

# **THE IMMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER**

## **Introduction**

Sense of humor, stability, pride in accomplishment, the need for adventure - where do we acquire such traits? Why do we like fishing, or writing, or horses? We miss the point if we think we became as we are on our own.

Read these pages, and learn of yourself. There is humor and murder, joy and death here; small towns are far from idyllic. The lessons are as always in the people, and the little things they do.

Listen to the immigrant's daughter tell her story - your story, my story.

Recorded live and edited

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Appleton, Wisconsin

**Grandma, maybe we could go back and talk some about when you were born, what the date was, and where you were born.**

Well, I was born in Appleton on March 10, 1904, at 4:00 in the afternoon, and I didn't know the time of day until years later when I went to get a passport to go over to Germany to visit Gene. At the courthouse they told me they had it on record which surprised me because in those days they had midwives, you know, they didn't have doctors.

**Were you delivered then by the midwife at home?**

Yes, all of my mom's babies were, and she had twelve children. Of course, she had a couple of miscarriages too. But there were twelve of us - six boys and six girls.

**What was your name?**

Well, they baptized me Luella Martha Alvina. Alvina is my mother's name. Martha is from my dad's sister, she was my godmother. And I don't know where they got the name Luella because they never called me that, they called me Ollie. They still call me that and a lot of people I knew when I was kid, they call me Ollie.

**Where did they get Ollie from?**

That's part of something in German. It's a pet name that my dad used. And then after we were married, this fellow came to our house one time and my husband, he wanted to introduce me and he said "Meet my Ollie". And the guy said "Oh, hello there Molly". So my Ollie sounded like Molly to him, and since then now everybody calls me Molly. But that's better than Ollie I guess, because they had a young calf at home and they called her Ollie too. One of my brothers called it Ollie. The calf is gone and I'm still here.

**What was your mother's name and your father's name?**

My mother's name was Alvina Bleck and Pa's name was Frank August Krause. They were both born in Germany. Va was two years old when they came from the old country and Pa was I guess about five, and he came from Plummer, Germany. The name of the town I was told when I visited over there. Somebody looked it up in a book for me, and that place has been burned out in three wars now. They don't call it Plummer anymore. And it's all tall buildings there and everybody seems to have horses.

My dad was a horseman, that's how he earned his living. Like nowadays he'd probably be a truck driver. He was a teamster.

And Ma's name, that meant people of the land. That's what Grandma and Grandpa Bleck were, they were share croppers. They called it something else then, but they worked for someone else on their land.

**Grandma, you were telling us about your growing up as a girl in Appleton. What street did you grow up on?**

On Spencer Street, West Spencer Street, right across from the chair factory. And I used to play over there where the ballpark is now, the Appleton City Foxes Ballpark. It was a big park with all trees and bushes there. We could get hickory nuts and hazel nuts there and springtime violets.

**It was all woods then?**

Yes, more or less brush. They never built any houses in there, but I remember when I'd find a dead bird I'd bury it and I kept it like for a grave. Oh gosh, I'd dig up violets and plant them there on the birds' graves.

**So you had six brothers and five sisters. Now, how many died in childbirth or miscarriages?**

No, none of those. I didn't count those that died, but she had three miscarriages. One, her name was Alvina, they had her baptized. She was buried in a cemetery. She was two weeks old when she died.

**What did she die of?**

She was born too soon, she was premature. And she lived for two weeks. She was such a cute little baby and I forget what they named her now, but we all had nicknames.

**Can you remember all of the names? Why don't you start with the oldest.**

The oldest one was Laura. We would call her Wawa. Then Lloyd, we'd call him Rudolph. There was a comic in the paper about Rudolph, and we said he acted like that. There was Clarence, we called him Cush. And I came next, they called me Ollie. Then Frank, we called him Frantz. Alvin we called Boob. And Lucille, what did we call her – Shoal. She came before Alvin, I guess. And then Lawrence, we called him Laurie.

He was killed, he was about six years old. And I was going to graduate that year from grade school. And then I came home from school and I could see all kinds of people in front of the house and the police wagon was there. One of the neighbors came running to meet me and she said "Oh it's Laurie, its Laurie. Don't get scared." But she did scare me, you know.

And then Frank had a pal, Ted Praser, he was in my room in school, and they were sitting on the porch and Ted came there with a revolver and wanted to sell it to Frank, and they were just examining it and then somebody, another kid come, and he give them a bullet that he got someplace. It didn't fit the gun, but he forced it in and the hammer went down and Lawrence was standing at the bottom of the steps just watching and all kinds of neighbor kids were down there too, and it hit him in the side here, and come out here, hit another kid in the shoe but didn't hurt the kid though, and then it went about six inches in the steps. And then he jumped up and he run, he was standing there with his hands behind his back and hollered "Ma, somebody shot me. He was always kind of tongue tied , you know he never could talk plain, but those words came out perfectly clear . And then Clarence came running from the barn, and then Lawrence come out to grab, and he jumps up as high as Clarence, and he fell in Clarence's arms and he was dead.

And then the police came and they put this Ted Praser in jail and then my pa went down and got him out. He said that it was an accident. Because that kid would never hurt anybody. The kid didn't go home that night; there was a church at the junction there where he lived, and he went and sat on the steps all night long.

**How old was he, this Ted?**

He was about 15.

**And what happened to him ever, you know?**

Well, he's dead now, I see in the paper, but I guess he just had to live with it, but that was a terrible thing.

**And what year was that, when it happened?**

Let's see, that was about 1918, or 1919.

**And that was the only child that died?**

No, then after Lawrence, let's see, then Carl, we called him Charlie for short, but his name is Carl, and then Caroline, she's the baby, and we called her Peach, and those are the only two that's alive. Peach and Carl and then the sister, Lucille, she lives in Oregon.

**Did anybody else die young?**

Yeah, Lorraine.

**What happened to her?**

She married a guy from up north, Perry Hall, and he was out of work. She'd come and stay with my ma with her kids. And he came and stayed there too. Pa got him a job working for the city, jobs like that.

And then there were some people, these Zimmerman's, they were friends of ours, and they wanted to go up north. There was no deer season that year at all. They closed it all. And they wanted to go and get venison. They owned a tavern. They would first go tell everybody that Friday night they were going to have venison, and you know to come in there like that. That was a stupid thing to do, so then they talked Perry into going up north where he knew the land around there. And it was a good place, so he went.

There was Bill Zimmerman, Ed Dovie, and the oldest Zimmernnan boy, I forget his first name. They went up there with Perry and then they found a place to hunt, you know, and then they shot a deer, and the game wardens come out of the brush, they were wise to that before they ever went up there to shoot. Then Perry got away, he knew the country, and then they couldn't find Bill, the son, he didn't know the country at all like other people. Then Perry he come out and helped them find him. You know, he was hiding too.

Well then, I guess they put 'em all in jail. But they all paid their fine and they left Perry sit there. Perry broke himself out in about a week and he run away. He went to Minnesota where he knew somebody way back in the woods, where you couldn't get in there with a car, just with a boat.

So he stayed there, and then Lorraine, she started going with other guys. She worked at Kimberly-Clark. Schmidt was old enough to be her dad. And then she got interested in somebody else. She didn't go with him no more. And she was going with somebody else. This was on a Saturday. She got paid. She had the day off but she went with the streetcar to Kimberly to pick up her check. When she come home, right across from her there was a neighbor that had a cow, and he stops in to tell her that their dog was chasing his cow all the time. She said she

would put a stop to that then. And she told me, she says he was real nice to her, she said, well I'll just take care of that , and I won't let the dog loose anymore.

And she had got groceries and the kids come to meet her there. They did that all the time. And this Schmidt guy come to meet her too. He was hiding in the house there. And then so while she talked to this neighbor, the kids, Emmie, Elvin, and Babe, they walked on ahead and went in the house. When she got done talking to the neighbor she went in and she just come in the door and the guy stood with a gun and shot her. She died instantly.

### **Because of jealousy?**

Yeah. He got mad at her because she was going with somebody else. She wasn't going with him anymore. And then Emmie, she got so scared. You know, he had walked in with the kids. He walked in there and then he got the gun and he had it on them all the time. So then he never said a word, and she just dropped on the floor. And then Emmie, she wrestled that gun away - she was twelve years old - she wrestled the gun away from the guy and she run quick next door to some neighbors, their name was Hawley. Mrs. Hawley was her name, and she quick put the gun under her apron. He run in the house after her. They were afraid that he'd kill the whole works. Anyway, she called the police quick, and he run through, there's a park near there, in Appleton here, and he run through that park and up a great big fence. Course the cops got him and then he said that he was drunk, he didn't know what he was doing. But they said that he couldn't climb that fence if he was drunk. So they gave him 14 years and then in five years, you know, he could get probation out, but my brother Frank came over with some papers for all of us to sign that they should keep him in, cause the kids were scared. And so then he didn't get out, he died in prison.

### **How old was he when he died, do you know?**

He was in his 60's or 70's and he was in there the whole time.

### **And that was your sister, Lorraine?**

Yes.

### **And how old was she when she died?**

She was 32. And this happened just the day before Labor Day.

### **But the rest of the family lived to an older age?**

Yeah. Frank wasn't too old. He was a real strong guy, you know, and he did construction work. His health was just wonderful. Every once in a while where he worked they had a health inspection. Just the week before one of these, his health was perfect. He lived in Medina and his daughter was married and lived upstairs. Her kids would come down and kiss him good night, you know, and leave about nine o'clock. He always went to bed early and then would get up early. And this night he kissed them good night and they run upstairs. Then he give a sigh and he turned over, he was dead. Heart attack. Just that quick that everybody was shocked because he was a strong fellow.

### **And how old was he when he died?**

I can't remember but the grand kids were little, now they are big and married. I got it wrote down someplace at home. And then Al, he never got married. He died with cancer. He was a

heavy drinker. And Lloyd, he was a heavy drinker, and he never got married. He died too of cancer. And then Clarence, no Laura went next, she had cancer. And then Clarence, he had cancer. I don't know, I am the oldest of any of them now. Nobody lived as old as I did.

**How old are you now?**

Eight-one. Eighty-two in March.

**And Peach is still alive, and how old is she?**

Peach was born the 12th of March, two days after my 16th birthday, and I wanted my Pa to notice that it was my birthday, you know, I would have been sixteen. So I said to him, we were all sitting on the floor playing with the little kids, and I said, "Just think, Pa, my birthday is two days before Peach has a baby". "Oh gosh" he said, "if we would have known that we would have waited two days". And Ma heard that, and she was in the bedroom hollering, "You're talking dirty about me". You could never joke with her, you know. She didn't like that.

**Let's talk a little bit about them. They were from Germany, but they met over here. And how old were they when they got married?**

Well, Ma was young, but she'd never tell her age. But she was in her ninety's when she died. And Grandpa I don't think you remember. He was about nine or ten years older than she was. But he was eighty-eight when he died. He never was sick or anything. He just went to bed and died.

**She wouldn't leave her house no matter what, right?**

Well, they had a fire there, but they got her out. We had to do something and we figured that with Carl being the youngest he could take care of the family better than we could because he knew more about that stuff, so it was in his hands. So he made it out that she would go to a home that was called the Dickenson Home, and that was in Fremont, for old people.

**Now that was after the fire?**

Yeah. But they found out that one of Ma's borders, he's the one that always smoked in bed. It was up in his room that the fire started. And then she didn't know but the neighbors saw the smoke coming out of the upstairs window. No one was hurt in the fire though.

**And she had a sister, if I recall.**

Yeah, Emma.

**And they lived together and they always had a lot of plants.**

Well, Emma she come to stay there and she never was married, Emma wasn't.

**And after your father died she moved in?**

Yeah. She wasn't no good there because she was always dreaming about different things. She believed real strong in fortune tellers and stuff. She was into fortune telling and astrology and things. And she wouldn't do nothing, you know. And she stayed there for nothing and didn't do any work. They had a hard time getting her out of there too. She was used to when Great Grandma was alive, then she always stayed home in her younger days, you know, she did housework. But then as she got older she bossed at everybody. So Ma was there alone and she

had a couple of roomers there. And so then they put her in this home, and then they were going to auction the place off. It was in January, and then it was cold and the auctioneer he was to advertise it. They put it all in his hands. So he had it for a Sunday afternoon - it was real cold. He didn't get there until four o'clock in the afternoon. The people didn't stick around, they went. Then in the end, he got the house for cheap, very cheap for himself. Then first thing he did was make an outside stairway and two families could live there. But he sold it for a good price. It was a good, solid home. And then, of course, Ma finally passed away. When I'd go to see her, she thought I was her sister. She didn't know me then.

**Now, about your father, he was a teamster, he cut ice on Lake Winnebago, and hauled it in for people's iceboxes, And how many years did he do that?**

Oh, all his life he was a teamster.

**How did he get to Lake Winnebago when you lived in Appleton? Lake Winnebago is a long way.**

With his horses. I don't know how many miles it was. It was out where the shopping center is. He used to bring stone from there and gravel. There were gravel pits out there. It was the shopping center straight out from Spencer Street. It was all like woods around there. And there was good gravel there - gravel and whatever people wanted. Where you turn to come in here, they call that natural swamp. There is swamp where we are right now. And the big holes in there is what he blasted - with dynamite.

**And one of your brothers still does this kind of work?**

That's Carl. He still does excavating work. He has trucks now. And Clarence - he did this kind of work too.

**Now your father had horses until the very end of his life, and then he couldn't control them anymore, or what was the story on that?**

Well, he couldn't work no more but he thought he could and then he got so that he'd take people out for sleigh rides - on Memorial Drive. It had a different name. But he had a bunch of kids from the Third Ward School. Now the Third Ward School was where Peabody Mansion is now here in Appleton. And he stopped at the corner. All the kids got off then and went to school. After the kids all got off, a car come behind him and hit the back end of the sleigh. And the horses got scared and run and jerked the horses from the wagon. And Pa hung onto the lines and they dragged him all the way down, they called it Cherry Street at that time (Memorial Drive). And then right up there about where Penney's is, somebody jumped off the sidewalk and stopped the horses. These were those big draft horses. He was in his 70's then. But the boys were worried about him, my brothers. They wanted him not to be driving, he should retire. Then they made him get rid of those horses, trade them in, and he got some real nice horses, you know, they sold them for him but they didn't keep the money. They didn't want him to drive. And then he went to bed and he never got up. I think he died with a broken heart.

**How long did it take him to die, how many months?**

Oh, he was in bed about a year.

**He was just laying in bed for a year?**

Yeah, he sometimes would have tears rolling down his face. He would talk about his horses; that's all he talked about.

**But your brothers were trying to do what was best for him?**

They thought they were doing what was best for him. But it didn't turn out to be. In them days, you know, we thought 80 was awful old.

**So they didn't think much of it when he took to bed then? They didn't think that was unusual?**

No, they were kind of glad to know that he was resting instead of trying to help him get out of there.

**And your mother, how did she react to all of this?**

Well, she just left him and didn't bother him. She just tried to make him eat and talked to him. That was all after Lorraine got shot. Not the same year though, Ernie is dead, that was the oldest one. She died with cancer. The kids all went out there where she lived in Oregon. That's where the kids are now. I lost track of them. Emmie was married, but they brought her to Idaho, they brought her body there, her husband's folks lived there and buried her there. But this was all secondhand news that we got. Grandpa August - my husband - was alive when all this happened.

**So how old were you when all this happened?**

Oh, I was living in Kaukauna already. We moved to Kaukauna in 1931. I keep a diary every day. Just about a week before Christmas was when Grandpa Krause died. And Lloyd, he died just before Christmas too, in another year.

**How many pages of diaries do you have, or how many years of diaries?**

I have twelve books and I write on a page and then I got about four that I turn over. They are regular composition books like they use in school. Then when the next year comes around, I write under that year. Then when some pages that I left in there are full I just slip another piece of paper in there for the next.

**How many years do you have?**

I did I think about from 1929 to 1985. I got some stuff that is 30, I seen something the other day that was 39 years ago.

**So you have at least 50 years of journals?**

I don't think it is quite 50. I did have a different one; I guess I threw that away though. That was from before that.



**What kind of things do you write down in your journals?**

Well, at first it was just real important things and now I write down what I did that day. So I could tell what I did 30 or 40 years ago. Like when I got my teeth pulled. I used to like to call the kids up and say "Guess what you got 15 years ago? You got chicken pox".

**Now how many grandchildren do you have?**

About 19, I guess.

**And great grandchildren?**

I got, well Pete's got six kids, Gene has got 6, your dad got 2, and Jack had 3.

**But how many great grandchild do you have?**

Great grandchildren. Pete's Tim had 4, Bonnie had two, Sandy had 2, Gary got 3; Jack's kids, LuAnn has a baby about a month old, and Lois has one, Steve don't have any. And then you have three children and Brett has none yet. Then the Schiedermayers in Montana, they got six boys, Scott has 2 of his own and then one step, Rick I think he has 2. I think that's all.

**And then of course more to come. And I understand you're a great great grandmother now?**

Yes, Tim's oldest boy is got a baby girl, Nicole.

**So we have to count those up. It looks like you have a lot. Now if we go back a little bit to your growing up. You said you worked at several places. You worked at this chair factory, you made 25 cents an hour, and the men made 65 cents for doing the same work. And you thought that was pretty unfair.**

No, at that time I didn't think nothing of it, but now with women's rights it's a dirty trick. And of course a pair of stockings you could get for 30C them days. Shoes for less than \$5. Dresses, you didn't wear no slacks. I guess board would cost about \$5 a week in them days. Rent would cost \$20 a month. I gave my whole check to my mom. Pa wouldn't have taken it, you know, but I felt that my mom could have that because I was the only one that ever worked in the family. My sister Laura didn't, she did housework, but she stayed by the people where she worked. And then the boys they did little jobs too, you know. Clarence worked for Pa, driving too. And then Lloyd, he worked at Kimberly, he'd bring some money home. So I helped my mother with the money. But what she used to do with it, she'd take it and buy Lucille some new clothes. It made me mad. Lucille's alive yet, she lives in Oregon. Ma always catered to her because she looked just like Ma's mother. She had her features and everything. She was little, she was.

**Do you remember your mother's mother or father?**

Oh yeah, Grandma and Grandpa Bleck. Grandma was 88 when she died. Grandma's name was Caroline Werner. And Grandpa's name was Carl Bleck. Grandma's name was Caroline Werner. I can't think of it. They were living outside of Black Creek, on the farm. And they worked so hard. Grandpa died with cancer. A horse kicked him in the face. He was 80 years old. Grandma was in the garden hoeing when she died. All my uncles are gone.

**How about your father's side?**

He had two sisters and one was blind from when a horse threw her and she landed on her head and she got a cancer and it ate down and she was blind. She stayed at our house. Ma said that she used to carry me around in the field all the time. I was a baby then. And then even after she was blind she said she'd walk with me. I can remember even now that there was a nice pretty lady laying in a nice pretty bed with ribbons, and I crawled in there to sleep with her. Somebody grabbed me out of the coffin and spanked me. That was when she was dead. But I didn't know that. And they said that she always used to sleep with me.

**How old was she when she died?**

Well, I must have been two or three years old. She was only 24. And cancer of the eye killed her. It ate down to her heart. And then Pa had another sister. Martha her name was. She lived in Milwaukee. She was married to a Meyers. She died around the time when my dad died. So I got cousins in Milwaukee I think with the Meyers. Aunt Martha was my Godmother too. That's the one that died last. The one that was blind, her name was Annie, Annie Marie. But he didn't have no brothers, my father.

**And August's mother and father's name, do you remember that?**

No, I don't. I think that his dad died in Germany, but his mother died in this country. But she wasn't here very long when she died. But Pa used to always say that his dad was a minister but we said he was only fooling.

**So did you have a happy childhood, would you say?**

It was fun, in the winter, sliding down hills and stuff like that. But there was things we didn't have in school that other kids had, and well we did without it. We made believe we didn't want it.

**What were those things?**

Oh, nice clothes, pretty dresses and ribbons. I always liked books. I always got more books than anybody. Now that I read them, I still like to read books. Besides knitting which I got, if you know, me and your ma took lap robes to the old folks home that we'd knit. I got about six more now again. And if you know somebody that is hard up and needs them let me know. I'm one of the lucky ones. All my aunts are gone too now. Uncle Adolph died a couple of years ago, that was Ma's youngest brother. And he was in a rest home in Kimberly. I didn't even know that he was around anymore and my cousin called me one day and I hadn't heard from them in a long time, they live in Appleton, their name is Parsons. So I went along with them to see Uncle Adolph but he didn't know me.

**The people that lived next door here, their name was Parsons. Maybe it was a different Parsons.**

Yes, these are different ones. They live up on Winnebago Street. There is just one left of that family. That was my Ma's sister's family. And the boys, they had two boys and three girls. They all died of cancer too.

**So you worked at this place that made chairs, and then where did you work after that?**

Then I got married from there and I eloped on a motorcycle. Because I was Lutheran and Grandpa Schiedermayer was Catholic and both of the families wanted us to go their way. So we couldn't get married with either church. The minister said he would have married us and I know the priest would have too, maybe not in church. But then we took off for Menomonee, Michigan and we drove there on a motorcycle, I was in the side car, and then another couple went with us, they had been married the August before. And we were married by a Presbyterian minister in Menomonee.

**And I understand that you were coming back and the man in the other couple got drunk and fell out of the side car?**

What was his name again, I think of him every once in a while. And then our motorcycle, something happened with it. We were riding, the four of us on one bike, us two girls were in the side car and Dad was on the back seat. Ted Lockens was the other guy's name. And his wife's name was Selma. And we got on the other side of DePere and he got real unruly. And then he rolled in the ditch. Then we waited there and a truck come by, Grandpa knew the guy, he worked for Hopfenspergers, the butchers. He flagged him down, and he gave us a ride. He couldn't give us a ride way out where we had a cottage, out by the river. So he took us to the depot in Appleton and we took a cab out there. Selma was afraid to stay with him. He went to sleep in the ditch. We left him there with the bike, and we had ours shipped home to Appleton. And then the taxi took us right out to the cottage, that was my brother's cottage. Our house was being built. We intended to get married the 21st of June. That was the day we had set for a long time. So the things that they were using to build the house, they didn't get the stuff right away so the house didn't get built at that time so that's why my brother Lloyd told us we should get married anyway, so that's what we did. So Selma and I slept in the bed and Grandpa had to sleep on the floor.

**That was some honeymoon, huh?**

We laughed about it years later. And then about two days later Ted came after his wife. He knew all our plans so he come out there and took her home. But within a year they were divorced. They never had any kids. They were divorced. He used to pound her up. And I don't know, I just can't figure that out. You know, she didn't talk back to him. Maybe that was bad.

**We were talking about your having eloped, and how old were you then?**

Eighteen years old. August was 21.

**Did you date anyone else besides him?**

Yeah, a couple.

**And what made you decide to marry him?**

Well, for one thing, the last winter, my family all got sick with typhoid fever. And my brother, Lloyd, he worked at the Power Company. When he got vacation in the summertime he always would go out West for two weeks just to be doing something different. He come home and the company sent him up to Ashland, Wisconsin to work. He was up there and he got sick and went to the doctor. The doctor said he had typhoid fever and to come home by his folks. He came home. The brother that slept with him got sick, and another brother sick. Ma got sick. Pa got sick. Everybody in the whole family except I and Clarence were sick. We never got typhoid fever. And then when he went to the doctor in Appleton, he told him what that doctor told him at

Ashland. And the doctor said that those one-horse doctors they didn't know what they were talking about. He said there hadn't been any typhoid fever here for 60 years. They way it happened the whole family got it and they quarantined and I had to quit my job. I stayed home and it seemed that God wanted it that way. Clarence, he drove Pals team, did Pats work and I did the housework. We found out that out West they were having an epidemic.

### **What was typhoid like ?**

Well, you never hear about it anymore, but you just sleep and its very contagious with high fevers. The doctor told me what to do, to boil everything and wash your hands. It just seemed that we weren't going to get it. And then I could leave the house. They put Ma, I think Peach was the baby, and they took Ma and the baby to the hospital and the boys all went to the hospital. But Pa was home and I took care of him. And Lorraine was home. And then August he'd come here and he never got it. And then I'd hang out lots of clothes. It was so cold. And what I liked about August was that he'd go out and get the clothes in - stuff like that. He was helpful to me. And he was never chauvinistic. We were partners, there was no boss in our marriage. He tried everything - that's why we got along so good. And then in March everyone started getting better and I got back to work.

### **And where did you go back to work then, in the chair factory?**

Yes.

### **And then you got married in that following summer?**

In June, June 21, 1922.

### **And you built the house then?**

No, we borrowed the money from his dad and we were having one built on the corner of Franklin and Summit.

### **How much money did you borrow, about?**

I forget now, but for a wedding present they painted the whole outside of it. And then it wasn't quite done when we got married but we moved out to the cottage there, Lloyd's cottage, for about two weeks. And then we moved into it, and we went uptown. Of course he didn't have no motorcycle then, something went wrong with it. And then he had to have it shipped back to Appleton. And then of course they worried while we were gone, they wondered what happened to us. And they figured that we were going to go and get married because we had talked about it, but they never believed it to be true. Each one thought they would have the i r own way. Then when we went uptown and we went to Wickmans to pick out furniture. And the chair factory gave me six chairs. They had leather seats and I wish that I would have kept them. Then we lived in that house for ten years and then at that time Thilrmany's had some machines in Appleton, and that's where he started work. He worked there since he was sixteen years old, since he was just a kid. And then of course they had a branch in Kaukauna too but not so many. So then we lived in the house for about ten years, and then his folks decided to move up North and they wanted somebody in their house. That was just a house in between our house and theirs. See the lot belonged to them when we bought it. And then when they went up North, they didn't like it up there. Grandpa died up there. He got pneumonia and he died suddenly. This was August's f a the r , Max Schiedermayer. And then he suddenly had a heart attack and he wasn't getting better.

**About how far north did they move?**

Monaco, which is around Eagle River.

**What kind of person was Max, and what kind of person was his wife?**

Well, he was a very demanding person. He was a German and had the German qualities. And then of course he told everybody else what to do. Now when August's brother got married she turned Catholic and the Schiedermayers were all Catholic. And then his sister, she married a non-Catholic, she had to turn - they all did except me. So I was just as stubborn as he was.

**Now what about Max's wife, what was her name?**

Matilda Lemke. And she also had been a Protestant. And she changed. And we always got along very good. And of course after while he said that he was glad I didn't because nobody could make me do something if I didn't think it was right. So we were happy all the years.

**Now tell us a little bit more, You lived in Appleton for about 10 years.**

We lived in the house on Franklin Street 10 years and then we moved into, we sold that house. It was on Franklin and Summit. It is still there. And then the house where they lived in, that was on the corner of Summit and Badger Avenue.

**Do you know the address of that house on Franklin and Summit?**

I can't remember, but it was right on the corner. And then we moved into his dad's house at 204 Summit, they were up north. By then we had to move to Kaukauna because Grandpa August's work was moved there. And then we rented a house on Seventh Street. We lived there for six weeks. And then we bought the one on 715 Lawe where I live now. And then we bought that one and fixed it all up. It was a two family house at the time. And we bought it cheap.

**Do you remember about how much it was when you bought it? About \$1,700. And what year was that?**

That was in 1931. There wasn't much work around and people were moving around and selling their houses. Property was very low. So we bought it for that much but we stuck a lot of money in it. There was no basement - we got the basement together. I helped dig it too. And I got up on the roof and helped put the shingles on. And then we fixed all the rooms up. And then we finished off the upstairs. And then each of the kids had a room of their own, which I never had.

**So you had how many children?**

Four.

**And when was the first children born, Laverne?**

Well, she was born when we were married 14 months. On August 4, 1923. And then Pete was 24 years older than Buck, who is Larry. And the next one after that was Jack. And then the next one was Gene. They were named after Jack Dempsey and Gene Toomey. The reason we gave them short names was because we never realized Schiedermayer would be such a long name. Lawrence, it was very hard for him to write his name on one line. He didn't have trouble writing but I realized it was too long.

**And Lawrence was named after your brother that died?**

Yes, and Laverne - a friend of mine wanted to name her Grace. And I always wanted to name her to be Betty Lou. And then a friend of mine she kept telling me what a nice name Laverne was. That was just a new name at that time. No one e l s e had it. And then of course Grandpa Schiedermayer wanted to name her Matilda, the old German name. And he also wanted to name Lawrence Max.

**Was he alive then when Gene was born?**

Oh yeah.

**What did he want Gene to be named, and Jack?**

I just can't remember. I guess by then he knew that I'd name them whatever I wanted. Lawrence August and then the third name was Max.

**His name is really Lawrence August Max Schiedermayer?**

Yeah, we asked Max to stand up for Laverne and he ref used. He said it was a damm French name. Why give a German kid a French name.

**But Lawrence was an okay name with Max?**

Well, he knew that was a f t e r my brother. And then we thought Jack was a short name. And Gene too. And the n i n school the t e a c h e r s c a l l e d Jack John. He wouldn't answer to that.

At that time we s t a r t e d calling toilets johns. But we called Laverne Alvina. Because my folks stood up for her, my mother and dad.

**Laverne's middle name is Alvina?**

Yeah, Laverne Grace Alvina.

**And what is Gene's middle name?**

Gene Frank. After my brother Frank. And the n J a c k Clarence.

**Now why did you just decide to have four children instead of having more?**

I don't know, it just happened that way. That was God's decision. I had to have an operation - a hysterectomy - otherwise I might have had more. I think I would have had six, because we talked about an even half dozen. And the n Gene was supposed to be a girl and we were going to name him Betty Jean. And instead we named him Gene.

**Now you lived really close to the school, just a couple of doors down?**

Yes, in Kaukauna. And when we lived in Appleton they went to Washington School. That's just a couple blocks. Now they're making an apartment building there. Then in Kaukauna we lived just a few doors away from the school, so when the bell s t a r t e d ringing they'd run. And its still there, there are s t i l l classes in it. It was called Park School.

**Now I have heard that your children had a big player piano and you had twenty little scrolls and that you used the player piano a lot in those days.**

Yeah, they'd bring friends home and then they learned to play. Laverne used to play, We'd get around there and sing.

**Now what were some of the friends's names?**

Oh, I can't remember them right off hand. There were so many of them. Now they're all grown up, you know, too - scattered around. They were from Kaukauna mainly. But everybody loved that piano. It kept our kids home too.

**And what were the names of your dogs?**

We had a Duke, he was a beagle. Beans was all mixed together, just gorgeous. But somebody swiped him on us. And then we had some big dogs too. But I never liked cats. Jack brought a cat home but he had to get rid of it because it was too sneaky. It crawled up the curtains and like that.

**And you had other dogs too, some more beagles?**

Oh yeah, we had a beagle, oh I can't think of the names, ain't that funny. Some of the names were the same ones for different dogs. But we had bad luck with some of our dogs. They'd get the fits and then we'd have them put away. And then we didn't know that it was certain things - it was worms really. Now Beans was a lot like that dog. He was a little bitty one and wouldn't get into anything.

**But you like beagles for rabbit hunting?**

Yeah.

**I understand when you were a young girl you used to rabbit hunt right out by Appleton, out here at Center Swamp. And where did you rabbit hunt in Kaukauna?**

Oh, down in - its a park now - by the river, Thousand Island Park. Different places, of course now its all built up with houses and shopping centers and stuff like that . We'd just walk from our house with our guns.

**Now, about your children. First you had Laverne and she was your only girl. And she liked to sew and all those kind of things.**

She wasn't no tomboy. She was a very smart girl. She was the valedictorian and she was the head of her class and all. And Larry was too. He got the Lang trophy.

**What do you attribute having such smart children to? Was it genes, or did you teach them and read a lot of books to them?**

Well, they naturally took to reading books. And Gene was smart in school too. Of course Jack he was smart but he quit high school. He wanted to join the service, which he did, and then that didn't pan out right either. He was sick a lot. He was an epileptic and he got picked up a couple times for drunken driving, but he was having a spell. But rather than let them know that he was epileptic he'd say that he was drunk.

**Now, I noticed that you had some pictures in your den of your children holding up skunks, things like that, and different fish.**

Yeah, they liked to always play around with things like that. And Jack had a skunk.

**Did he shoot the skunk?**

No, he clubbed it. And he didn't get sprayed. He said when the smoke come he ducked. I don't know how he could do that, he was just lucky, I think. It sprayed but it didn't get him. It smelled when he brought it home.

**And Grandpa had some muskies. Where did he catch those?**

We got those up at White Lake.

**And you used to go muskie fishing every year too?**

Well, yeah. First when the kids were home we went when they could go with us. But after while we'd go up there in October; that 's when the season started.

**Now, did you have any particular trouble with the children as they were growing up? Were they pretty easy to raise or were they hard to raise?**

Well, we had a cottage, and they liked the cottage. We had a place down on the river where we could walk. They went swimming in the river - that's where they learned to swim. That's where I swam too. And then they were all getting grown up by the time we bought the lots out at Lake Winnebago. Then they were all married.

**And did Grandpa and you, did you discipline the children together? Did you believe in spanking?**

They didn't get too many spankings. We'd deny them to do things. We grounded them, made them stay home. They wouldn't squeal on each other though.

**But you knew somebody did it, so did you punish them all, or what did you do then?**

Well, on Halloween that I remember, Gene we were not going to let him go out, you know, on the street. So him and his friend, Bob Wolf, they played in the backyard. We were sitting there waiting for somebody, to give them candy, and they come up just by the front porch and scream and run away. So that went on for half an hour. Here, him and Bob were up on the roof with a pail of water and a dipper. When somebody would come up they'd throw some water on them. They thought they could have all the rest of the candy. So we got them off the roof then. But that trick or treating, we didn't let them go on it. Of course the y were too big then. That was just starting up then. Before that , of course the kids would go around making mischief - soaping windows - and we'd have to watch outside when they'd come around or else they'd rip something apart and carry it away. But nowadays at 5:30 they have to be off the streets.



**So your children were all a couple years apart, and they all grew up, and now live in different parts of the country.**

Yeah. Gene was in the Service. He finished up there, as a lieutenant colonel. He got a good education out of that. Larry, he was in the Navy and then he went to Lawrence. He got - between Laverne, Larry, and Gene, they all got scholarships. But Gene used his and Laverne she wanted to get married. And Larry he had to go to Lawrence. Something about the school that he liked. I don't know what it was. So that 's where he went.

**Now what did you think about your children going to college? You were all for that?**

Oh yeah.

**You didn't go to college yourself and August didn't either.**

No, I finished the eighth grade, and that's all he did too.

**And in the meantime August was working as a foreman? And he was on call 24 hours a day, I understand.**

Yeah, at last he was.

**Why was he on call so much for those machines?**

It was just that he got good pay, for one thing. But they took turns. And when he wasn't on that shift, well he was a boss over them.

**How many machines was he boss over?**

Oh, I'm not sure. I know there were six for sure. But I think there was more later.

**And he knew how to fix them all?**

Yeah.

**Was he in maintenance?**

He wasn't in maintenance. He was a foreman right on the machines.

**And how many years did he end up working for them. Did he retire at age 62?**

He didn't get a chance to retire. He was going to take an early retirement and then we were going to travel. He bought a real nice station wagon. And the n h e was gonna retire that June, and in April he died of colon cancer.

**And how many years did he work?**

He worked from when he was 16. And then the mill was shut down one time when he was in his 20s, and he worked for a guy helping to move houses. For one summer. The mill wasn't running so the guys couldn't work. He worked for about one summer for that guy. And then the mill started up again. But one nice thing, when he was a foreman when the mill did have to shut down, he got paid anyway.

**Now did he enjoy working at Thilmany?**

Yeah, he was all for Thilmany. You know, he was real loyal to the company, that's for sure.

**And what did he enjoy doing besides hunting and fishing for hobbies?**

He liked to read. And then there wasn't time for anything else really.

**How many hours did he work a week about?**

Oh, he'd go in about 8 hours a day. Of course he worked seven days a week. He worked until noon on Sundays. We had to have a telephone put out to the cottage because he got called in so much.

**So Grandpa was working seven days a week sometimes.**

Yeah. They did work long hours. They worked on Sunday too, sometimes.

**That was the Depression?**

No, the Depression come in between there. He never lost too much work. Now we were just talking about the dog, we found the name of the dog - it was Whiffy.

**Do you remember Whiffy?**

Yeah.

**And you had three dogs at one time, I heard.**

Yeah, they called her Niffy first and then I guess because she smelled doggie they called her Whiffy.

**Now you also had a turtle named Boykie.**

Yeah, that was Larry's turtle . He went and found it. In the winter - we had it for about six or seven years. In the winter he'd put it in a dishpan with wet sand and it would go down under. You could see a hole in the sand where it was breathing through. And then it started getting so it would bite. It didn't grow much but it would bite if you would play with it. And then we'd leave it go, hoping it would get away. We didn't want to kill it. Some kid that knew Boykie he always brought her back. He knew someplace where she was. She'd keep crawling down the street and he'd bring her back. One time it left , we seen it go, but it didn't get back then.

**Did it ever come back on its own?**

No. Someone always brought it back.

**And what other pets did you have? Did Jack have any particular pets, or Gene or Laverne?**

Yeah, Jack was always bringing something home. Somebody didn't want something and then they'd give it to him and he'd bring it home. We'd let them keep them and sometimes they'd run away. They were always fixing some kind of bird, putting it in a cage. Jack had doves and pigeons up in the garage. He loved them very much. Homing pigeons. Him and another kid who had some too. Grandpa and I would take one of those kids out as far as - what do they call it - out towards the lake, I forget now what it is, but it's about six miles from Kaukauna. We'd leave the doves go and then we'd take them back and then - he lived right across from the school, Taylor

Street - and he'd run quick up in his dove coop and watch, you know. He always had bets. And then when his dove come in, they'd sit there, just out of reach. Then they'd grab it and they'd run quick over to our house, or if Jack's dove come in, he'd run quick over by the neighbor to see which one won.

**Now do you remember the children being sick at all?**

Yeah, they had measles.

**Did any of them have anything real severe?**

No, of course they had their tonsils taken out. But nothing real bad. They had whooping cough when they were real small. Now you don't hear nothing about that. They have shots for that. And they had the measles. And then once in a while the flu was around and they got the flu. But they never played sick, they kind of liked to go to school. But they were glad when school let out. Because we always went someplace then.

**Now tell me about when you went hunting up north with Gus. What was his full name?**

Gus Youngman. We rented a cottage from him. First we used to go fishing there. Then we went deer hunting there. Then we rented one of his cottages.

**Where was that?**

Let me see, that was - we went through Shawano I know - it was in Lakewood.

**And where did you fish, was there muskie fishing up there?**

Oh yeah. That's what we'd catch. We didn't catch too many of them, but when we did, it would be something. Now they got muskies in Lake Winnebago.

**And you went up there too, you were a big deer hunter too, right?**

Well, I tell you, I come home a lot of times without one. But a lot of guys did. But we never felt too bad.

**Did you ever get lost up there?**

Yeah. One time when we were up there - this was in the summertime - we went down by the dumps for target practice, shooting tin cans and we took turns. He'd empty the gun once and then I would. We turned around and looked and there was a bear. He was scratching on the tree, standing up. And I said "Shoot it, shoot it!" And he said "what, with this little BB gun?" No, it wasn't a BB gun, it was a little revolver, I don't know what they called it. So he said "Don't run!" And I wasn't gonna run, but I was running. Now I found out that you shouldn't ever try to shoot a bear, 'cause they got a brain as big as a walnut and it is covered by heavy bone. If they come after you, shoot them in the leg. But I don't think that bear even seen us but what it must have been doing was getting honey out of the trees, and ants. That's what they were eating. That's the closest we ever come to a bear.

**Now, going back quite a ways, of course when you were born there were no cars.**

I can remember the horse and buggy, even the police and the firemen had horses. I can remember the first car I rode in was a Ford and we were going to my aunt's wedding in Black Creek in this Ford. It was all our family cramped in there, it was my uncle's - he was a bachelor, my uncle -

his car, and he took us and my cousins. And of course we were sitting five in the back, some on the floor. That's the first car ride I had.

**What model was it?**

It had big wide fenders, I remember and a lot of lights on it. I can't remember what model it was.

**Do you remember how much cars used to cost in those days?**

I think about \$500.

**And what was the first car that you and August had? You always had Chryslers, right?**

Our first car was a Ford. And it was a secondhand car. We paid about \$300 for it. Our first new car was a Chevy.

**Can you remember when radio came in?**

Yeah. I don't know the year, but that was in somebody's house they were playing it and we couldn't get over it. We had a Edison, my folks did - a talking machine - but that you wound up and there was singing in there. It was like a phonograph - you had to wind it up.

**And you didn't have electric lights then?**

Well, I can remember when they put 'em in. We were about the first ones in the neighborhood to have 'em. That was at my folks' house on Spencer Street. And we had kerosene lamps before that.

**And then television came in quite a bit later.**

Oh yeah. Radios were in a long time before television.

**Now did you limit your children in terms of television, or were they already grown up by that time?**

They were young kids when television came in. They watched it all the time. I can't remember now when we got it. It seems as though we always had it on.

**Now, what about World War I?**

No, I was in grade school. And I can remember the day peace was declared. I was on my way to school and on each side of the street, Murphy's lived on one side and Collins' lived on the other side, and they hadn't spoken for years. Everybody knew that. it was something that when their kids were little they'd get fighting. And the kids grew up and went into the service. And as I was going by, these two women come running out of their houses - both their names was Mary. And they were crying in the middle of the road with their arms around each other, hugging. "The war is over, our boys a r e coming home". They always had argued before that day.

That was the day peace was declared and I went to school and I didn't say anything 'cause I couldn't figure it out. Then word come to the school that peace was declared. So then school was left out. We had to march down the avenue and they got a parade going quick, you know.

And then they were singing war songs. And then some smart alec kids started this song - it was a song kids used to sing "Sweetly sings the donkey, when he gets his hay; if we do not feed him, we find it will not pay". And then some kids started singing - our teacher's name was Iding -

"Sweetly sings Miss Iding, when she gets her pay; if we do not pay her, we're afraid she will not stay". And then to think that after we moved to Kaukauna, we moved right across the road from her. And then I told our next door neighbor, "Tell me who all lived there". And she said the Iding's. And I said "You know, I used to have a teacher by that name - Josephine". And she said "That's where she lives".

So Mrs. Collins turns around and she goes and tells her that she used to be my teacher. So Josephine comes over - you see, Mrs. Collins didn't know my maiden name - she comes over and she says "Oh, I wanted to see one of my pupils. Oh, Luella, I'm so glad to see you". She knew me right away.

### **Now you being German in the First World War, was there discrimination against Germans?**

Yeah, if you had a German name they called you pro-German no matter what. You couldn't buy war stamps - a quarter for each stamp. And I never could get enough, so you'd get a bond, so that was all probably about six dollars I had sticking in there, you never got nothing from it. But you know if you didn't buy it or something like that, they'd think that you were on their side.

### **So did you ever think of changing your name from Krause?**

No, we never did. But my Grandma used to get German papers. We didn't know where they come from but then it said in the r e that the Americans were killing the Germans like animals. That paper come from Colorado somewhere.

### **So was anyone ever hurt in Appleton from being German?**

I don't know, I guess in taverns that they used to bring that up and they'd fight about it. But you really was on the American side. There wasn't anybody really sticking up for the Germans.

### **Did any of your brothers fight in the war?**

Lloyd got drafted, he was eighteen years old. He was supposed to leave on the train in the afternoon. The war ended that morning and he got word he didn't have to go. Peace was declared that same day. We often thought about that.

### **Now what about World War II?**

August was too old to go then.

### **He didn't have to be drafted?**

No.

### **And the other boys, did anybody go overseas, or did they all stay here?**

Gene was overseas in World War II. That was when everybody in our family had to go. Jack was too, but not for too long. We went down, I forgot what state that was, and we got him out of there. He was taking off and coming home. He was in the hospital there. But he wanted to go. He was the neighborhood soldier.

### **So Jack would have been a good soldier, you said.**

But if he'd get those spells, I'd tell him what would have happened.

### **What happened during those spells, what happened to him?**

He was unconscious, he'd bite his tongue sometimes, and his lips like that. But he used to clench his fingers so tight and then shake real hard. And his eyes would roll back in his head and he couldn't breathe.

### **Did he take medicine for it?**

They gave him medicine which was Valium which turned out after awhile that he kept on taking it and he got addicted to it. They admitted themselves, the doctors did, that that was bad.

### **Was he on Dilantin ever?**

No, there was another kind, Valium and - it was something - pills. The doctor prescribed it and I heard after awhile that that was a bad pill. When he died he was in one of those spells when he shot himself. He didn't look like the same person when he had a spell. His whole expression changed.

### **And when he shot himself, he knew he had lung cancer?**

Yeah. He had lung cancer, and in his colon, all the way down. He said he wasn't going to be around to suffer like his father. But I didn't realize what he was talking about. I was busy getting ready for Christmas. It was the day before Christmas, ten years ago. He went out on the back porch. There was no snow that year. And I heard something and I was so busy I thought now settle down. And I had baked some cookies and I had them in a box for Ruthie Conlon. And then he was supposed to take them over there. They were standing on the freezer. I thought he took them and went over there and he accidently knocked the snow shovel down.

But Ruthie Conlon, she was just going to go someplace and she seen him lay there. She called me on the phone, she said "What's the matter with Jack, he's laying on the back porch". And I looked out of the door and he had a hole in his forehead and the gun was in his hand. And I said "Call somebody". So she called the police and they come, and then the coroner come. And in the meantime I called Larry and then he come. Then they took me over to their house. Now it wasn't this house I don't think. The other house probably. And then they announced in the church that night.

Then we called Gene from their house too. Gene was just getting ready to go to church and he couldn't get a plane out of there. And then they announced it in his church and then there was a young fellow he come up to Gene and gave him his ticket to come home. His ticket wasn't for Kaukauna, but from there on he could get home. So then your dad went down and picked him up. I don't know if it was Milwaukee or Chicago. But whoever that stranger was, it was really a Christmas gift. Of course he paid him for it, but there was no way to get out otherwise. And the funeral was, I think it was on a Tuesday. Christmas was on a Saturday that year.

### **And why do you think he did it, do you think it was because he was depressed too?**

Yeah. He got so depressed. And he had been in jail and he come home. And what happened - He wasn't drunk but he had a record against him for being drunk. And he was coming, this was in August, and he was coming out to the cottage. He lived in Neenah then and he was coming out to the cottage and that road going from - I forget what they call it now - but its before you turn to go in our place, that's always got a deep ditch there and they put just fresh gravel on there. It was quite a ways up there before you got to that road. His car slid off and went in the ditch and turned on its side. And he went to a farmer there and the farmer wanted to pull him out but he didn't

have the equipment. So he went to town, the guy give him a ride to town and he got the wrecking company to pull him out. They did pull it up to the cottage door.

And I went out there that night with Pete. I didn't know anything about that, the car wasn't hurt or anything. And there his car stood. And we couldn't figure out where he was. And then that night a guy come and told us what happened. But when he went to report it to the wrecking company, they had to report it to the sheriff. That was their ruling there. So he did, and then the sheriff seen that he had a charge against him for drunk driving. And then he got so excited he went into one of his spells. Then they had him for drunken driving again. So Jack got a year in jail for drunken driving.

There wasn't anything I could do. And after they put him in jail he went down, down, down. And then while he was there he left his beard grow and his hair grow, he looked terrible. He was just skin and bones. And then, this was in August, then a couple days before Christmas they'd let him out if - there was three police from different towns - they wanted him to go home by his mother and shovel the sidewalk and get acquainted with the people that was living upstairs next door. Because there was somebody there that was selling dope. And then they give him another name of somebody down on Tobacnoir Street. And he should get acquainted with that person. And then there was another one, he had a tavern on Wisconsin Avenue. He'd go in there and get acquainted with him. He'd come home and he said "I can't do that. The guy sat on the other side of the bar. And we got to talking about fishing and hunting. He's been to so many places that I've been fishing and hunting. I can't turn anybody in like that." He said "to hell with that". Otherwise he would have had to go back to jail, I suppose. And then he said "let them find them themselves".

But I think they gave him something there too, some dope, right in the police station. And then he got it in his head that for Christmas we do something. The Salvation Army, you know, they always had something there, take care of a family or somebody that don't have a Christmas. He wanted to get somebody to our house and show 'em a Christmas. Somebody that was lonely. We said we couldn't do it, we were so busy, where would we put them and all that. I didn't wanna bother with somebody because I didn't know what was gonna happen with him yet.

Some people showed a man a good Christmas for several years. Well, one certain Christmas they went to Florida and they couldn't take him. And he run away from the nursing home and he was in a wheelchair even. And he got in front of their house and he went after everybody with his cane. He was crazy. And that was big news. So I wasn't going to get into something like that.

So Jack felt so alone and different people didn't know he was home. But the police told him that he should leave that beard like that. He shouldn't cut it off. That he should look like one of their kind. That's how they were, you put somebody against somebody. I really blame the police for that . But if he wouldn't have killed himself he wouldn't be alive now anyway. The cancer would've got him.

But he always had such a soft heart for people. A lot of times he'd help somebody out and he didn't have money himself. He was giving it away all the time. So that's sad.

Did you know Betty died a couple of weeks ago? That was Jack's wife.

**Yes, I did know that. That's too bad also.**

And he had three children, Steve, Lois, and LuAnn. Lois lives in Louisiana and LuAnn she lives in Peoria. Jack went down there one time and everything was going good. Betty come down there and then I don't know what happened to him. It was that drinking all the time.

**That's too bad. But essentially you said you had three children that were model children almost, and then Jack who obviously you loved the same as each one of them who did many things wrong and yet had some special qualities of being kind.**

He could make things, and he was really religious. You know, it's hard to believe but he could draw a picture of Jesus and his hobby was pictures of Jesus. And he had one of a black Jesus and the one that I kept was a smiling Jesus. And I got that hanging up. But I don't know where they sold them, but who knows, maybe Jesus was black too.

**Well, surely he didn't have blond hair and blue eyes, did he. He had to at least look very Jewish and very Middle Eastern.**

Yeah.

**So you had three model children, and then Jack.**

He always thought that because he quit school that we were down on him. But you know, I can remember when he was in grade school and the teacher called me out and bawled me out that I should make him go to bed earlier - 9:00 they were in bed - because he fell asleep in school. We didn't know at that time that he was epileptic. And then we thought he was naughty, you know, when he started jumping around like that. So when you run into somebody like that, it's good to take a second look. Because, you know like in history, who was it, Napoleon, some of these guys was epileptic. And a lot of times they used to lock them up and not let them out.

**And how long it is now since Grandpa's been gone?**

Last April it was 21 years. That's a long time but it don't seem so long. It seems like yesterday.

**What would you say that his favorite hobbies were?**

Pretty much hunting and fishing. All of our boys liked hunting and fishing. Like Gene, he goes after elk and moose. That's why he liked it out there so much. And when they moved out there his wife didn't like that, her friends were all up here and her relatives. And she'd come back here.

**How many brothers and sisters does Jan have?**

Oh, she had a big family. She was the second youngest, but I think they had about 12 kids in that family, so she has a lot of relation.

**Is it hard for you with them being out in Montana? You wish they were closer?**

No, I think they're happy out there. And I was out there three times and I don't blame them for being out there. It's nice out there. And the y got their friends out there. And now when Pete and Phelan moved I missed them. Of course I could call on her to fix my hair and stuff like that. And when I wanted to go someplace. But since he retired - they both retired at the same time - they moved. So they'll be out to the cottage in the summertime. But that ' s a long ways from here to Florida by car.

**Are they driving by car most of the time?**

Yeah, that's how they got up there. See, they went out last winter and visited somebody and then the real estate people got ahold of them and took them to different places and kept them at their house and showed them different nice places. That's where they got the fever to go there. I was



there one time when Gene was stationed down there, that was in June. That was so doggone hot and the bugs were so bad. I was glad to get back here. But in the winter it's nice, not cold.

**I know you're getting tired, Grandma, and I am too. But the next question is going to really go back to memory lane now. Now we talked about your parents and August's parents. Do you know anything about their parent's parents or what their names were back in Germany?**

I think Grandpa Schiedermayer's father's name was George. They wanted to name Max in there 'cause Maximilian was in there at that time. Grandpa Schiedermayer, your great grandpa, he was 19 when he come here with his brother George that was a few years older. And he started in the hardware business. But your grandpa was a tinsmith. And he worked with him all the time. And the two brothers came. And he had a brother George and then he had two sisters. And I think he had another brother too that stayed in Germany. But the two sisters came.

**How did they decide to come? Was it an individual decision? Why would one stay and others go?**

Well, he was loyal to his country, that one was. But they were young fellows and they heard so much about America. They were disappointed in some things, I guess. Like they had to work hard too. That's a long time ago. They thought it was going to be so easy. Rut they had money to come. That was about - I don't know how old he'd be now. If you could trace it back that way he'd be over a hundred now. And then I'm sure it would have been in the 1880's or maybe before that if he was 19 years old when Max came. He didn't want to be called Maximilian though. But his heart, Germany was always in his heart. It was hard to leave.

**And how about his wife. Do you know anything more about her?**

Her name was Matilda Lempke. Now she was born in Germany too, but I didn't know too much about her. I think she was a little older when she came here. I don't know for sure, but it seems to me they said one time she was about 12 years old.

**How about your mother and father. How about their parents?**

Well, I don't know anything about - well, I know my ma's folks because they were here and they lived at Cicero. And Ma was two years old when they come. They came on a ship and it took them about a month to come. And they had their cattle right on the ship and the stuff that they brought along.

**It must have been a wild trip.**

Yeah. Now they fly over and its nothing now compared to going on ship.

**Why did they settle here?**

There must have been real estate men in them days. Because the bunch that come at that time they settled around Black Creek there . Those were all Germans and then another bunch come from Ireland and they kind of clanned together around Black Creek too , and they all stuck together. And the Dutch people came to Little Chute.

**Well, who was in Appleton then, Germans mainly?**

Everything, I guess, but they started these little towns, like Little Chute. And a lot of those names, Van and Von, they dropped that and now that's a term of royalty. To shorten their names so people wouldn't know where they come from. They made fun of them.

**Were you basically proud, though, to be German or not?**

I don't know, I guess I never gave it a thought. I was glad I was born in this country but they all loved their country even if it wasn't good to them.

**Do you feel America has been pretty good to you?**

I think so. You know, compared to when you hear about other places. Well now like all these Vietnam people. They've got it good. They get a check every month and we got two families living next door in that house. And I don't know, a lot of people don't like them on that account because they got jobs. Gene sticks up for them. He says in their country they hid a lot of the soldiers when they were, you know, course that was the North and South Korea. The North was the ones that was beating up on the Southern ones. That's why our soldiers were sent there. And the same with Vietnam. They should've stuck up for our boys. In a lot of countries too, Lebanon. But you wonder where they all come from so quick. You know, like Gene's son Mark; he got a house and he rented it out. This is a couple of years ago, and a Lebanese was living there alone. Within a week there was eight of them there. And they all had good jobs, you know, in stores, restaurants, banks. And other guys didn't have a job. And I think that's why they don't like 'em around here. Well, two years ago, I was shoveling the sidewalk, it was getting dark, and I felt that someone was trying to take the shovel away. I hung onto it. I looked and saw a Vietnamese. He said "You don't do that, you an old, old lady. You don't do that. I do it." So I let him have the shovel. I put it up on the porch. I waited and I got a plate of cookies just about this time, around Christmas, and I got a five-dollar bill. When he was through I heard him put the shovel there and I opened the door and I tried to give him that money but he wouldn't take it. And he took the cookies though. He said "You baked them?" and he took the cookies. But the money he wouldn't take. And then in the summertime he did the same thing when I was cutting grass. And then I wanted to pay him and "no, no, no, I do that for you". But then after while he asked if he could take my mower. Well then I let him cut his grass. But I cut it this summer and I hired a kid to cut it once because Buck was worried about me doing that. Well, this kid, it was our paperboy, not the regular paperboy but a sub, so the first time he cut it he brought another kid along. They were horsing around there and then I gave him three dollars, cause Ruthie Conlon cut half of it. So then the next week then there wasn't that much to cut either. But he did a worse job when he did it alone than when that other kid was there. He jumped on the mower when it was going and ride the mower. I got a push mower. He could have cut his feet off. So after that I cut it myself. Because I didn't want him to get hurt there too. That's the way that goes.

**So did you ever think that you'd live to be eighty?**

I never gave it a thought. You know, eighty-one sounds so old.

**No, not anymore it doesn't, but I just think you might not think you're going to live that long and, boom, all of a sudden you're that old.**

Yeah, but a lot of people didn't believe I was that old either.

**No, eighty-one is not that old. There are a lot of people that old now.**

I go on a lot of trips yet. If it wasn't for the arthritis in my knees, I'd feel great. And if I sit down they don't hurt. But you know when I walk they hurt.

**There are thousands of people over 100 now.**

One hundred and two somebody died just lately.

**Yeah, a lot of people are living to be very old. But it's hard to think of ourselves of getting that old. I'm sure you probably felt that way.**

Yeah, and living alone like that. Many people like to go into condos. For instance now they got another one in Kaukauna, The Round House, they call it. And a lot of my friends moved in there, sold their house.

**Are you interested in that at all?**

No, I like my own place, and I like to be alone, you know. Like, for me the time don't drag. Because I knit and watch television and then I do my work. Of course, it takes me longer now than it did a couple of years ago. But I know so many people they don't want to do nothing no more. And they hear that I cut the grass and shovel sidewalk. My Ma was old, you know, she was ninety-five, I guess. Of course the n she got so that she couldn't move around and she didn't know anybody. I forget things, you know, but a lot of younger people do that too. It comes back to me in a little while, like names. But I know a lot of people younger than I am that can't remember a lot of things. Of course a lot of things I forget on purpose.