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Memories of Family

Grandpa Stoddard

Norm "Grandpa and Grandma Stoddard lived on the old Lorenz Adolphsen place. They bought it from Adolphsen. Grandpa Stoddard owned the land we lived on and the land across the road where Ray and Blanche lived. When Hazel went to college, Grandma and Grandpa Stoddard mortgaged the farm and lost the section Ray and Blanche lived on. They moved to town, and got their income from rent or sharing the crop. Grandpa Stoddard was the town cop for awhile".

Grandma Stoddard

Max "She was the nicest Grandma. I wished I had written down all the things she told me. We used to sit out on the porch and she would talk about what it was like coming here, and how long it took on the ship. She used to talk about high and low German. She told me how she would have to wear a pantaloons, that was the way they did it in Germany. But she was embarrassed; the children here did not wear pantaloons. So on her way to school, as soon as she got over the hill, she would shove her pantaloons up so they wouldn't show. They had elastic around the bottom so she could do that. She talked about how she and Chris and Frank would walk to Marvin-that must have been seven miles!"

Iva: "I can remember when Grandma Stoddard would get a letter from family back in Germany. I think it could have been someone named Blanche. She would pull all of us together and then she would read it and translate it into English for us. She still had family back there. Kathy has a trunk that says "Nord America" that was passed down."

Max "She had several miscarriages, and she would talk about how she struggled with that. She was shy, Grandpa Stoddard wasn't, but he was kind. We'd be playing and he'd clap his hands and say "That's enough, go to bed" and that was it, just like that. We used to like staying at their house; it had an open staircase and a front porch, a dining room and all those rooms upstairs. We thought it was a really neat house".

"One day when Iva and I were staying there, this man came and asked us where our parents were, we said they weren't around, we were staying with our grandparents. He asked where they were and we said Grandma was in the barn. Later on we found out he was a hobo!"

"Once, Iva and I were staying with Grandma, and Donnie and Manley came to pick us up, and our car got stuck. We went back to Grandma's to get a shovel and she brought out the shovel that she used to shovel coal- that was all she had".

Norm "She had that barn in the back, didn't she- and didn't she keep chickens? I think Dad used to keep her supplied with fresh cows (cows that were giving milk). She would take them to the pasture to milk".

Max "Yes, Ditmanson's pasture. Iva and I would go with her and swat the flies off her while she was busy milking.

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Norm " She always had a few chickens, too. She had a good-sized chicken house and a spot with a high fence so they could get out and scratch around. They needed to scratch to get grit, that would help them digest their food; chickens swallow everything whole. Their food is digested by the gizzard".

Norm "Grandma Stoddard was quite a bit younger than Grandpa Stoddard. After he died, she turned the house into a dormitory for high school kids, fixed it up with ropes for a fire escape. She lived in the second house north of the Lutheran Church, there used to be a hitching post on the sidewalk, and a step for a buggy. She was over sixty years old when she lived in town. I remember staying with her and sleeping with her when I was little, that probably was when DeEll was born".

Norm "I remember Gene or DeEll would walk Grandma out to the outhouse, they would hold the lantern for her. She lived with us or Hazel before she died, she didn't like it too well at Hazels; I think Hazel was too fussy. I was on my way home from Germany when she died. I don't remember any Grandparent other than Grandma Stoddard".

Max "I remember Grandma Stoddard cried when she left to stay with Hazel. She didn't want to go. That was just before she died".

George Stoddard

Norm: "George Stoddard used to live in the big grove of trees-2 1/2 miles south (where you go to Vi's) the school house was on the corner. That was Mom's old school, moved to Johnny's"

Max "I can remember when we went to George Stoddard's on the 4th of July. Grandma would go to so much work- we would make ice cream".

Allie Stoddard

Norm: "Allie Stoddard's girlfriend was Katey Steenberg, she worked on the switchboard". The switchboard was next to the hotel he lived in.

Allie never had a steady job. but he wasn't a carouser. He saved his money, made the rounds helping people haul hay and do odd jobs. He would with the kids when Dad went to Missouri. Allie went to the west coast at the beginning of WW 2, 1940 to 1941, to work in the defense plant."

Grandma Pugh

Max "I used to take her green jello with cottage cheese in it and angel food cake when she was sick, those were her favorite foods. I would go and help out when she was sick. She taught Bev how to tie her shoes. I am sure glad we had that time together."

Norm : "I would come home and help her do the wash after she got sick. I remember when she was in the hospital at Webster, it was awfully hot, so I took that big fan that we used to have in the window. Even the nurses thanked me-it really helped cool things off".





Max: She had a tubal pregnancy her first pregnancy. Dad had to take her to Minneapolis on the train. She had all of us kids with only one ovary".

Norm: "I think that is the time they got hit with a fire truck....."

Barb "When Lizzie was taken to the hospital, the ambulance she was in had an accident. Years later, when DeEll was in the hospital, the doctor who had been in the ambulance recognized the name Pugh, and shared the story".

Max: "Mom told me when she was almost due with me, she and Dad went over to their neighbors to play cards. Dad was playing cards, and Mom realized she was in labor, so she looked over at him and winked a few times. Dad said " I guess I better leave now". They got home and called the doctor from Waubay; Dr Hawkins, grandpa to Tom Hawkins, Mary's husband. Aunt Lot and Mrs. Johns were there, I was born by the time the doctor got there. The doctor just sat there and spit, he could spit from the chair into the coal bin. I guess Dad had to pay him anyway".

Bev: "Did you ever make Grandma's frosting and put it on graham crackers for your kids? I would make that as a snack for my kids when they came home from school-they loved it".

Iva "I can remember Ma baking Sour Cream Spice Cake, with a cooked brown sugar frosting. She used to make her own potato salad dressing, too".

Marian: "Grandma Pugh made a spice cake without eggs. You boil the lard and let it cool, then add sugar and spices together. A lot of recipes did not call for eggs during the dirty thirties. In the winter, chickens stopped producing, they didn't have the best living conditions. Eggs were shipped in sawdust, the grocer had to take them out of the sawdust. Fresh eggs were so much better for baking, the cakes would rise much higher."

Barb " I remember Lizzie worried about her kids. She worried about us driving back and forth. I don't remember any recipe in particular that she was famous for, I do remember a story Clem told about the first time she made bread. He said it was so bad, they threw it out and the chickens wouldn't even eat it".

Max " When we were kids, we would say "I wish I had this, or I wish I had that...and Mom would say "If wishes were fishes, we'd all have some fried".

Max " Mom used to sing:
"Saturday night is my delight, and so is Sunday morning
Sunday night goes out of sight, to heck with Monday morning".
(AAAFFAAFFAABbAGC
GGEEGGEGCBbAGFF)

Max "Mom was active in the Community Club.

Mom " I was shy, I would iron when Grandma had the ladies over for the Sunshine Club.





Max: She played the organ and loved to sing. The organ was beautiful woodwork, when it got to where it cost too much to fix it up, we had carpenters make tables and magazine racks out of the organ”.

Norm "When we moved to Minneapolis, Ma came to stay to help out when Deb was born. She thought we had too many trees - she missed the sky".

Iva “When Mom was a teacher she had 22 kids in her school- that was the school 2 ½ miles south of Summit. Purdy’s went to school there, stayed with the Hurley’s”.

Deb “Max said she came home from high school to tell Grandma she needed a white blouse and black skirt for school choir- she was in 2-3 choirs, but needed a special outfit for this one. There was no white material and Max didn’t know what she was going to do. She heard Grandma sewing on the machine all night and the next day she had a beautiful white blouse. Grandma had cut up her wedding dress to sew the white blouse! Max said it was the most beautiful blouse she had ever seen and all of the girls at school were jealous and wanted one just like it”.

Norm: “She sewed the suit for my first communion, too- I was 8 or 9.”

Grandma Pugh's Accident

Norm "They way I remember it, Ma was taking the shortcut from Summit to Wilmot, on the gravel road. There was a crow eating on a dead rabbit, and she swerved to miss it, and went in the ditch and tipped over. That was after Iva and Donnie were married; they were living on the farm that Brian lives on now. I don't remember if she got hurt, she walked through a cornfield, she saw some guy picking corn. We thought that could have been a bad thing, she could have fainted in the cornfield”

”That was the end of her driving. That was the 42 Ford, the Army car, the one with the special lights for when they had blackouts. We had a pretty good scare back in WW2- we took all the precautions, and took protection and had security-maybe we are not doing all we should be doing now. Those army car's were the only ones that were made that year, they didn't have a color. They sold them after the war, we probably bought it in 47 or 48.

Grandma Pugh's hair.

Deb “Grandma Pugh bobbed her hair, and Grandpa kept the braid that she cut off all these years. Now my cousin Bev has it. The braid is beautiful- long and thick, shiny, the color of maple syrup, even after almost 100 years.”

When did she cut her hair? According to <http://www.hairarchives.com/private/1920s.htm>: *The Bob started in 1915 with the debut of the Castle Bob, named after the celebrated ballroom dancer Irene Castle. She cut her hair for convenience, having no clue that she would trigger a revolution in 20th-century hair fashion. The free-spirited youth of the day readily accepted the new look and made it the forerunner of many fads and fashions which eventually led to new curling, perming and coloring methods, triggering a change in the economy- prior to bobbing, women got their hair cut by a barber. After bobs, the beauty salon industry got underway.*





Bobs were controversial. Frowned on at first by Pastors and parents, complaining that girls should look like girls. Also, when a woman had her hair cut short, she grew bolder. Soon she began wearing long beads, short skirts and rolled stockings, clothes of the flapper. The rebellious change in hairstyle was just the beginning of a major change in societal norms and values seen during the 1920s. Bobbed hair prompted the invention of the bobbie pin!

“Borg Pugh was the first woman in Summit who bobbed her hair. Snip Fransen cut his wife’s hair. Prior to that, they wore their braid wrapped in a “pug”.

Grandpa Clem Pugh

Bev: "I still sing "Mares Eat Oats and Does Eat Oats and little Lambs Eat Ivy" to my Grandkids. I can remember Grandpa singing that all the time."

Norm "Dad always had a few pigs and sheep".

Norm: “ Dad had a driving pony named Grace, she could trot for miles, and was light on her feet. He said when he was dating Ma, after he dropped her off he would fall asleep and the horse would take him home. He would wake up in front of the barn. They used to go to barn dances at Strouston.

Deb “We all know Grandpa Pugh lost his eye when he was stringing a metal clothesline for Grandma. Bobby remembers Grandpa explaining it this way “One day I was at church and there was a lady singing really loud in the choir up in the balcony. She sang so hard that she passed out and fell over the railing. As she was falling, she came to, and grabbed the chandelier, hanging over all of the people in church. The priest said “If any man look up, he will lose his sight. Grandpa put one hand over his eye and said “One eye won't hurt”.

Norm “Dad had a glass eye. He never liked it. He had to take it out with something that looked like a shoe horn...one day he dropped it and it broke. He never replaced it”.

Deb “ Max told a story when Grandpa was playing pinochle with some guys in town. He really didn’t play pinochle very much. Later on, they said they didn’t want to play with the one –eyed guy, and when Grandpa heard about that, he said didn’t want to play with them anyway”.

Norm “I think that was a bunch of Danes down by Stockholm. Dad didn’t like to play cards as much as Ma did. She liked to play cards, and she had her card club”

Norm “ Dad used to say:

Ziggity-ziggety-zoc, his name was Charley Block,
He’d sell you a collar for half a dollar, And throw in a pair of socks.
The longer you wore them, the stronger they’d get,
You’d throw them in the water and they’d never get wet. Ziggity-ziggety-zoc”





Norm "Dad worked for Marlowe Sharf for awhile, after Ma died. Marlowe had a fertilizer plant in Watertown. He stayed with Lloyd Shambley during the week. Dad would leave the house open all week long. Sometimes we would get there on a Friday afternoon and he wasn't home yet. One time he came home late on a Friday night, and he heard someone upstairs. It was Fern Lienen and Hazel Kennison. They figured on staying at Dad's, and when they got there the door was unlocked, so they just went on in".

Deb " I can remember Grandpa telling me when he lived in Waubay, if he ran into a pan-handler while he was out walking, he would say "I've got this side of the street-you get over there".

Sayings of Grandpa Pugh "It's not the dead you need to be afraid of, it's the living".
"If you're going to drive horses, you better know more than the horse".

The Gas Station

Norm "Dad had an account with Firestone. I helped him sometimes, if all the boys were around we could change the tires pretty quick".

Social Security

Norm "In 1946 he found out he could pay his social security in a lump sum- before that you had to be working for a company. I was at the station when Ole Moe's son, who worked for the government in Minnesota, told Dad about this. So he paid the lump sum. Mom got a few checks before she died".

Clem's father, John Pugh

Norm : " He was a road master on the Rock Island Railroad when he lived in Iowa, before he retired. If there was a job they wanted, they could bid for that job. That is probably why they lived in so many locations. The road master was over all section men, head quartered at Division headquarters."

"My grandfather was a very tall man. They used to tell a story about Walt Meyers. He lived on the farm Oney and Vi lived on. He would take a short cut through the property Grandpa rented, and go through with his dog. That dog would always kill one of Grandpa's chickens. Grandpa told Walt when he cut through, to leave his dog at home; he didn't want to lose any more chickens. So the next time, here comes Walt with his dog, and Grandpa reached into the buggy and pulled him off. Those buggies were pretty tall, so you had to be a tall guy to just reach in and lift someone off their buggy. I guess he slapped Walt on the head a few times to teach him a lesson. Walt was a tough guy, but Grandpa Pugh was tougher!".

Max "Grandpa John was a big man, and I remember he was crabby. He stayed at Aunt Kate's ; he had a dish of peppermints nearby and he would always shake his finger at us and say "Don't you take more than one".

Gene "John Pugh was 240 pounds and 6 feet 6 inches. He ruled with an iron fist. I remember they said once he was playing cards with the farm hand, and the farm hand made a mistake playing cards. John knocked him off his chair and told him to come back when he could play cards".





Norm “ The men who worked on the railroads in those days had to be rough and tough”

Grandpa Clem's brother, John Pugh

Max: "Uncle John would sometime send us their used clothes by train. They had more money than we did. We were always so excited when we would get them. We would try them on and ask Mom if she could cut them down or make them smaller to fit us. Norm tried on a hat that was too big and said "Ma, can you make this smaller to fit me?" He looked so comical".

“They usually sent us Christmas presents every year. One year, they sent presents and there wasn't anything in there for me. Grandma went upstairs in the west room, that was our storeroom. She had some presents hidden there, and she wrapped a top for me and brought it down so I had something, too. When I was older she told me that she was the one that gave me the top- I guess they forgot me that year. One year, when they came, we all went to town. There were so many of us kids, we lost one of theirs-I can't remember which one. Everyone was in the Montgomery Wards store. Their boy was sitting on the steps of the old Immaculate Conception church, just watching everyone go by".

Grandpa Clem's Brother, Jim/The Railroad

Norm: "Jim was riding the engine to the roundhouse and slipped. I'm not sure what his job was. I think he was too young to be an engineer. Usually you had to work awhile in the roundhouse before you went on the road- and some didn't want to go on the road. He was probably working in the roundhouse”.

“The regular train crews housed the engines on a small trackage leading into the roundhouse. The workers in the roundhouse would ride it in and service it, or fill it with coal or water”.

"In those days there were 5 people on the train. The engineer, fireman and switchman at the head, the conductor and rear end switchman at the caboose. That was the way it was from day one of railroading, and it just changed in the last 20 years. There was no use for a fireman after the steam engines were replaced. The engineer and conductor hardly did anything-there was no need for them after the diesel trains took over. The fireman and the switchman threw the switches. One hundred miles was considered a day, they couldn't change it”.

“Now they run 100 miles in two and a half or three hours if on a through freight. Now they run them further, but they have to pay them more money”.

Grandpa's Sister Kate Morrissey

Norm: Uncle Pete and Aunt Kate; they always said if they had twins they were going to name them “Re-peat” and “Dupli-cate”





Julia Van Cleve, daughter of Kate's

Iva "She taught me this poem " I know how homely I are, I know that my face ain't no star. But I don't mind it, I'm the person behind it, the one up front gets the jar".

Ray and Blanche

Norm " Aunt Blanche had diabetes, she lost her leg before she died. They called Kenneth Pugh "Knut".

Norm "At first Ray and Dad shared the car, but when they had two cars, they shared license plates. They could only afford a license plate for one car, if they both had to go somewhere they each took a license plate. In those days the patrolman had white cars, if they saw one they would hurry and get out of town".

Norm "One night, on the way to a Christmas party at Leinen's, Ray and Aunt Blanche, their kids, and Max, Iva, me and Don had an accident in their sled. The sled was a front and back 2 runner bobsled, and it had a grain box on it. They wrapped up us kids and the food in blankets with heated irons inside the grain box to keep everyone and everything warm. There was lots of snow, and a bridge without a railing on our way to Leinen's. The sled tipped over, and we all went flying out, food and all. No one was hurt"

Norm "Uncle Ray and Aunt Blanche lived in a little 4- room house with a cellar, on the south side had almost a full porch- that was a small house to raise 5 kids in".

Norm: Francis helped Erwin Woolsey move to Northern Minnesota and he never came back- he stayed there and started working on the RR. Woolsey took his hired man, Gundert Gunderson, who lived across from the school house. Woolsey's- had 2 daughters, one Marge's age and one older than Max, the age of Dorothy. Orpha Lau was Woolsey's sister and Adna was his father.

Aunt Hazel

Max "I remember when Hazel was expecting Donovan, she stayed with us. She wanted to be close to the doctor, and we could get her there. Hazel was a good cook, she used vegetables like celery and lettuce, and we didn't have that, so we liked it when she cooked. Charles used to look at all the bread that Mom would make, he couldn't get over it. She would have pan after pan cooling off. She made kind of a biscuit."

Norm: We went to Mitchell to get Hazel for the family reunion, and got back to Watertown the same day. She paid for our rooms at the Super 8, she had to have a room right next to us because she couldn't hear very well. The next day we took her back to Plankinton, and she wanted us to go to the Senior Center with her to get lunch, but we didn't think we had the time to wait for it to open and told her we would take a rain check".

"Charles taught school at Morrystown, SD, west of the river by Mobridge, he also went to Aberdeen normal. Later, he went into the bulk oil business and had a plant in Plankinton, 2-3 gas stations. He did quite well. He died of brain cancer, he went into a coma in Rochester. They sent him back to Mitchell and he was fed by IV's. Hazel remarried after he passed away.





She met Milo on a cruise and fell for him.”

“When Charles and Donovan came to reunions, they would talk about football- we could never understand why they thought it was so great!”

Children of Clem and Lizzie Pugh

Marge

Norm “Marge was a teacher, her first job was in Hill City, South Dakota, west of Sisseton. Elmer Knopf took her there; he was a good neighbor and had a good car.

Norm “ Marge dated Swede Gulbranson and Jake Steinocker, and a few times, Lloyd Stark. Then Joe came along and that was it. One time she and Lloyd took us kids to the pie social at the German school where she was teaching, in Lura township. I remember thinking she didn’t want to go by herself, so she took us kids. I think he was kind of smitten with Marge. His sister Nadine was Marian's teacher. It was the first time I had ice cream and apple pie together, I remember it tasted so good”.

Norm "Joe and Marge went to Lennox to get married. There was a priest that had left Milbank and she liked him particularly well, and wanted him to perform the service."

Norm " There was a fox farm in Ortley that gave \$.25 for rabbits-they used them for feed. I used to help Joe hunt rabbits-he paid for groceries with the money he made. This was before they had any kids. He had a model A pickup with a spot light- we'd go out at night. The rabbits would be stunned by the light and then we'd shoot them. One night we got 20-25 rabbits. He would give me two rabbits- enough for a box of shells and \$.25 to spend- I probably bought snickers candy bars, they were 3 for 10 cents".



Picture of Model A Pickup

<http://www.grumpsplace.com/images/wp/1931%20Ford%20Model%20A%20Pickup%20Truck.jpg>

Don

Norm “Don was working for Sherm Dorsett for \$20.00/month and room and board. He must have been about 16 or 17. One rainy Saturday, we were going to town and Dad said “I think we should go over and get Don”. It was about 10 miles west of our place. Don was still working. Sherm came out and Dad said, “It’s too wet to plow” and Sherm said “ He can plow in this kind of weather”. Dad said “He is not plowing for you anymore” and then brought him home.





Norm " When Don was in Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), he would catch a ride home with some other guys for the holidays. One guy had a coupe with a tire on the back (some of the coupes had a rumble seat-some had a tire.) You could get 3 guys in the front, and one had to ride the spare tire. They took turns, except the guy who owned the coupe, he got to drive. They didn't have much of a heater, CCC uniforms were heavy wool clothing, if it was in the winter time all you would have to do is turn your hood up. The other guys were not any one that we would know, just people needing a ride home for the holidays.



<http://www.jalopyjournal.com/forum/threads/1932-ford-spare-tire-band.834868/>

“ When Don got out of the Army, he brought 80 acres of land and put it into flax, he almost paid for it the first year. It was 6 miles south and one mile west of Summit. It had never been farmed, so he had to break it up and work it. He sold that land to Joe Amdahl."

He was really a hard worker- and he could really shock grain- he was only 5 feet 7 or 8, so he was closer to the ground than I was and he hardly had to bend over. After he married Sybil, he worked at the Monument Works in Milbank for awhile, and then he would shock for people at night. He did 20 acres for this one guy one night. One time he stopped to get his money and the man couldn't believe he was already done-he had to go and check before he would pay him!"

Norm "Don rented a place 2 miles south of Summit, he farmed it right after they got married, it was the old Alfred Hjelming place- 2 miles north of his first farm. Don lost his billfold when he was plowing. The fellow that bought that land found it two or more years after Don died. He was plowing and he dug it up. He could identify that it was Don's billfold, but the money was all decayed. He had to send it to Washington D.C. to determine what kind of bills were in it, they had a way of checking. I guess they sent the money to Sybil. "

Norm "Sybil taught in Milbank for a while and Ortonville, also. She and all of her sisters went to normal school. Later, they went to summer school in order to get their degree. To be a teacher only required a six week training period when they first started teaching. After Don died, Sybil stayed on their farm, and her mother Bobbie and brother Frankie moved in with her".

Barb "The Pugh's passed out easy- Don passed out easy, too".

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Max

Deb "Max said Grandpa told her she reminded him of his mother. Max had the same color hair as Grandma Pugh, but apparently it was similar to Julia Merritt's also."

Deb "Max said they had real candles on their Christmas tree, no matter how poor they were."

Max: "Don worked at Riley's Hotel in high school for one year then he said "That's not for me". I went to high school the next year and worked for Riley's -it was a hard job making all those beds. The next year I lived with Sharf's - Mrs. Scharf was easier to work for, but I had to eat in the kitchen. The next two years I lived with Grandma Stoddard who had the boarding house. Mary Morrissey worked there too."

Max and Manley: Early Years:

Max " Our first house was behind where the Lutheran Church is now (in South Shore). We had two rooms and an outhouse. After Grandma Owen died we added a bathroom. I was expecting Bev then. I told the carpenters I was in a hurry to get it finished before the baby was born, and he said "My wife has had 7 kids and she didn't have a bathroom!"

Deb " Bev was born on election day, when Eisenhower was elected. Max said she was either going to name her Ike or Mamie- but she ended up naming her Beverly instead".

"After Manley sold the business, we thought about moving to Watertown. Manley bought this house for \$4,500 and he bought another one in Watertown for \$17,000. We had a family vote and I was the only one who voted to move to Watertown. When we moved in this house (in South Shore), the upstairs was just one room, Grandpa Pugh helped us finish the other one off".

"We've had more than cattle, we've had all kinds of animals-pigs and sheep. I used to feed 100 pigs- we couldn't keep them in, they would get out. I would take the tractor and wagon to the creamery and get buttermilk, then mix it with ground feed- they called that "slop". Sometimes the pigs would get out and follow me into town. One time they called me from the restaurant and told me they had a couple of pigs, what did I want them to do with them? Those pigs paid for our house up on the hill, though!"

Iva

Iva : "I met Donnie in Summit, he was the only guy who had a car. I was about 14 or 15 and Donnie was a little older. We dated until I finished high school, and then we got married. We didn't have money for a big wedding, or wedding pictures."

Norm "Iva and Donnie lived in the house that Johnny and Francis Wohlleber lived in when they first got married. Then they built a new house, where Brian lives now. I was home one weekend from the Western Union, it was probably 1952, and Don and I helped them pour cement. Kathy was about 2, she was just big enough to stand up in her high chair and then she tumbled out".

Max "Iva was born at Grandma Stoddard's. All the rest were born on the farm, except DeEll and Gene, he was born in the hospital.





Iva "Mrs. Johns, the midwife, helped deliver me. Grandma and Grandpa Pugh had a boy's name picked out, but not a girls, and Mrs. Johns liked the name Iva. My name is Iva Mary, but the kids always called me Iva May. When we were in school we would have to put our initials on the board if we had to go to the bathroom and I always hated to put mine up there - IMP."

Deb: Iva told me she made a pie a week since 1991 for Father John until she moved to Arizona in 2011. She made the best pies, second only to my Mom's.

Norm: "Iva learned to tap at the age of 12. Iva and Max used to sing together for funerals".

Norm: Iva and Vera Dierck went to Rapid City because they had rheumatic fever. She couldn't walk- either her or Gene. Uncle Frank made a special desk for her to sit up in bed. Mary Gannon was rooming with us then. I would help carry her to the bathroom when she had to go.

Iva " I stayed with Grandma Stoddard alot when I was sick. I used to hate seeing all the kids having a good time outside"

Norm

Norm "When I was 15 or 16 years old, I worked for George Dumann. His wife was having a baby, and I was supposed to cut the vines off the potatoes with a sickle and milk his cows. He came home and thought I was going to have the cows milked; after working on those potato vines I guess I had a different idea. I worked for him one summer. He used to put his feet in the sink and wash them; I thought that was funny".

Norm "I worked for Manley's Dad when I was about 16- we all worked for Owens'-Don, too.

Norm "There was a bachelor named Fish that we helped out during WW2. We helped him get ready to go into the Army. He got called to report, and he had rented some land, and had the grain in shocks, but it had to be thrashed. He had a brother who had a bucker, he bucked all the shocks up to the trashing machine, and Dad and I pitched them in.

DeEll

Gloria "When DeEll was born, Mom would have had her 10th birthday party, but Grandma was in the hospital, so people felt sorry for her, and she ended up with 10 birthday cakes!".

Barb "DeEll would help his Mom and Gene helped at the station. They used to fight, but if someone would pick on the other then they would stick up for each other. DeEll liked to clean-he couldn't stand messes. When we got married he would not let me pile things on the top of the refrigerator. He said he was always straightening the top of the refrigerator at home. Grandpa Pugh used to be more strict than any of the grandkids can remember. DeEll told a story about one time when he was sent home from school. Grandpa Pugh took him by the back of the shirt and kicked his butt all the way back to school- it was a quarter of a mile".





Barb " DeEll was a good dancer. Someone was always doing something crazy at those barn dances. I remember when Norm picked DeEll up to dance, and DeEll's feet never touched the floor. It was so funny".

Pugh Kills Skunk

Barb and Gene "DeElls first job was working for a bleach company in North Mpls. One day he was in the warehouse, and a skunk wandered in, acting pretty strange, and DeEll knew it was rabid. He picked up a brick and hit it, killing the animal. He took the animal and buried it, but thought he should report the incident to the police. When the police appeared, they listened to the story, and were satisfied with the outcome. When they started to write up the report, they asked for DeEll's last name. "Pugh" DeEll said. The police thought he was being a smart aleck, and he had to show them his license to assure them that was indeed his last name. The next day in the paper, it read: "Pugh kills Skunk".

Norm: "DeEll used to work for a bleach company- he pretty much ran it by himself. He would make it and deliver it- the mixture was in a big barrel, and he would take it to the laundry mat. When we moved to St Louis Park, DeEll took the bleach truck without permission to help us move. I rode in the back to be sure the furniture didn't tip over; it was a scary ride- I couldn't tell which way they were going or where we were. DeEll got canned for that one-it just so happened that Sunday the boss showed up and the truck was missing".

Norm "Barb and DeEll did not have a car and they would ride out with us to South Dakota. Sometimes if we were going to South Dakota, I would help DeEll mix bleach and deliver on Saturdays, so he could get done faster. After that job I also helped him make the dies so he could get done in time to go to South Dakota".

Norm "When he bought a car it was a Morris Minor; a really small car- then we always followed each other out to South Dakota".

DeEll and Gene

Norm "On the road a mile north of Marge and Joes, there was a bridge that went over the road. On hot days, Gene and DeEll would ride their bikes down the road and drive them right off the bridge into the water below".

Iva and Norm: "DeEll and Gene use to sing "God Bless America" at the Community Club when they were about 5 or 6. That song was really popular, it must have started in WW II. Those two could really belt it out."

Sybil "Gene and DeEll used to help Grandpa at the station. Someone brought in a hearse, and after they had it tuned up, Gene drove around town. DeEll laid down in the back seat, and whenever they would see someone, he would sit up and wave".





Gene

Max: "When Gene was born, all of us kids were out in the hay field, and Dad came home and said "We have another haymaker".

Norm " Uncle Frank took Dad to Milbank to get Grandma and Gene, us kids were working (1936) in the field; he must have been over to make hay as it was in June.

Norm "Gene worked for a bank. A lot of people that worked for the oil wells lived in trailer houses- after the oil market buttoned up, there were a lot of trailers that the bank got stuck with. Gene was in charge of that. They put a new stove and refrigerator in them to resell them.

Norm" Gene was friends with Gene Anderson, so was DeEll. He came from north of Summit. He worked on the railroad for awhile, with Gene and Dave Munson and Elmer Binde. Later Gene Anderson, Dave and Elmer went to work for the Otis Elevator company and Gene Anderson was killed- the other two quit the elevator company after he died"

Albert Lea Sun Tribune June 10th, 1962

Eugene A Anderson, 28, Mpls, was killed late Friday when he plunged 13 floors while working on elevator installation in the Pillsbury Bldg. He had been employed by the Otis Elevator Co.

Gene: (*Summary from taped conversation in hotel before Iva's 85th BD party*).

"Gene Anderson had a Model A- he drove it back and forth to high school. It leaked a little gas inside and he kept a can in the car to catch it- it would fill up a little and he'd just throw it out and leave that empty can in there. I was a sophomore I suppose, and he and I were both smoking. I went out to that old Model A and lit up a cigarette. It blew up and knocked all the hair off my legs and just about bust out the side windows and it popped out the front window. Oh gosh, I singed the hair on my neck and face! It scared the heck right out of me. It must've been the fumes. I didn't smoke for a while after that.

Gene: We had the shoe cobbler in Summit- he'd always give me hell for wearing my shoes wrong. I'd go to buy a new pair of shoes and he said if you wear those the right way and lace them up right you wouldn't have to get a new pair-and that is what he needs to sell shoes!

Norm: Nels Hansen was it- or Nels Larsen?

Gene: I think it was Nels Bakken.

Brad: I was just thinking when I came out to Summit for a Wohlleber Reunion a couple years ago but it wasn't in Summit .

Deb: We sort of forgot to tell him

Brad: So I went out by the graveyard and I thought maybe they went out there.

Well, then I came back by the cafe, and a woman was coming out and I said, hey, can you tell me how to get to South Shore, by the back roads. She said, My Dad is paying the bill, you probably know him.





Well this guy went to high school in a little town that played Summit in the brand-new arena. He started telling about it and he goes "What's your name" and I said "Pugh" and he knew Gene and DeEll.

Gene: I'll be darned

Brad: He said I guess that was the first basketball game and I don't know if you played or DeEll played

Gene: We all played.

Brad: And he went to the little town -doesn't it start with a P

Gene: Peever

Brad: Yeah so he said why don't you just go up to the freeway if you want to go to South Shore?

Brad: I just want to.... and he said I don't remember how to get there now so then ..

Gene: Where was he again?

Brad: The Summit Cafe

Deb: But it wasn't even at South Shore we had it at the BloomingValley Township where we have the Pugh things and I forgot to tell him where it was.

Gene: Wayne ran into someone, too and they got to talking and he said how are you related to the Pugh's? Wayne explained to him and they got to talking about basketball and he said "That Gene Pugh was the dirtiest basketball player". When I fouled I fouled (laughter)- if I was going to get a foul they're not getting a spot.

Brad: That guy talked about the arena. I thought he was talking about something that was just made, that was like 50 years ago. Then I mentioned it to Barb and she said I remember going out there and help paint. Dad talked about wheeling cement -that was a big deal.

Norm: That was all volunteer labor.

Gene: That was quite a building at that time and it was all done with local volunteer work almost- they had one farmer and he was paid, the rest of it was all volunteers. They let us kids out of high school, junior and senior boys in the afternoon, and we laid all the brick in the ends. The rest of it was all put up with arch beams that went all the way across and they were seated on footings that were in the ground about 8 to 9 feet solid cement, and they come up out of the ground like this than those arches sat on top of those and were bolted right in. The boards were all this way, all of cedar- inside you saw the big cedar beams plus the cedar ceiling and the ends were brick, not like mill brick, but like tiled brick and we learned how to do that and we had a chalk string that went across and we'd line it up, the only thing we didn't have was a plumb this way, so that wall goes like this, but it's still standing and that was in 1953.

Brad: Maybe they had the design from another city, or somewhere else, where they had it all figured out.

Gene: I saw a building at UND, Grand Forks, and it was an old basket ball court, maybe that is where we got the idea.

Norm "Julie and Cindy came in 1960, Gene was in the Army then, they lived in Maryland. Grandpa went out there to help; they didn't have a crib, so he made one out of a drawer. Then when I had my gallbladder operation, he left there to come and help us."





Fransen's

Max: "Everyone liked Aunt Lot and Uncle Frank, they were wonderful people. He died when I was a freshman. I was working at the hotel then, when I was in high school. Everyone came back and played cards after his funeral. I didn't like that".

Norm "I remember Dad saying that the Riley's were having a celebration after the funeral. Aunt Lot was a Riley and had sisters that lived in Aberdeen, the Anderbergs".

Norm "Aunt Lot and two of the boys went to town in a fancy two seat buggy, the two boys were acting up and she reached up swatted them on the side of the head, so the boys threw one line one way, and one line the other way, and they jumped out- the horses were on the run, and they didn't stop until they got to the barn. Uncle Frank was easy going, probably didn't say much to them. I remember Fern was very friendly. Aunt Lot was a big women. After Lot moved off the farm, she had a one-room house south of the Riley Hotel".

Max " Stub [Howard] Fransen chopped off his thumb. His brother played a trick on him, pulled the thumb into his glove and then acted like he was going to cut it off. Stub tried it and cut off his thumb. Uncle Ray was just going by when that happened".

Norm " One time, Chris Fransen brought over one of his kids, he had a really bad toothache. He wanted Dad to pull the tooth, he had a forceps. So he did, and it turned out to be the wrong tooth! But it was just a baby tooth".

Max "Ed Fransen bobbed his wife's hair for her, he started below the ear, and ended up on the top!"

Norm "Clyde Leinen stayed with Lot and Frank to go to our school".

Norm: Uncle Frank thought more of his horses than his cattle...they would be eating oats, the cattle would be outside. Uncle Chris had the big horses on the buggy, usually trotter.

Norm " Aunt Lot and Uncle Frank would sometimes have the Fourth of July. They would have fresh creamed peas and he would have a shooting gallery. He put a can on the fence and we would all take turns. It cost him a little bit of money with the shells being 35-50 cents a box . Uncle Frank would put the flag up on his windmill as high as he could -25 to 30 feet."

Norm "Cousin Ed Fransen (that was when they had Flandreau's Meat shop in Milbank)...they'd go to Milbank and Ed liked that bologna- nobody ate in restaurants, you know, you always bought a ring of bologna and a package of rolls and that would be your lunch. He'd buy two rings of boloney -one for his family and one for himself. He was a funny eater- Dad would tell how Ed would get up in the middle of the night and he'd be hungry and scramble a dozen eggs."

Norm " Ray Fransen still lives on the old place. His brother Richard built the arch; he lives on the old Leffingwell/Mitchell place. Harold and Howard learned how to plaster and dry wall, from their uncle Kettlehut, that how they got to Rapid City. Later Harold moved to Aberdeen and Howard lived north of Wabasha and died there





Lienens

Norm "George Lienen came from Iowa. He went to Iowa and told Don and his son, Earl, if they did the milking they could get the cream check. After they did the milking, they went to Alf Russell to get the cream check, and they found out he had already advanced George the money for his trip to Iowa! "

"Once I was plowing, and Dad had to go somewhere. He could count the furrows to see if you were keeping at your work. Clyde Leinen lived with his grandparents, and he walked over, and we laid there and shot the breeze for a couple hours. When Dad came back he said "How come you only got so many rounds done?". I had to tell him that Clyde came over. He wasn't mad or anything".

"Clyde wanted to go to school with his cousins. They had to go to school where Albert lived, that was 1 mile or more –they lived on the old 81 road, west Blooming Valley, east was Farmington. Seems like they all lived with Aunt Lot for while, Ed, Fern, Snip and Herbert. They moved off that place on old 81 and moved right across from the school house until they moved to Watertown. I don't remember Snip Fransen's kids staying there. They would honk and wave to let you know they were around. Herbert had fancy model A Ford, he kicked up the dust when he got out of sight of Aunt Lot".

"Another thing I remember, is that Irene and her brothers turned their spoon over in their mouth when they ate their ice cream."

"They were always the first ones to town on Saturday, they didn't shop, just sat in front of the grocery store to see people coming and going. They had seats with backrests in the grocery store. You had your list, and gave it to the grocery man to pick out. Mom would to and visit with Dottie Dunn. On Wednesday night we would get a nickel and on Saturday night we would get a dime, but not until Dad got the cream check- then we would get our money, and we had to spend it wisely!"

"We went to George Leinen's to listen to Joe Lewis box, we were running around smoking cigarettes, that was before '36 or '37."

Dad's Memories of Farmington Township

"The old home place was in Farmington Township, 1 mile east of old 81, 5 miles S of Summit, 2 miles west of County road 20". The house was moved to Milbank and the A-framed barn was moved somewhere around Twin Brooks.

"Woolsey lived on the Leinen place first. Before that, the Leinens lived in Lura township, north of Bill Lowes, There was a "creek" that ran through the Woolsey/Leinen place, they called it the Little Sioux, it went through the culvert under the road to Aunt Lot and Frank Fransen's and then would go through our place too. It could get quite big in the spring from the run-off. I would have to chop the ice for the cattle to drink. It was close to the school house, went almost a quarter of a mile before it went into our pasture-four farms got the benefit of that crick.



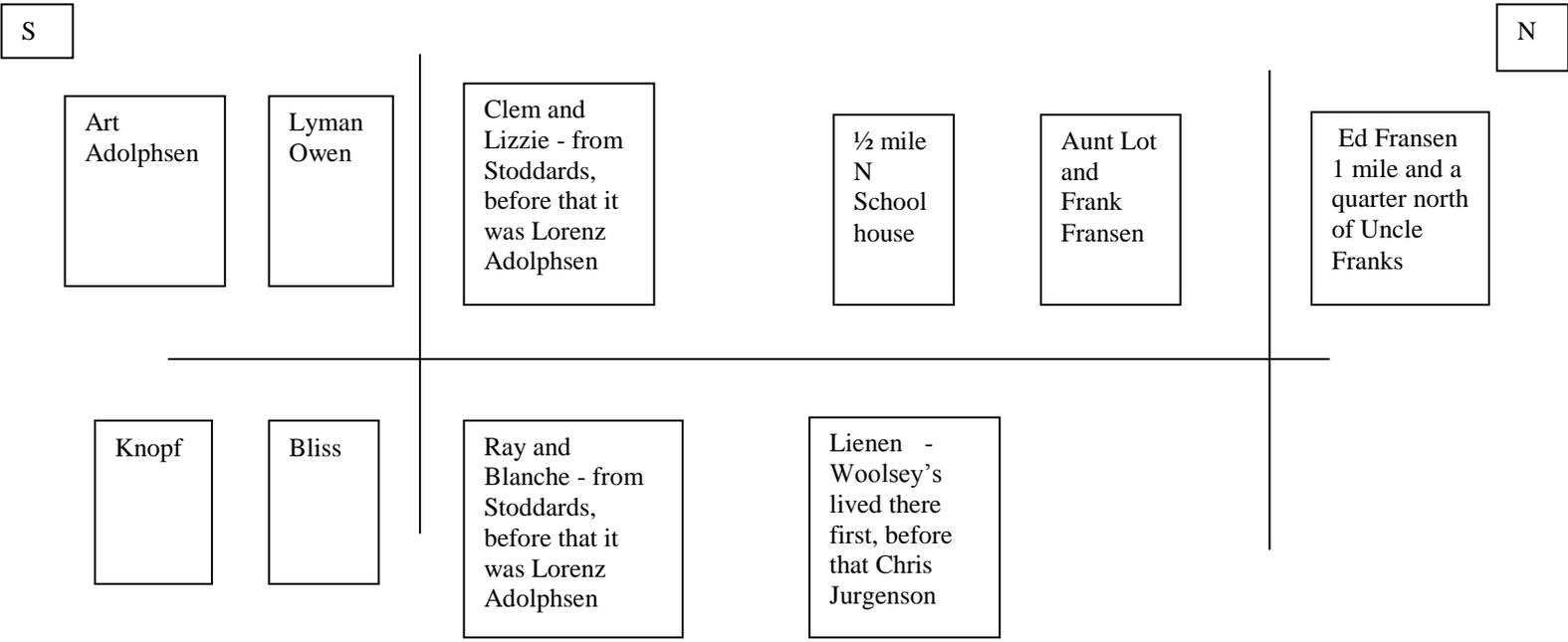


We had one pothole that had water in it most of the time. The only well that had any water that amounted to anything was up by Uncle Franks- just think going up there in 20 below zero, with barrels- they'd cut the tops and fill them with buckets. A sled would be smoother, but with a wagon it would slop out and our clothes would get wet and freeze - we would be like an ice man after hauling water."

"There were three school houses in Farmington township. The one school house was 2 ½ miles south of Summit, that was where Sybil and her siblings went to school, and where Grandma Pugh taught school. Then our school house was ½ miles north of our old place and the 3rd school house was 3 ½ miles north of our school house."

"Our road was kind of a main road to Summit that came from the south, we would get the tramps because they followed that road."

"George Stoddard lived ½ mile north of Don and Sybil, ½ mile east, in a big yellow house with screened- in porches east and south side. Dad remembers being there, they had Zela and Curt."





Grandma and Grandpa's house in Summit

Bev: Remember how we always played church upstairs. The rail was a communion rail.

Deb: All I remember is that we had to stay out of that little closet, because Gene's stuff was in there".

Bev: But we didn't.

Jane "I remember when Kathy and I used to stay with Grandma and Grandpa Pugh in Summit. Even though the station was just a little ways from the house, Grandma would call Grandpa and tell him "the girls are coming", so he could watch for us. She gave us careful instructions as to which way to go, we were not to walk down main street. After we got to Grandpa's, he would give us money to buy peanuts from his peanut machine, and later we would go and get an ice cream cone. When it was time for us to go back, he would call Grandma to let her know to "watch for the girls", and we would head back the same way they came".

My memories of Summit.

Deb "I don't remember Grandma Pugh- I just know I liked to go there. There was a footstool full of all kinds of things and I liked looking through it. I remember being there for the funeral. I had to put my nose in Dad's coat, I had never smelled incense.

We loved to play in Grandpa's house. We would slide down the banister when no one was looking. We could listen to the parents talk through the heat grates. I remember hearing people talking about Khrushchev and it scared me."

"We used to go uptown to Clara's and get a Popsicle. I really liked her. Many times we would stop and see Allie. There was a lady next door to the right of Grandpa's house; she let us play her piano- I think we played cards with her, too. Slauthaag's lived next to her. Pam would always come out when we came to swing on her swing set. She was a little different. I was told she had a high fever as a child".

"The summer after I completed first grade, Dad was working in South Dakota and we stayed there so we could be close to him. We were there most of the summer and I got to start second grade in the school there. Sybil was my teacher; Duwayne Wohlleber and Chucky Amdahl were in my class also".

"Mom's cousin Esther Thaden was the cook. The school included the high school, and in the morning the high school kids would gather around the piano and sing popular songs from the radio. There was ice-cold milk, chocolate or white, for snacks, we could help ourselves. I always had chocolate. I learned how to twirl a baton, one of the high school girls taught me. I thought she was wonderful. I think her name was Mitzi. She was trying to teach me to do cartwheels too, but I couldn't do them".

"I remember spending a lot of time at the school playground, on the teeter-totters and swings. You could hear them squeaking from Grandpa's, that way you would know when kids were over there playing. The day they took school pictures, I was sick, so there is nothing to prove I attended Summit school for a few months in 1961. I loved living in Summit and I was very sad to have to go back to the cities."





"Looking back, Dad said maybe that wasn't such a good thing for me- but that experience with my extended family made me who I am today, and gave me an appreciation for where I came from. I will always treasure those times."

Deb's Memories of Enemy Swim

Deb : "Every year, 1965-1971, Grandpa Pugh rented cabins on Enemy Swim Lake, near Waubay. The first few years we stayed on Buds on the north side, and the last few years we stayed at Buds on the south side. Both resorts were named "Bud's". I think we stayed two years on the north side, and the rest of the time on the south side".

There were no bathrooms on the north side, just an outhouse. The first year, Tom, Donna, Jeff and Renee were all in diapers. That was before people used disposable diapers, so their Mom's had to rinse the dirty diapers outside at the water pump. The cabins did not have all the luxuries of home, but as kids, we didn't care- all we wanted to do was swim. They had water paddles; sometimes we would paddle around the lake. There were very few trees around the lake for shade-not too good for our fair part-Irish skin. Our skin would burn, and peel, and then burn again. I remember the younger kids, especially Brad, looking so funny when they were sleeping-their eyelids would be bright white in contrast to their flushed faces. Our moms would put vinegar water compresses on our backs to cool them off-and it did, although we smelled like pickles.

In spite of not having all of the conveniences of home, we had great food, and every Sunday we had a big picnic, and all of the aunts and uncles would come. The families from far away usually stayed at the cabin one or two weeks. The kids that lived in South Dakota would stay for a week, or for part of the week, and the aunts and uncles would stop in for meals and visit.

Indian legend is that the lake was named because Indians would capture their enemies, and if they could swim across the lake, their lives would be spared.

One year when we were on the south side, Chuck and Bev and I took the legend personally. We decided to swim out to the island that is in the middle of the lake. We took air mattresses to float on, but they were pretty flat by the time we got there. When we finally got there, we jumped right back in; the deer flies were vicious. We didn't have a chance to rest, but started swimming back to land. By that time I was pretty exhausted. My air mattress was totally flat, I was pretty much just treading water. Bev and Chuck were stronger, more practiced swimmers. I don't know what would have happened if Uncle Gene hadn't come out and pulled me in.

Bev and Chucky's folks were not there. My Dad made us turn in our swim suits for the day. I felt bad, because they were mad at Dad; but I guess I was too. Grandpa Pugh must have felt sorry for us, he bought us ice cream bars; it was 100 degrees that day. By evening, Dad let us go swimming again. The last time we stayed at Bud's as a grownup, they still remembered the kids that swam across to the island. I guess we were a legend in our own way, but lucky that we lived to tell about it.





Norm “One year it was so hot, we tried to lay poles between the cabins so we could get some shade. That was when we couldn’t get the big cabin, and had to take the three little ones. The big cabin was nice, it was shady, and you could walk down to the lake. We would always go in and throw the big rocks out on the shore every year”.

“The guy on the north side, he would catch Silver Bass and smoke them. We’d go there after the kids were all in bed, and Grandpa would be watching them, and we’d eat smoked fish and drink 3.2 beer. We really looked forward to that”.

“One time when we had the big cabin, Hazel and Milo were there. I remember we were on the east side of the cabin, there was big cable wheel that we used as a table. Milo made the remark that with all of these guys, there was no beer! That was something we did not have a lot of at our family get-togethers”.

Norm “Dad was thinking about buying on Waubay Lake. He was looking at a lot on the east side of Waubay Lake, he even went so far as to have a plan drawn up as to how he wanted the cabin built, then he decided he didn’t want that. I am glad he didn’t, he really liked the hotel; he know so many people and talked to all the business people. I had the crew stay there once - they weren’t filled up.

Camping Stories

Deb “The Pugh brothers and their families liked to camp. One year when I was in high school, Mom and Dad rented a camper-trailer. Gene’s job was to bring the boat, and then his family stayed with us in the trailer, and Barb and DeEll had a tent. We wanted to be right down by the lake, and it was really nice down there. But that night, we had a terrible storm with a large amount of rain. There were a lot of us in the camper, and the jack slipped, so the whole end of the trailer went down. Dad had to go out in the pouring rain and try to get the jack back under the trailer. The next morning, when DeEll woke up, he found that he had floated over to Barb’s side of the tent- they were sleeping on air mattresses! They found their alarm clock stuck in the mud-inside the tent! We all got up, and Mom made pancakes. The kids thought it was great fun, and we got very muddy. Gene’s boat was swamped and had to be bailed out. When it was finally time to go, we could not get up the hill, it was still too muddy and wet. Finally we all made it home. The place where Mom and Dad rented the camper-trailer accused them of not cleaning it, even though they spent a lot of time on it, because the whole thing was full of sand. But they never thought to look for sand under the mattresses!” (that was near Alexandria)

“In 1975, the year we got married, Dan and I drove the old Ford up to northern Minnesota to meet every one. All the dogs were there that year, too. Maggie, Mom and Dad’s dog, Champs, Gene and Bev’s dog, and Tammy, Barb and DeEll’s dog. Dan and I had an accident that year on the way up, we hit some farm machinery, on a gravel road. I think we must have been lost- Tom was with us, too”.





“Another time, in 1978, Dan and I brought Marge, who had lost Joe that year, and Ryan, who was born that year. We met Mom and Dad, Gene and Bev, Barb and DeEll, and their kids. I was the oldest, the only one married. Ryan had the time of his life, he was the center of attention. That night we all sat around the fire, DeEll and Gene were telling stories. I remember they were talking about how they had a lot of rats on the farm one time.”

Norm “ There was a farm north of us that was abandoned, the owner was a teacher at Normal in Aberdeen. He decided to put a new foundation under the granary, and it was full of rats. So the rats moved to our place”

Deb “Gene and DeEll said they took a 22 and would sit on the front step and shoot at rats. As the night went on, the rats got bigger and bigger. Ryan, who was 7 months, was sleeping, and he heard all the laughter and woke up. I brought him out by the campfire, and his eyes were huge. He woke up right away; he sensed a party going on! He was laughing with all of the rest of us! And when we all went in to the camper, he went right back to sleep.”

“The next day, when we were swimming and boating, DeEll started having chest pain, so they rushed him to Pelican Rapids and from there to Fargo. We all went home very worried and sad. “

Norm “After one of our trips to Canada, I had some leftover Canadian ale. I knew it wasn't any good, and Gene and I were setting up the tents and trailers, and I asked Gene if he wanted a bottle of Canadian ale, and he said that sounded like a good idea. After he had some he jokingly asked “What the have you got against me?”

Other stories shared around the campfire:

Canada Trip

One time when Mom and Dad went to Canada, they pulled over to stop at the rest area for a sandwich. Dad had a big knife, a bunch of motorcycle guys pulled up, really looked them over to give them a good scare, and then left. Later they saw them parked at a Tavern.

Skunk Story Gene and Bev were in a remote area, two guys were snooping around and it was just the five of them. They could hear them in the woods. Gene stood off in the distance with a shotgun, waiting for them. When they came upon them, they saw the gun and asked what he did with his shotgun. Gene said “I shoot skunks with it”.

Burned Up One time DeEll and Barb stayed at Lake Independence. They stopped at the gate, and pitched a tent, and bought a pile of wood. Then they went swimming. When they came back, someone next to them had taken their wood, and they were burning it.

