for you. That's why it's important to pray.

That's why a person should constantly pray. Like I said that is what prayer is- a positive thought. So the more positive thoughts you have in your mind the less room for the negative ones. Which the devil keeps trying to put in there. Concentrate on the positive. An athlete has to have a winning attitude to win. Also in anything you do, the more desire and determination you have the better you're going to do. An average person with a burning desire will out do anyone with all the talent in the world with no desire. That is how much a good attitude or determination is. If a person could find a way to develop this determination and desire and keep it, you could do wonders in a life time. Especially for a young person there is no limit what you can do. The world is wide open for you. There is a saying "IF THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY" and that is true. If a person

could write down all the things you would like to accomplish in your life time, no matter how big or small they are, with determination and work you could probably accomplish the majority or all of them, even if they seem way out of reach.

When a person sets a goal or knows what you want in life, sometimes that's the hardest. A lot of people don't know what they want out of life. When you determine where you want to end up on your journey through life, you already have a good start. You have a desire, that's great. Now there will be a lot of detours and maybe postponements on your way there, but stay focused on your destination and you will get there. People will tell you, you can't do that because of this or that , but stay on track. You can do anything, if you want to. Chances are when you reach your goal you're going to want to go farther.

When I was in the service(boot camp) we had to go to the rifle range, which was about 27 miles away. To get there, we had to "Force March" there. Which meant walk as fast as you possibly can. We had our full backpacks on, which meant a lot. our helmets and our rifle (m-14). Our drill sergeant was in the lead. I learned in a hurry, you stay as close as possible to the drill sergeant in the lead. If you waited behind the slower fellow soldiers, you would fall so far behind it was very difficult or even impossible to catch up to the sergeant during this 27 mile march. They would have ambulances pick up some of the stragglers. I found it was much easier staying right on the sergeant's heels, it made the trip much easier, in fact enjoyable, I had a challenge. I find life is much like this march. Once you fall behind it's very difficult to catch up. It could be your homework, housework, your weight(overweight), or going in debt. If you get way over weight it's very hard to get thin again. Or go debt heavily it's very hard to crawl back out of debt. So I'm saying stay on top of things and don't let things get way out of control, stay right on his heels and things will go much easier. Stay as close as possible to the Lord. That is also very hard, there are so many distractions, it is so easy to be led a stray. It is so easy for me to say, but it's hard

for me to do.

Praying is much like ESP (Extra Sensor Perception). The more you concentrate (or pray) for an individual or something the more it helps. Sometimes much more than others. It seems like the brain waves or thoughts go out reach this person, idea, or thing. Something like a life line goes out. (invisible), but actually its the Lord's hand. It is said "What so ever he thinks in his heart, so he is." So think nothing but the best for yourself and others and chances are that's how it'll turn out. Think BIG and you'll have BIG results.

Having faith is like going to work or school in the morning. You almost have to. If you don't you're not getting paid or you're not learning anything. You enjoy the free time for a short period of time, but soon you get bored and easily get into trouble. You go around kind of aimlessly without a certain goal in mind. You're kind of going in a maze bumping and stumbling all over the place. You need a light at the end of the tunnel to guide you, and that is faith. God's rules are there to guide you through. Just like there are rules on the highway, speed limits, stop signs and etc. Whether you like them or not they are there to protect you. The same is true with God's rules they are there to protect you. The more you obey and understand them the better off you are, but sometimes they are very complicated. That's why knowledge and experience is very important. No one seems to have all the answers, that's why you have to have faith to carry you through. Life can be very tough sometimes.

I find I'm continually checking my ways and thoughts, if I'm doing things the way a Christian should. Am I being selfish and greedy or am I being aggressive and determined? Am I being protective, or am I being a jerk.

I know a guy in Mercer. He's a super fellow and always willing to help a person out. But you know what his wife said? "People take advantage of him." I feel there are a lot of wonderful people out there, but they are very easy to take advantage of. And that's too bad.

That's why a lot of these wonderful people turn and get very bitter. They are very easy going people and they let people start walking all over them. They can't say no. That's why you have to learn to say no before it is too late and ruin your life and attitude. Pretty soon these people are on the defense all the time and do not trust people at all. It gets worse and worse. People can be very mean, once they have you down and know something bothers you. They'll keep picking at you and picking at you.

There is a saying, "God helps those who help themselves", which can be very true. You have to be aggressive and outgoing sometimes. But don't get too pushy, use some finesse. You can't sit on your hands and think someone else will help you or do it for you. You'll be waiting a long time. Get to know what you want and "Just Do It." But remember do it the way a Christian would do it and you're going to go a long way.

If a person has a bad day and people seem to be exceptionally irritating, try to smile and laugh it off. Don't belittle yourself and snap at them. Chances are they are tired and something is bothering them, or your tired and something is bothering you. So cool it and think it out and sleep on it. Being tired is very hard on a person. It's hard to perform your daily tasks easily. Concentration is way down. And your attitude toward yourself, others and life are way down. So get plenty of sleep.

Joe Lila



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