

Otto and Hulda Peterson

Family Reunion Album





Dedication:

Let OTTO's kindred, every TRIBE
on this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
and crown Him Lord of All.

Based on the hymn, *All Hail The Power of Jesus Name*, by Edward Perronet

This book was compiled by Pete and Jen Sandberg
for the Otto and Hulda Peterson FAMILY REUNION of 2000.



Otto and Hulda Peterson

Annie and Fred Nelson

Othelia and Victor Tyberg

John and Naomi Tyberg

Anna and Pider de Tombes

Philip

Jack

Rod and Ruth Tyberg

Rob and Lisa Tyberg

Rebecca

Jim and Caryl Tyberg

Erik

John

Kathryn

Betty and Gordon Anderson

Marilyn

Carol and Pat Odegaard

Lisa

Adam

Christopher

Rudolph and Kathleen Peterson

Gordon and Michelle Peterson

Steve and Kathy Peterson

Shawn

Shelley and Mark Brady

Gary Peterson

Grant and Linda Peterson

Nancy, mother of

Renate and Todd Parker

Anika

Dale

Irene and LaVerne Sandberg

LaVerne and Beverly Sandberg

Philip

Joy and Tom Tebow

Zachary

Peter and Jennifer Sandberg

Alyssabeth

Cassandra

Nancy Bulcha

Hunduma, father of

Mintewab

Akinow

Judy and Frank Cady

Vernon

Kelsie Shelton

Kayla

Dylan

Becky and Ken Van Dissel

Ashley

Trevor

Scott

Amy Peterson

LaVone and Irvin Olson

Delroy and Verone Peterson
Rick and Naomi Peterson
Bree
Brooke
Steve and Patricia Peterson
Stefani and Nicholas Weber
Robb
Rick
Kathy and Rich Meyer
Sue and Ray Metz
Rachel
Steven

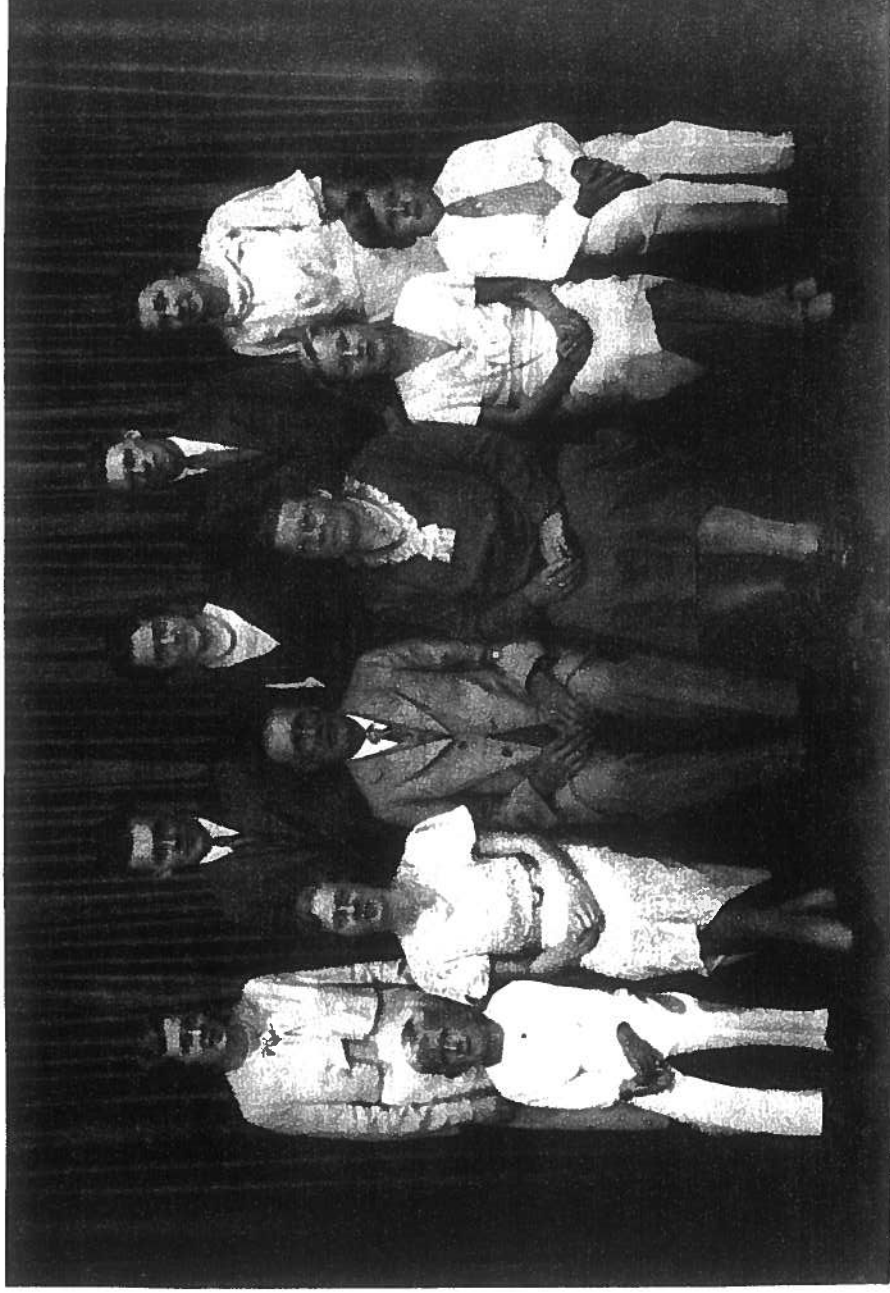
Viola Peterson
Elvie Peterson
Parnell and Donald Johnson
Peter and Judy Johnson
Matthew
Heidi and Thomas Kolarsky
Paul and Barb Johnson
Laurie, mother of
Seth and Christin Johnson
Adam
Amanda
Barb's children
Noelle and Jeff Gustafson
Tyler
Anna

Katie Ferch
Carol and David Ahlquist
Dawn and Hokan Bengston
Megan
Adam
Connie and Gary Clark
Aaron
Courtney
Katie

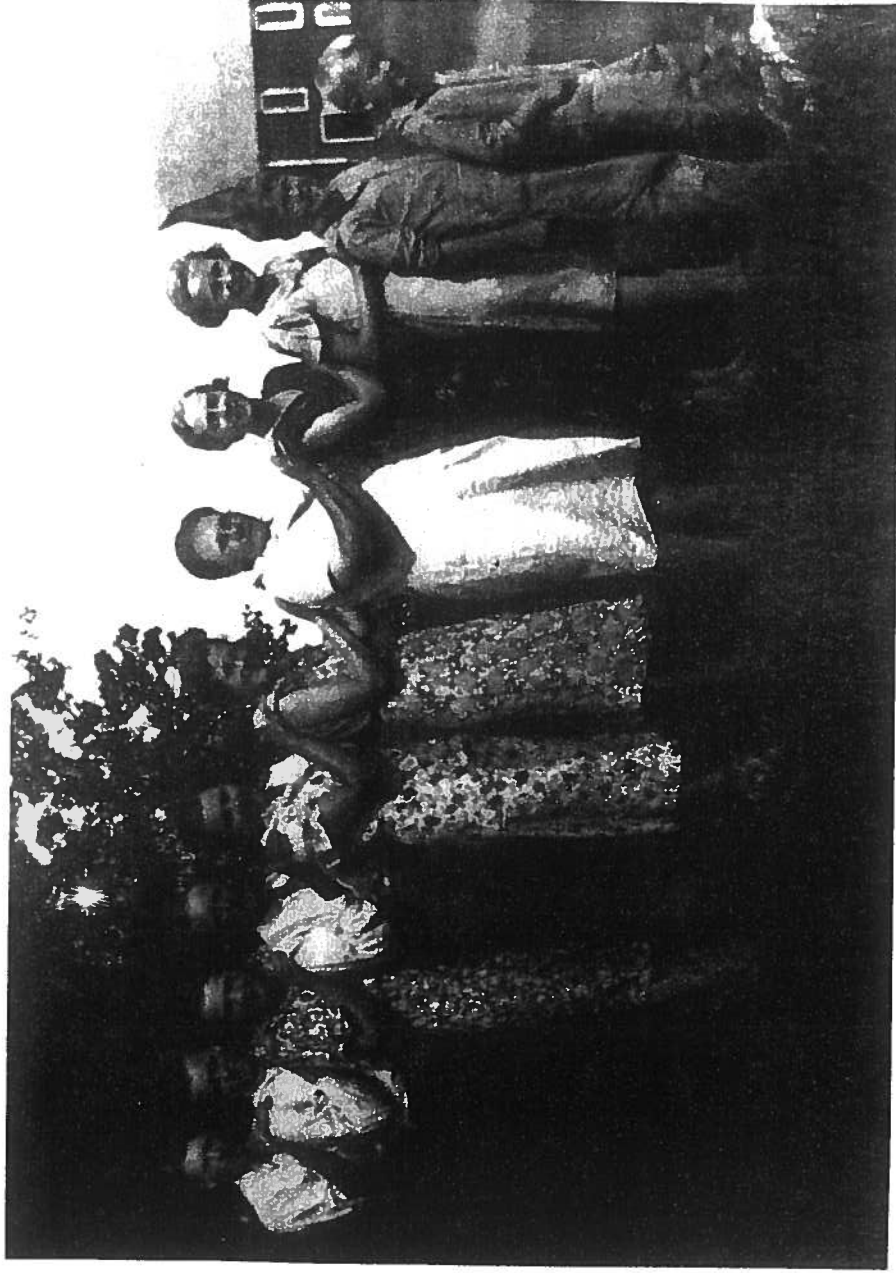
Maurice and Joyce Peterson
Agnes, mother of
Valerie and Larry Day
Thomas
Christopher
Laura
Anne and Mark Janda
Elizabeth
Andrew
Becky and David Menk
Daniel
Emily
Joyce's children
Glenn and Teresa Gramer
Cassandra
Gary and Wendy Gramer
Nick
Dustin

Roger and Sarah Peterson

Otto and Hulda Peterson and Family



Back Row: Irene, Rudy, Othelia, Delroy, Annie.
Front Row: Roger, LaVone, Otto, Hulda, Parn, Maurice.



Left to Right: Delroy, Rudy, Othelia, Otto, Annie, Irene, Hulda, La Vone, Parn, Maurice, Roger

Annie Peterson Nelson

1905 - 1994

Annie Marie Peterson was born May 12th, 1905 at her home in the town of Wood River, Burnett County. She was the first child of Otto and Hulda Peterson. There were eight years between Annie and me (LaVone). It seems as if I can't remember too much about those early years but as I became older I do remember the household chores we would do together like cleaning the lamps, dusting, and sweeping the floors etc. I did look up to her as she was my oldest sister.

When Annie and Othelia were growing up they often talked in the folks' "mother tongue" between themselves. Maybe it was something we younger ones weren't supposed to know. Annie's Swedish took over some times when she started school. Her teacher asked her to tell the story of the "Three Bears" in front of the class and she could not think of the word for bed so said "säng" the Swedish word instead. Her class almost made fun of her.

They used only the Swedish language in our little Wood River Swedish Baptist Church. That little church was the first Swedish Baptist church in the state of Wisconsin. It is nice that it has been preserved at the Wood Lake Baptist Camp. One time when Annie walked into church with her family, they were singing a hymn called Hosanna. In Swedish it was pronounced almost like "O see Anna." I guess Annie started to cry and wondered why everyone was supposed to look at her. We younger ones never got fluent in the Swedish language. I would really have liked to be able to speak it today. Today it is good to be able to speak several languages.

Annie was the first teacher in the family. She taught county schools for over 35 years. The kids loved her very much. She was firm in her discipline and the kids also learned. Some of the schools in which she taught were North Fork, Alpha, Kreeger, Green Grove, Hertel and others. At the Hertel school, they were mostly Indians. I really think that was one of her favorite schools. I'm sure I don't remember all of the schools in which she taught.

It was when she was teaching at Viola Lake that she met Fred Nelson. We kids all loved him. It seemed as if he always had "Juicy Fruit" gum. They were married in 1929. I believe it was July 18th, Daddy's birthday. The reception was on our yard. There were no lawn mowers so daddy used the scythe to get rid of some of the grass. It tuned out to be a very cold night. The corn froze and that was never expected that time of year. I also remember that the pigs were doing an awful lot of squealing. Maybe because they were too cold. I was wearing a kind of light peach chiffon dress. I had sung "I Love You Truly" at the wedding. Annie was the first one to leave home. I really missed my big sister.

When she was not teaching she was a busy farm wife and their home on highway 70 was really the true house by the side of the road. They shared with joy their hospitality (Annie and Fred truly had this gift), their farm produce with neighbors, friends, and family. They made friends with several of the summer people who lived on the area lakes. Every time we visited Annie, even after Irvin and I were married, she told us to jump in the car as she wanted us to meet some of these people. We could just plan that every time in the summer that we were there we would do this.

She was a long time member of the Viola Lake Missionary church. The church and parsonage were very close by (those pastors didn't realize how lucky they were.) I really don't know how some of the pastors and their families would have survived without Annie and Fred. They daily gave of their eggs, milk, and meat. I can especially remember one very humble family, the Eastmans and how much they appreciated Annie and Fred. One of Fred's nieces married a son of the Eastmans'.

Annie was pianist at their church for many years, a job she dearly loved. She hated to give it up. If any of us came to visit when something was going on at church we always had to furnish a musical number. All of the nieces and nephews just loved going to visit Annie and Freddy as Annie lovingly called him.

She was also pianist for the Burnett County Choristers, a ladies group. Because of Annie's friend, Ruth, Annie was able to have her own apartment in Webster for a few years. In January of 1994 she moved to Long Term Care at Grantsburg. It was becoming very evident that she couldn't live alone.

One visit I especially remember at Annie's was the Sunday Pearl Harbor was bombed. We were asked to come there for a late noon meal. We were listening to the radio and heard the news. Irvin and I looked at each other. We wondered what it would mean for us. The creamery board kept going up to the draft board at Siren. I don't remember how many trips they made. They told the draft board what would happen to the milk if Irvin wasn't there to take care of it so he was never drafted. I do remember that Irvin said he felt a little guilty seeing so many of his friends having to go to war. I was happy that he was able to stay home and do his work.

The last time I saw Annie was on her birthday, May 12th, 1994. I really didn't think that she would leave us in just a few days but at the same time I was happy that she didn't have to suffer for a long time.

It was difficult for her when Fred passed away in 1985. They did not have any children and I can understand the bond that she and Fred had between themselves. Annie was a very special person. She always called me Vonie. I felt that it was just a little pet name she had just for me. I would like to dedicate this poem to both Annie and Fred.

There are hermits souls that live withdrawn,
In the place of their self content.
There are souls like stars, that dwell apart,
In a fellowless firmament.
There are pioneer souls that blaze their paths,
Where highways never run.
But let me live by the side of the road,
And be a friend to man.

Let me live in a house by the side of the road
Where the race of men go by.
The men who are good, and the men who are bad,
As good and as bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorners seat,
Or kneel at the cynics table.
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

By LaVone Olson

Othelia Peterson Tyberg

1907 - 1987

Name of Tribe: Othelia's Tribe

Name of Family: Othelia and Victor Tyberg

Short Family Biography: Agnes Othelia was born in Wood River township, March 26, 1907, the second child of Hulda Albertina (Soderquist) and Otto Ephraim Peterson. As the first child was a daughter, Annie Marie, Hulda and Otto were quite sure that the second would be a son, whom they would name Otto. Her unique name, Othelia, seemed to become a token of the strong identification that she would feel with her father throughout her whole life. Like all her siblings, she walked across the pasture to attend Midway School (Wood River District 11) and, in 1924, she graduated from Grantsburg High School (in Grantsburg she stayed with kinfolk, the Philip Carlson family, to attend High School; Mrs. Carlson was half-sister to her Grandma Soderquist). She trained to be a teacher in the special program at Grantsburg High School. She also taught in several of the one-room schools in Burnett County and, in a larger school during a year she particularly enjoyed, at Glen Flora, in Rusk County. After acquiring further credentials at the Teacher's Colleges in Superior and River Falls, she became Supervising Teacher for Burnett County.

Victor Lenard was born in West Marshland, January 15, 1904, the second child of Johanna (Lundquist) and Erick Magnus Tyberg. After graduating from the Eighth Grade at Freya, he worked on the family farm helping his father. Later, he worked for Arthur Anderson in his general store in Alpha.

Othelia and Victor met at Uncle Isaac Lundquist's birthday party in 1928 when Othelia was teaching in Freya and, on June 22, 1935, they were married on the Peterson farm where Otto and Hulda had married exactly 31 years earlier. Othelia was attended by Blanche Larson, a teacher from Beloit whom she had met at Glen Flora, her sister LaVone, Victor's sister, Elsie, and niece, Joanne Aronson, as Flower Girl; Victor was attended by his brother, Rudolph, his cousin, Stanley Lundquist, and Othelia's brothers Delroy and, as Ring Bearer, Roger. In 1938, John Victor was born, in 1942, Rodney Erick and, in 1949, James Russell. In 1946, Betty Wagenius joined the family and became the boys' only sister and, later, with her husband Gordon Anderson, presented Othelia and Victor with their first grandchildren. Marilyn Ruth and Carol Joy were followed by Anna Victoria, Robert Erick, Rebecca Nicole, Erik James, John Daniel, and Kathryn Lynda. Victor lived to see his first great-grandson, Pieter Phillipus de Tambe VI.

Othelia and Victor lived above Arthur Anderson's store until 1937, when they moved to Grantsburg and occupied an apartment in a building that stood at the corner of northwest corner of Burnett Avenue and Oak Street. During John's first year, they moved next door on Oak Street to occupy the second unit in a duplex owned by Gust and Annie Johnson. That dwelling was next door to the Chevrolet dealership and garage, which Victor and a partner owned and operated. Victor then worked for a year in the McNally Brothers' machine shop making "war parts" and, in February 1946, they bought and moved to the Peterson homestead. They lived there until 1963 when they moved to Minneapolis where Victor became a caretaker at Elim Baptist Church. When he retired in 1973, they returned to Grantsburg to a home on East Madison Ave. where they celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 1985. Othelia died August 14, 1987; Victor, March 10, 1994.

Othelia is remembered as an outstanding teacher whose love of learning was freely and generously transmitted to her children. Her faith was central to her life and she was deservedly respected as a pillar in her church and community life. Victor is best remembered by the phrases of Wordsworth: ". . . that best portion of a good man's life/ His little, nameless, unremembered acts/ Of kindness and of love."

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Othelia's Tribe
Name of Family: John and Naomi Tyberg
Address: 570 Point McKay Grove, NW, Calgary, Alberta T3B 5C5

Short Family Biography: John Victor was born in Grantsburg, May 4, 1938, the first son of Victor Lenard and Othelia Agnes (Peterson) Tyberg. He attended first and second grades in Grantsburg and then spent the next six years at Midway, the one-room school that all the Petersons had attended that occupied one acre of the quarter-section farm homesteaded by John Peterson in 1877. He graduated from Grantsburg High School in 1956 and from Bethel College in 1960. He then attended the University of Minnesota where he obtained his Ph. D. in Physiology in 1967 and his M. D. in 1972. In 1968-9 he was a post-doctoral fellow at the Harvard Medical School. He then moved to California, first in San Francisco and then in Los Angeles (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center). In 1974, he moved back to San Francisco, to the University of California where he worked until 1981. He then moved to Calgary, Alberta, where he has since been a Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Physiology & Biophysics. He teaches cardiovascular physiology to medical and graduate students but spends most of his time doing research with his graduate students and fellows.

In 1979 he married Naomi Margaret Anderson who, remarkably, had been born 11 hours after John (May 5) in Montreal, Quebec, the daughter of Ernest George Frederick and Marguerite (Jamieson) Anderson. She grew up in Montreal where she attended McGill University where she received a Ph. D. in Physiology in 1966. She then was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Rome and the University of Pennsylvania. She worked in San Francisco and in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, where they were married. From home and via electronic communication, she now provides freelance editorial services, most of her customers being Japanese cardiologists (no, she doesn't read Japanese) who wish to publish in English.

As well as sharing professional careers, they enjoy their common interest in history and the arts and have been fortunate to have traveled extensively -- several times in Europe and Japan, trips to Russia, China, Australia, and Africa, and cruises of the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the Indian Ocean, the Danube, the Volga, and the Nile.

Although Anna and Pieter (de Tombe), Philip (7), and Jack (5) are too far away in Chicago, Calgary to Chicago is "only" a non-stop flight and they all try to make the most of e-mail and the telephone. In addition, since Pieter and John are both in cardiovascular physiology, both families seem to meet almost every year as part of an international meeting. It is a joy to see Anna so happy with her family in their home in Oak Park, Pieter doing so well at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Philip blossoming with curiosity about the world (especially animals!), and Jack (John Victor) mischievously and winsomely promising to surprise one and all.

Special Memories: Like others of "the cousins," John's happiest childhood memory is that of the several Christmas Eves spent at Grandma Peterson's house. As someone pointed out recently, both Otto and Hulda were quite alone, Otto having no siblings and Hulda's family being in Alberta. One would like to think that they derived as much warmth and happiness from their own large family as their grandchildren did.

John's most bittersweet memory is that of his uncle Roger who was only 12 years older than he. Roger was the ideal role model -- tall, attractive, an outstanding student, one who had seen the world, and the husband of a beautiful woman who was smitten with him, as he was with her. When he died of renal failure in 1958, it seemed as if an irreplaceable lodestar had fallen from the firmament.

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Thelma

Name of Family: Tyberg/de Tombe

Names of Family Members:
Anna 3-29-64, St. Paul MN
Pieter 3-25-57 Voorburg, The Netherlands
Philip 2-1-93, Winston-Salem, NC
Jack 3-23-95, Winston-Salem, NC

Address: 726 S. Lyman Ave., Oak Park, IL 60304

Short Family Biography:

Pieter and I married in 1987, moved in '88 to Baltimore, in '89 to North Carolina and '96 to Illinois. Pieter is a researcher and I am a housewife, cellist and volunteer. Philip will enter second grade, and Jack, kindergarten in the Fall.

Special Memories:

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OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe:

Othelia 3/26/07
- Married Victor Tyberg 6/22/35

Name of Family:

Rod & Ruth Tyberg

Names of Family Members:

Rodney Erick Tyberg 3/21/42
Ruth Elaine (Vollmer) Tyberg 11/22/42
Robert Erick Tyberg 9/1/67
Rebecca Nicole Tyberg 12/5/70 Adopted 12/21/70

Address:

9657 Holly Circle NW
Coon Rapids, Minnesota 55433-5600

Short Family Biography:**Rod –**

- Born in Grantsburg, WI and lived in town until 2/46 then moved to the Peterson Homestead
- Bethel College (Math/Physics) 1964
- Software development in the Heating and Air Conditioning industry (Currently TK Solutions, Inc.)

Ruth –

- Edward & Mathilda (Flood) Vollmer - Parents
- Born in Bertha, Minnesota – Grew up in Henning, Minnesota
- RN 1963 - Mounds-Midway
- Director of Nursing at Green Acres Nursing Home, North Branch, MN ('76-'89)
- Director of Nursing at Presbyterian Homes, St. Paul, MN ('90-'98)
- Currently taking care of her Aunt and Uncle in our home

Rod & Ruth

- Met at Trout Lake Camp 8/31/63
- Married at Henning Baptist Church 9/26/64
- Lived in NE Mpls. '64-'66
- Brooklyn Center, Minnesota '66-'74
- Cambridge, Minnesota '74-'89
- Coon Rapids, Minnesota '89-present

Special Memories:

- Get-togethers for birthdays – (LaVerne was so old at 13)
- Delroy leading singing at Wood River
- Christmas at LaVone and Irvin's when I got the Slinky that was bent before the evening was done
- Working on the farm and fixing machinery
- Dad & Mom helping people both within the church and community
- Listening to classical music that mother got as a member of the RCA Club - (Peter thought I was nuts)
- Great time celebrating John's 60th & Jim's 50th birthdays
- Our Family
 - Trips to NY, Boston, CA, Canada, Florida
 - Family camps at Mink and Trout Lake
 - Summer vacations at Uncle LaVerne's "Little Cabin" when the kids were small
 - 10 days in London (hosted & guided by John and Naomi!)

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe:

Othelia

Name of Family:

Tyberg

Names of Family Members:

Rob Tyberg

Lisa Tyberg

Address:

3429 Emerson Ave. S. #204

Minneapolis, MN 55408

Short Family Biography:

Rob and Lisa met in 1995, began dating in 1996, got engaged in 1997 and married in 1998. Three weeks later, we began, together, a rigorous 2 year program to become registered nurses.

Finals are this May and if all goes according to the Master Plan, by the time this reunion happens, we will have passed the boards and will have just started Nursing jobs at Childrens Hospital in Minneapolis.
Special Memories:

Rob remembers waterskiing and volleyball at Maurice's house at the lake. He remembers being amazed at the small electronic device he had never seen before, which Peter Johnson had brought, and called a "Walkman".

Lisa remembers Aunt Lavone's birthday party in 1998 (a recent memory!) when she finally began to make sense of the never-ending Peterson family tree!

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Name of Tribe: Othelia's Tribe
Name of Family: Jim and Caryl Tyberg
Address: 1191 Morada Place, Altadena, CA 91001 (626) 794-5347

Short Family Biography:

James (Jim) Russell was born in Siren, Wisconsin, February 20, 1949. (The Grantsburg hospital was closed!) The third son of Victor Lenard and Othelia Agnes (Peterson) Tyberg. He attended elementary grades in Grantsburg and then moved to Minneapolis at the age of 13 where he spent his high school and college years.

It was at this time, in 1963, that Jim's parents left the original Peterson homestead where they had been farming since 1946, and moved to Minneapolis where Victor became custodian for Elim Baptist Church (for ten years). In 1973 Victor and Othelia moved back to Grantsburg and had a home built up on the hill on Madison Street, became members of Grace Baptist Church, and lived there until Othelia passed away in 1987 at the age of 80. After Othelia passed away, Victor spent time in their house for a while, lived at Grandview in Cambridge, and finally lived at the Extended Care Facility in Grantsburg until his death in 1994, at the age of 90.

While at Elim, Jim met Caryl Lynn Dahlberg. Following Jim's graduation from the U. of MN. in psychology, Jim and Caryl got married on Sept 11, 1971 and moved to Urbana, Ill where Jim became a civilian jet engine mechanic instructor for the USAF at Chanute AFB. While in Champaign/Urbana, Jim completed a masters in community counseling and became interested in seeking employment more related to that field. Caryl completed her R.N. degree, as well, while living in Champaign/Urbana.

In 1976, Jim and Caryl moved to Petaluma, CA where they became group home parents to 4-6 teenage boys. This job came to an end in just 7 months, when their house was closed and they chose not to re-locate to another house.

In August 1977, Jim and Caryl were blessed with their first born, Erik James. Erik at the time of this writing is 22 and in his third year at Cal Arts where he is pursuing a degree in fine arts.

In November 1978, Jim, Caryl and Erik relocated to Altadena, CA where Jim wanted to attend Fuller Seminary. Although Jim enrolled to attend the graduate school of psychology, he rather completed the M. Div. program with an emphasis in counseling. While at Fuller, Jim worked part-time for a 3 person company that manufactured heart catheters.

In February 1981, Jim and Caryl were blessed with their second child, John Daniel. John is currently 19 and a freshman at Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, with a biology major.

After completing Fuller in 1981, Jim stayed on with the small medical company as general manager. The company slowly grew and was acquired first in 1994 as part of Cordis Corporation and then acquired in 1996 by Johnson and Johnson when it had grown to a company of around 500 employees. Jim stayed with this company until 1998, when he retired.

In July 1983, Jim and Caryl were blessed with their third child, Kathryn Lynda. Katie is 16 now and is a sophomore at Maranatha High School.

Jim and Caryl are both active in leadership at Pasadena Covenant Church. They enjoy the company of friends and relatives at their home in Altadena and at their mountain retreat in Mammoth Lakes, CA.

Special Memories:

In our present day culture of transplanted, disconnected nuclear families; I especially cherish a rich memory of a very well inter-connected extended family. Birthdays, holidays, or just a Sunday afternoon to go swimming together at Wood Lake were sufficient excuses to get together. What a heritage of aunts, uncles and cousins to learn from and enjoy!

I felt privileged to grow up on a farm and even more special to know that it was the homestead of the Peterson's. The extended family largely worshipped together down our country road at Wood River Baptist Church where Otto and Hulda were pioneers of the faith. All these experiences very much gave me an identity for which I was proud and grounded me with values and love that sustain me and my family to this day.

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Tribe of Othelia (Foster Daughters)

Name of Family: Betty and Gordon Anderson

Names of Family Members:

Marilyn Anderson

Carol & Pat Odegaard

Lisa Marie Odegaard

Adam Patrick Odegaard

Christopher Lee Odegaard

Address: 5447 Babcock Trl. #107 Inver Grove Heights, MN. 55097

Short Family Biography:

Gordon & I are both retired. I left my job in '93" after working 14 1/2 yrs. for the 197 School Dist. as assistant head cook at Gross Jr. High in W. St. Paul. Gordon retired in '96" from Sheet Metal. We sold our home in W. St. Paul and bought a Condo. in Inver Grove Hgts in '94" We are still members of Trinity Baptist Church in Maplewood.

Marilyn is part owner of Sentinel Dry Cleaners in Centerville. She lives with her cat "Reilly" in a townhouse in Vadnais Heights, Marilyn keeps very busy with her work & church. (T.B. c.) She teaches Sunday School on Sundays and has worked the children on Wed. night. She is also on the Mission board at Church, last Summer Marilyn went to K. Maine for the third time to work with Day camps in our sister church in Chignin.

Carol & Pat live in Woodburg. Carol works at Target. Pat drives Truck. They have three children, Lisa just turned 18 and is a Senior at Woodburg High school. She works after school at Sentinel Cleaners. Adam is 15 and in 9th grade at Woodburg Jr. High. Adam works week-ends at Club Foods. Chris turned 14 at Christmas time and is a 8th grade. He is a Snow Shovelers.

Gordon and I are thankful for God's blessings through the 47 years of marriage. We are happy to be a part of the Otto and Hulda Peterson family.

Special Memories:

I have so many happy memories of the Otto's off springs. I came in to the Tribe of Othelia in 1946, so I remember when some of the 1st Cousins were born. I helped take care of some of them, when they would come to Vic and Teela's on the farm. I remember especially not to let Rick (Tribe of Delroy) cry too hard, because he would get the hiccups. When Carol (Tribe of Parn) was born, Don gave out "Peter Paul moment joys" candy bars. Valerie (Tribe of Maurice) and Jim (Tribe of Othelia) were flower girl and ring bearer at our wedding.

Now the three Cousins have turned 50. Where have the years gone?

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Rudolph Peterson

1908 - 1967

Rudolph Peterson was the third child and oldest son of Otto and Hulda. He married Kathleen Jessamine Towles the Daughter of Hugh and Olga Towles on March 31, 1934. Rudy and Kathleen had three sons, Gordon, Gary, and Grant and lived in Washington State.

Many of the cousins recall meeting Rudy, Katie and the family at Don's cabin one summer when they came for a visit. Many more are anxious to meet Rudy and Kathleen's grandkids at the reunion.

Rudy died July 2, 1967. Kathleen is still living in Washington.



OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Rudolph (Rudy) John Peterson

Name of Family: Peterson

Names of Family Members:

Gordon Rudy Peterson (Age 65)

Michelle Rita McGruder Peterson (Deceased 1999)

Steven Patrick Peterson (Age 39)

Shelley Marie Peterson (Age 37)

Address: 41301 Prospector Crossing N., Lincoln, Wash. 99147 (509) 636-2927

Short Family Biography:

Gordon was born November 9th, 1934 at Three Forks, Montana to Rudy Peterson and Kathleen Jasmine (Towles) Peterson (now Kathleen Rozar). Gordon has two brothers, Gary and Grant Peterson. Gordon is the oldest of the three. As a child, Gordon's family moved from Montana to Wyoming and finally ended up in Spokane, Washington area. He graduated from Central Valley High School in 1952 and worked for the Forest Service after High School, and service stations. He married Bonnie McLean in 1954 and was then drafted into the Navy so went into active duty from 1955 through 1957. He divorced Bonnie upon returning Stateside.

Gordon met Michelle (Mickey) in 1958 and they married April 4th, 1959. Michelle was born in Spokane, Washington November 25th, 1937 and was raised in Richland, Washington from 1941-1957 and worked at GMAC for over thirty years. She was the best partner anyone could ever hope for. Gordon and Mickey have two wonderful children, Steve and Shelley. Gordon worked as a cabinet maker, auto technician, shop foreman, heavy-duty truck sales for Chevrolet and Kenworth, Longhaul Independent trucker from 1975-1983 owner Operator, Realtor from 1984-1987, fleet manager for a trucking company from 1987-1992. Gordon and Michelle retired in 1992 to their farmstead in Lincoln, Wash. Life has been very good to me.

Special Memories:

Setting bowling pins at the YMCA in Butte, MT, a customer double balled me so I threw the ball back down the alley at him; caused a big "hallabou" and I was fired over the incident.

Going out on weekends to the local drag racing area with family and running our '58 Pontiac Chieftan Hard Top. Wond 38 trophies with that Red & White Stomper! Family vacation to Victoria, B.C. in 1980. What a great trip!

Winning sales trips to Freeport, Bahama Island, Acapulco, Mexico, two trips to Hawaii, a cruise to the Bahamas and Disney World and Epcot Center. The marriages and weddings for Steve and Kathy and Shelley and Mark. Oh what blessed times. Trips to the Seattle, Spokane, and Knoxville Tennessee World's Fairs.

(See Page 2)

Please print neatly in black ink on this side only, each page will be copied to form a book.

Gordon Peterson Special Memories Con't
Page 2 of 2

A special trip to Medugore, Yugoslavia in 1987 where Michelle, my daughter Shelley and I stayed in the home of a Croacian family; they spoke very little English and we spoke no Croation. Wonderful experience.

Trip to Grant (Gordon's brother) wedding to Linda in Washington D.C. Stopped back through Wisconsin and Saw relatives we hardly knew. Seeing Maurice and all the families. At least there is correspondence between us now.

The out pouring of support by those who came to my wife Michelle's funeral and those would could not attend but still sent their love and support.

Family and friends are so important even thugh we sometimes forget how much during daily activities.

Because of Jesus and my God my whole life has been special memories.

Sincerely,

Gordon Peterson

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: _____

Rudy Peterson

Name of Family: _____

The Brady's

Names of Family Members: _____

Mark Charles Brady, age 38 BOIN-5-1-62
Shelley Marie Brady age 37 BOIN-12-28-62

Address: _____
40 West 36th Street, Spokane, WA 99203 (509) 624-3229

Short Family Biography:

Mark and Shelley were both born and raised in Spokane, Washington. Shelley is the grand daughter of Rudy Peterson and Kathy Rozar. She is the daughter of Gordon and Michelle Peterson, the youngest of two children (older brother Steve Peterson)

Mark and Shelley met in 1985 and were married in 1989. They own their own home in Spokane. Shelley's dad (Gordon) lives about 70 miles away and they talk on the phone and visit often. Shelley's grandma (Kathy) lives about 50 miles from Spokane and they are very close and laugh and have so much fun when they are together! Shelley's brother Steve and his wife Kathy and son Shawn live in Spokane and they all see each other frequently. Shelley's mom Michelle (Mickey) Peterson passed away last summer (1999) and Shelley misses her very much. They were very close indeed.

Mark provides physical therapy to children with special needs for the local school district, and he provides track and cross country running coaching for a local high school. Shelley has worked in health care administration for about fifteen years now and enjoys her chosen vocation. She is also a licensed massage therapy. Mark and Shelley planned on having children several years ago but have not yet been blessed with their own so they are taking a hint from God and are in the process of adoption. Mark and Shelley belong to a wonderful church in Spokane. They look forward to being parents in the future but for now they have three dogs to keep them entertained.

Mark and Shelley are both very active and have both been avid runners for years. They enjoy the outdoors and each other's company very much. Life has been good to them.

Special Memories:

Road trip to California in dad's semi-truck with dad, mom, Steve, Shelley and Grandma Kathy all sleeping in the cab for days. Grandpa Rudy's little boxes of raisins. Listening to Neil Diamond on Uncle Grants reel to reel player on a hot summer night in their living room across the street from our own house. Uncle Gary's goats, fancy cars and little dog who rode on the motorcycle. Mom and Nancy drinking Boonsfarm wine after a long day at GMAC while us kids ran wildly through Nancy and Grant's house and yard. Pretending I knew Karate with Dale and scaring the lights out of him. Saving Renate's life when Dale ~~ran~~ after her with a butcher knife in

the backyard. Uncle Grant's experimental rats in the basement. Meeting uncle Maury.

Please print neatly in black ink on this side only, each page will be copied to form a book.

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Rudy Tribe

Name of Family: Steve and Kathy Peterson (Clan of Gordon)

Names of Family Members: Steve Peterson

Kathy Callen-Peterson

Shawn Peterson

Address: 1911 East Sharp, Spokane, WA 99202

email: skspeterson@icelhouse.net

Short Family Biography:

Steve is the oldest child of Gordon and Michelle Peterson. He was born April 19, 1961, in Spokane, WA. Steve married Kathy Callen in May 7, 1988. They have one child, Shawn, who was born 12/30/93. We all live in Spokane, WA. Steve has been an autobody technician for the past 18 years at a GM dealership in Spokane. Kathy is a Speech-language pathologist for a school district in Rathdrum, Idaho.

Shawn is the pride of our family. He started life

3 months early, and was very tiny, 2 pounds, 13 ounces. But he was blessed with the Peterson trait of being strong willed and he grew stronger and stronger. Shawn is the image of his daddy: blond hair, blue eyes, tall and thin.

Steve enjoys collecting GT's, and doing body work for family and friends. He likes to golf and spend time on the boat too.

Kathy enjoys quilting, scrap booking, and family time. Special Memories:

Our special memories are centered around events and celebrations spent with family. Christmas is one of these times. Midnight mass, opening presents after church and then potato sausages and german pancakes for breakfast, at around 3:00am.

Steve, Shawn and I enjoy spending weekends and holidays at the farm, with Steve's parents Gordon and Mickey. Playing poker and Pictionary with family, dance lessons with Shelley, boating on the lake, and just relaxing with family.

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OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

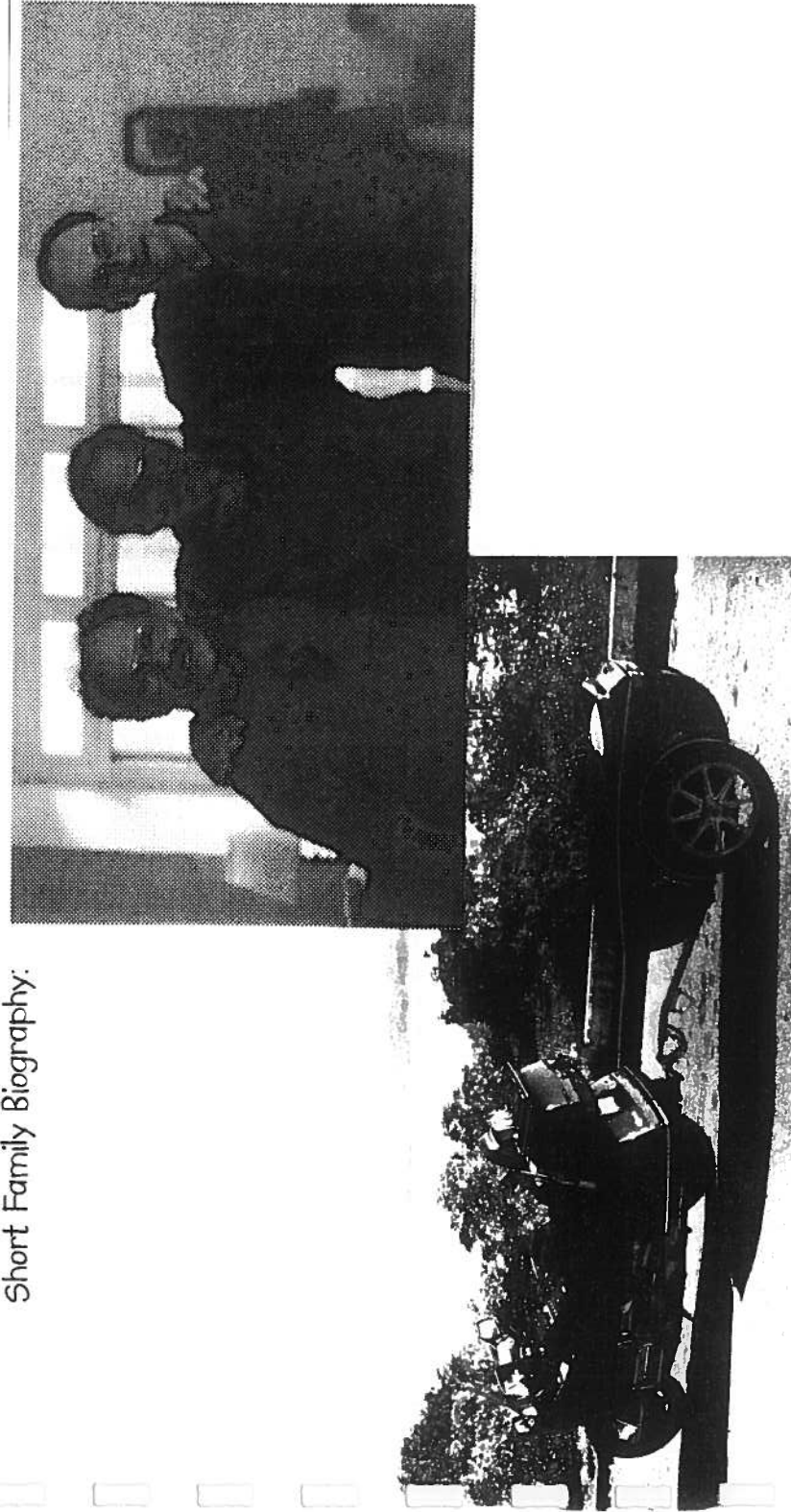
Name of Tribe: Rudy Peterson

Name of Family: Gary W. Peterson

Names of Family Members: Myself - only -

Address: 14707 43 Dve NE Unit 42 Marysville, WA 98271-8931

Short Family Biography:



Special Memories:

How Enclude some phot. Mom Knith Leon at 80,
The 3 of us left to Rick Gary, Gordon & Grant
at Grant their D.C
and my pride - the Gold wing - what I do,
the Summer Joeey -

Please print neatly in black ink on this side only, each page will be copied to form a book.

Otto's Kids Reunion

Name of Tribe: Rudy

Name of Family: Grant Peterson

Names of Family Members: Linda Peterson

Renate Marie Peterson Parker (7/17/66)

Dale James Peterson (1/30/70)

Address: ??

Short Family Biography:

Renate was born to Grant and his first wife, Nancy, in Wiesbaden, Germany. She is a graduate of Washington State University as a Chemical Engineer and currently works for Hewlett Packard in Corvallis Oregon.

Renate married Todd Parker, a teacher at the Junior and Senior High level. The first granddaughter, Anika, was born June 6, 1999. They are not able to attend the reunion.

Dale was born in Spokane, Washington and was in the Marine corps for four years during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After two years of college, he is taking time off driving 18 wheelers cross-country saving money to finish college in philosophy.

Renate and Dale's mother, Nancy has retired from GMAC and moved to Oregon to be closer to Renate and her granddaughter.

All are in good health, praise the Lord!

Irene Peterson Sandberg

1909 – 1980

Irene was the fourth child of Otto and Hulda Peterson, born December 15, 1909. She married LaVerne S. Sandberg May 25, 1934. They lived in St. Paul in an apartment right by Midway Hospital and some in South St. Paul before moving to Grantsburg in 1942. Irene was a school teacher for many years teaching lower grades and first grade at Nelson School in Alpha her last years of teaching. LaVerne did traffic managing for Noble trucking in South St. Paul and took over farming with his Dad, Fred on the home farm when the moved to Grantsburg.

Irene was sick several years and had several surgeries for bowel cancer and complications while the children were young but she made a total recovery.

Irene loved teaching school and Sunday school classes. She was a good cook and did a lot of entertaining at the farm, especially family gatherings of her sisters and brothers and their families, most of whom lived near Grantsburg. She was a member of Wood River Baptist Church and later Grace Baptist of Grantsburg.

When LaVerne died she moved into a new mobile home brought to the farm and enjoyed having the grandchildren nearby. Joy once asked her to write down some stories from her childhood. She didn't write much but here is some of what she did.

Well, Joy. So you want me to write something about myself when I was a girl. Where should I begin? You know, I'm pretty old now. At Christmas time I will be seventy years old. I'm sure that to you that seems really ancient, but you know, I don't really feel too much different from that little girl in the early nineteen hundreds.

I was born December 15, 1909 in the farm house where my mother and father and two older sisters and one older brother lived. It was the day of my grandmother's funeral (my dad's mother), a snowy windy winter day. My mother had been to the funeral and I arrived shortly after she came home. My grandfather (dad's father) had passed away about two years before, so now my mother and father were alone in this home with their four children, Annie 3 1/2, Othelia, 2 1/2, Rudolph 1 1/2 and me, the baby.

I'm sure my mother had her hands full. It was the custom of the time for families to have "hired girls" and "hired men" to help with the housework and chores. During my early years we always had them in our home. My mother helped with the outside chores, too. I think she like to get out of the house for a while each day.

I'm not sure how far back I can remember. When I was one and a half years old, my family made a trip to Canada by train to see my mother's folks. They used to live in the Wood River area so my mother grew up here but after she married her whole family moved to Canada. So we really had no close relatives near by. How I envied other boys and girls who had grandmas, grandpas, aunts, and uncles and we had none. When we went to Canada by train we rode for a long time on the train to Lethbridge, Canada. Trains were so slow then. We were very tired of riding, so when we stopped to change trains we four children were allowed to run in an empty box car to relieve some of our energy. It seems to me I can remember running back and forth and enjoying it so much. Perhaps I do remember but perhaps it seems so real because I have been told about it so many times.

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: _____

I RENE (Sandberg)

Name of Family: Lakerne and Beverly Sandberg

Names of Family Members:

Philip

Joy and Tom Tebow and Zachary

Peter and Sen Sandberg and

Alyssabeth and Cassandra

Address: 11552 Crossstown Rd. Grantsburg, Wis 54840
phone - 715-689-2350

Short Family Biography:

Lakerne was the oldest child of Lakerne Sr. and Irene (Peterson) Sandberg. He was the third generation Sandberg to live on and farm this farm. Both of us were born in St. Paul, Minnesota and went to school some there. We were married Sept. 30, 1960 and after finishing up his draft time in the army at Fort Sill, Okla. home, we moved to Grantsburg in 1961. We bought a farm just across county "Road M" and joined Lakerne's folks in dairy farming here! When Lakerne Sr. died in 1977, we moved the 1/2 mile to the farm and house that Lakerne's Grandpa Fred Sandberg built in 1914. Bev. is an RN, graduated from Mounds-Midway Hamline school of nursing and worked quite a few years at the hospital in Grantsburg.

Our 3 children were raised here and attended the Grantsburg Schools and helped on the farm. They were active in school and church and 4 clubs - working on dairy project in school now 33 and lives at home. He is autistic and never Philip is now 33 and lives at home. He is autistic and never and works now at a company in Siren for Developingally disabled - assembling hydraulic couplers. Joy and a Peter are married an drive with their families in Minneapolis and Elgin, Ill. They can write more in their own biographies. Our farm was a dairy farm with Querses cattle until the Special Memories: barn burned in 1987. Now it is only a crop farm and no

Many Peterson family get-togethers here and at the old barn. The Petersons homes - all near Grantsburg. They were always a lot of fun and lots of good food - potluck style. Music was a big part in the families. The singing of the Dixology in 4 part fashion, was a special parties of our farm are the old barn. The Caverns special memories of our farm are the old barn. The Caverns abys and caves gone now. We had good times in the barn - all of which are good memories. Not such fun but good memories doing evening chores together. Not such fun but good memories are changing cows when they got out of fences and all working to put up hay together. It was hard work but good experience.

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OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Irene (clan of Laverne)

Name of Family: Tebow

Names of Family Members:

Tom (Charles Thomas)

Joy Irene

Zachary Thomas

Address: 3520 38th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Short Family Biography:

Tom & Joy both graduated from Bethel where they met. We got married in 1991.

From 1992-1995 we lived in Honduras, Central America doing volunteer work - Joy as a nurse and Tom teaching at a Bible school and doing some community development.

Zach was born in 1998 and a 2nd child is expected in Sept 2000.

Joy continues to work part-time as a clinic nurse and Tom does refugee resettlement, helping new refugees find jobs.

Special Memories:

Christmas Eve parties - various 2nd cousins coming out to the barn with us to see the cows.

Otto's Kids Reunion

Name of Tribe: Irene Sandberg

Name of Family: Peter and Jennifer Sandberg (Son of LaVerne)

Names of Family Members: Alyssabeth Grace (11/1/95)
Cassandra Elaine (7/10/98)
To be born (11/00)

Address: 1154 Logan Ave, Elgin IL, 60120

Short Family Biography: Pete was born in Grantsburg and moved with his family to the Sandberg farmstead in 1978. Jen was born and raised in Cottage Grove, Minnesota. We met at Bethel College and graduated in 1993, Pete with a degree in mathematics and Jen with a degree in mathematics education.

We were married on July 17, 1993 and moved to Columbia, South Carolina for Pete to attend graduate school at the University of South Carolina. Jen taught high school to put Pete through grad school. While in Columbia, Alyssa was born. Pete received his Ph.D. in mathematics in 1997.

We then lived in Duluth, Minnesota for two years while Pete taught at the University of Minnesota - Duluth. Cassie was born while we lived in Duluth.

Last fall, Pete began a new job teaching math and physics at Judson College in Elgin, Illinois. Jen stays home with the girls and does private math tutoring in the evenings.

Special Memories: As a member of the 3rd generation of Otto's kids, I was too young to remember the "cousin" gatherings of the clan. But I do remember the brothers and sisters gathering together at my Grandma Irene's and later our home. The singing and food remained great although they certainly struck me as "old person" get-togethers.

I have had a lot of fun in the last few months with Otto's list and all the cousins' comments. It's been interesting to see the family from a rather different perspective.

My other memories mostly revolve around showing other 3rd generation kids (especially the Johnsons) around my dad's farm when their parents came back to Grantsburg to visit.

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Irene's Tribe _____

Name of Family: Nancy Sandberg Bulcha _____

Names of Family Members: _____ Mintewab _____

_____ Akinaw _____

Address: 886 Erringer Road, Simi Valley, CA 93065 _____

Short Family Biography: Nancy Ann weighed in at 8#15oz July 13, 1939, in St Paul MN- the 2nd child of LaVerne Sylvester and Irene Elizabeth Sandberg. During kindergarten, a move was made to the Sandberg Farm (Kenwood Farm) near Wood Lake and Alpha. Grade school was attended for eight years in the one room Alpha School with the same five students in the grade all eight years. Graduated from Grantsburg H.S. in 1957-in a class of 37 students, from Hamline U. School of Nursing in 1960 in St Paul and U of Minn. in 1962. Then two years were spent in the Appalachia area of SE Kentucky, traveling by jeep down the "hollows" and river beds, walking over creeks on swinging bridges, riding horseback through red-bud, dogwood, rhododendron and snake covered hills, learning to take x-rays, do labs tests, emergency/out-patient medicine and nurse-midwifery. In preparation for going to Assam, India, attended Wycliffe Summer Linguistics in Oklahoma and also Bethel College. While awaiting a visa to India, attended Bethel Sem the first winter classes were held on the new campus-riding in by tractor and trailer when the campus roads were too muddy for cars. After 2 visa refusals to India, arrived in Ethiopia 1967 to work with BGC missions as a nurse. A wonderful variety of experiences in Ethiopia included teaching health assistants in a 2 years course, working in a 50 bed hospital and clinics, at a leprosarium, mobil clinics, being evacuated by plane, attending baptisms held at rivers with people clapping and cheering each person as they were baptized, seeing sacred trees cut down and satan worship paraphernalia burned and having vacation in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Time of Home Leave included studying a Family Nurse Practitioner course in Kentucky and getting an MPH with major in Intl Health from Loma Linda in CA. Because of government delays, was unable to return to Ethiopia in '83. The next year joined World Vision in Famine Relief in Ethiopia which lasted 18 months. At the end of that time, married a long time friend, Hundurna Bulcha. After one year he and his 2 children were able to come to the US. Mintewab 11 and Akinaw 9, came from a third-world country knowing no English, with little previous schooling. They have adjusted well. Mintewab graduates from Seattle Pacific this June with a business major and Akinaw is doing undergraduate work with plans to go to seminary in two years. Hundurna has been living on his own for several years, with the rest of the family staying together. Genesis gives an example of God blessing the midwives by giving them their own family-another example here. God is good all the time. For 14 years employed as staff nurse/midwife with Kaiser in So. CA. having attended the birth of 3500 Kaiser Kids.

Special Memories:

Being flower girl at Pam and Don's wedding; Maurice hiding me under pillows, in drawers etc in our St Paul apt for brother LaVerne to find me (Do i really remember, or have just heard the stories). Having temper tantrums refusing to pick up my toys and having aunt Pam pick up the toys when my parents were not looking. One Christmas my Mother was in the hospital following cancer surgery and I felt so sad because I did not have gifts for anyone (LaVerne had one for John). Feeling the love and support of my whole family when I went to "the ends of the earth".

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Irene's Tribe

Name of Family: Judith Irene Sandberg Cady (Married Frank Cady 4/5/75 Deceased)

Names of Family Members: Vernon Cady B-1/17/67

Kelsie Cady Shelton B-6/27/70

Kayla-B-8/27/89

Dylan-B-4/22/95

Becky Cady Van Dissel B-2/16/71 (Husband-Ken)

Ashley-B-6/8/89

Trevor-B-12/4/97

Scott Cady B-7/17/72

Address: 11090 Juniper Ave. Fontana, Ca. 92337 Home Telephone (909)823-8655

Short Family Biography:

I was raised in the Grantsburg area, where I attended a one room grade school in Alpha through the 8th grade, and Grantsburg High School. I moved to St. Paul for two years of college and work until February of 1967 when I moved to California to warm up! I worked at a San Bernardino Hospital until November of 1969, when I went to work for the State Dept. of Transportation. I have held several positions there, with an opportunity to learn many areas of Administration. One of my most challenging projects was the planning, designing, and building of our present office building, which houses 1200 employees. I am completing my 31st year of employment with the State of Ca. this November.

This May is the first time in my life I have ever lived by myself! I went from home to roommates, then marriage, kids, etc. After Frank passed away, Scott was still in college and living with me, and when Scott moved out Kelsie, Kayla, and Dylan moved in for a while.

I have been a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Fontana, since 1971. I have previously held several offices there, but am presently just enjoying the fellowship.

Kelsie, Kayla, and Dylan live about a mile away from me in Bloomington. Kelsie works for the State as an Equipment Operator in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Becky, Ken, Ashley, and Trevor live in Brea about 40 miles from me and are sending their own information sheet. (They plan on attending the reunion)

Scott is teaching Mathematics in Middle School in San Juan Capistrano, about 80 miles from me. He lives close to the beach and is enjoying playing beach volleyball a couple times a week, coaches a girl's volleyball team, and has recently taken up surfing. (He plans on attending the reunion.)

I am the local 4-H Community Leader which takes quite a bit of my time. Ashley and Kayla enjoy the 4-H activities. I still raise some animals. I just butchered the beef, and Kayla's horse is moving to her place, so I only have pigs left. Five acres requires a lot of work so I may need to make some adjustments.

Special Memories:

I fondly remember ALL my Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins, and the great times we had together. Our Sunday afternoon get togethers were always fun. It seems it was always a holiday or someone's birthday, and a cause for celebration. Not very many cousins have had the closeness that we were raised with, or the loving Christian guidance from so many relatives. As one of Irene's tribe, I remember her making only POSITIVE comments about everyone.

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: IRENE'S TRIBE

Name of Family: VAN DISSEL

Names of Family Members: KEN VAN DISSEL
BECKY GADY-VAN DISSEL
ASHLEY
TREVOR

Address: 514 MUIRWOOD DRIVE, BREA CA. 92821

Short Family Biography:

WE ARE THE VANDISSEL FAMILY.

TREVOR (3) ENJOYS PLAYING WITH HIS ROOM FULL OF TOYS AND WITH HIS OLDER SISTER ASHLEY (10) A VERY TALENTED GIRL WHO IS AN ALL-STAR BASKETBALL PLAYER IN THE CITY WE LIVE IN. THE PRAUD MOTHER, BECKY IS A HOMEMAKER. DAD, KEN WORKS AS AN ENGINEER FOR A DEVELOPER.

Special Memories:

KEN PROPOSED TO BECKY IN A FIELD OF TULIPS JUST OUTSIDE OF ALKMAAR HOLLAND.

Amy Peterson

January - May, 1911

I also have a faint memory of a little sister, Amy, who was born a couple of years after I arrived. She cried and cried all the time. It seemed as if either my mother or the hired girl, Elvie, were always carrying her back and forth between the stove and the telephone in our big country kitchen or rocking her in the big armchair in by the stove. (I can still see the old wicker rocking chair.) At last she was taken to a doctor who confirmed my mothers fears - Amy was blind. I can still remember my mother putting a light in front of Amy's eyes and moving it to see if Amy's eyes would follow it. Amy was taken to the Mounds Hospital in St. Paul to have cataracts removed from her eyes. The doctors were not as efficient then as now and Amy received too much ether so little Amy went to heaven when she was only three months old. They say that I cared for a little doll just like my mother cared for Amy. When mother paced the floor with her I was right behind with my little doll.

By Irene Peterson Sandberg

Lavone Peterson Olson

Born 1913

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe:

Lavone Victoria

Name of Family:

OLSON

Names of Family Members:

Address:

2653 Rice Creek Rd.
New Brighton, Mn. Apt 201 55112

Short Family Biography:

(Bethel)
at
friends
still
which
made
many

BORN May 17-1913 (Lavone Victoria Peterson) at home on the farm. Attended rural school at Midway - walked across the woods. Attended high school at GRANTS on the GRANTSBOG teachers training. Taught school for 7 years. Did 2nd MAID work for H. Rothschilds for a few months - worked a short time at Noble Transit Co. when Lavone Sandberg (brother-in-law) (in So. St. Paul) was TRUCK dispatcher. MARRIED IRVIN OLSON IN 1943. He was butter maker at Alpha Creamery - Was champion butter maker of Wisconsin in 1953. Left creamery in 1964 to be Postmaster at Bethel College, where I was house mother. Lived in a mobile home for 10 yrs. Then built town house in Circle Pines where we lived until his death in 1992. He is greatly missed.

Special Memories:

1. Taking lunch (afternoon coffee) when daddy was far out on the fields.
2. Making home made ice cream
3. Sleigh rides (when weather was bad) home from school.
4. Seeing daddy always praying for us on his knees
5. Special times at our country church. (Wood River)

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Delroy Peterson

1915 - 1992

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Delroy

Name of Family: Verone Peterson

Names of Family Members: Richard

Steven

Kathryn

Susan

Address: 5330 Beacon Hill Rd Apt 421, Minnetonka, MN 55345

Short Family Biography:

Delroy & I were married May 8, 1943

Had four children

We farmed three years.

Moved to Alpha when Delroy accepted a job as
Bakery and manager, of The Feed Dept, of The
Wood River Creamery and feed store. He retired at 65

after working 35 yrs.

Verone worked 24 yrs in the Dietary Dept of The

Grantsburg Hospital

We were members of the Wood River Baptist church

until our church merged with Grantsburg (Grace)

Delroy passed away July 21, 1992 - looking at The

records, his father (Otto) passed away on July 21, also

Special Memories:

Being part of The Peterson family brings back

many happy memories. The get-togethers were many.

Christmas Eve Together was a tradition - lots of good

food, singing, etc.

Singing in a quartet with Delroy, Maurice & Parn was special

(remembering Parn always telling Delroy to look at the words, so

he wouldn't get mixed up.) was funny - He never learned

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OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Delroy

Name of Family: Rick Peterson

Names of Family Members: Rick

Naomi

Bree

Brooke

Address: 13224 Gladiola St. N.W. Coon Rapids, MN
55448-1144

Short Family Biography:

Rick Peterson: Lives in a northwest suburb of Minneapolis. He has worked in elementary education for 25 years. (currently Grade 4) Attends 1st Congregational Church of Anoka (UCC) where he is actively involved with committee work and choir. Special interests include travel, golf and family activities.

Naomi Peterson: She was born Naomi Peterson; didn't have to change her name in marriage! She has taught 5th grade for 29 years. Special interests include gardening and reading.

Bree Peterson (19) Currently attends the U of San Diego (loves the school and the "milder" weather) works at a coffee shop and says medical schools in her future.
Brooke Peterson (17) In 11th grade at Coon Rapids H.S. She plays on the tennis and golf teams. Brooke enjoys our cats.
Special Memories: Spending time with friends.

I can't believe there is a "relative group" that spent more time together! I have wonderful memories of Wood River church, Wood Lake Camp, Sunday afternoons celebrating someone's birthday or anniversary. Times at farms (Vics or LaVern's), Uncle Don's Cabin; Christmases together are all treasured memories.

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OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: DELR0Y

Name of Family: STEVE & PAT (HAGEN) PETERSON

Names of Family Members: STEFANI PETERSON WEBER ('74)
NICHOLAS WEBER ('75)
ROBB PETERSON ('77)
RICK PETERSON ('79)

Address: 14407 TONKA DOWNS DR., MINNETONKA, MN. 55345

Short Family Biography: PAT AND STEVE MET AT BETHEL COLLEGE IN 1967. THEY WERE MARRIED IN SEPTEMBER 1968, WITH LESS THAN TOTAL APPROVAL OF THEIR PARENTS, WHO THOUGHT THAT TWO RELATIVELY IMMATURE 20 YEAR OLDS SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THEY FINISHED COLLEGE TO MARRY. THIRTY-TWO YEARS LATER THE IMPULSIVE DECISION HAS PROVED TO BE OKAY THANKS TO MANY PRAYERS FROM MANY PEOPLE.

PAT BEGAN HER CAREER AS AN ELEMENTARY TEACHER AND STEVE AS A RETAIL STORE MANAGER IN SUBURBAN CHICAGO IN 1970. THEIR STAY IN CHICAGO LASTED ONLY A YEAR WHEN THEY MOVED BACK TO MINNESOTA. PAT TAUGHT FOR FIVE YEARS, BECAME A MOTHER, AND TODAY VOLUNTEERS IN SEVERAL CHURCH-RELATED AND INNER-CITY PROJECTS. STEVE MOVED INTO SALES, BECAME A FATHER, AND TODAY IS PRESIDENT OF HAGEN SYSTEMS-A 130 EMPLOYEE SOFTWARE DEVELOPER THAT WE RECENTLY SOLD. RETIREMENT IS IMMINENT.

STEFANI WORKS AS A FUND-RAISING CONSULTANT FOR NON-PROFITS. NICK IS A STATISTICAL ANALYST FOR A.C. NEILSON. ROBB IS A CARPENTER AND PART TIME BETHEL STUDENT. RICK IS A FISHERMAN AND BETHEL STUDENT.
GOD HAS BEEN FAITHFUL AND GOOD!

Special Memories:

- SUMMER WEEKS AT ANNIE'S FARM WITH RICK, PETER & PAUL.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL AT WOOD RIVER BAPTIST
- THE "OTTER" SLIDE BETWEEN CUSHING AND ST. CROIX FALLS.
- HAYING AT UNCLE VIC'S.
- FAMILY PICNICS AT TAYLOR FALLS.
- SWIMMING AT UNCLE DON'S- STRANGE'S DIVING BOARD? THE TRADING POST.
- MOWING UNCLE IRVIN AND AUNTIE YONE'S LAWN; THE GREAT LEMONADE.
- FEB. 2, 1958 - MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST BEGAN ON A SUNDAY EVE AT WRB.

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OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe:

Delroy's Tribe

Name of Family:

Rich and Kathy Meyer

Names of Family Members:

Rich Meyer

Kathryn Meyer (Peterson)

3 cats: Luther

Tony

Annie

Address:

1350 Oak St.

Baldwin WI 54002

715-684-4436

Short Family Biography:

Kathryn Lenore Peterson (Meyer)

Born: 3/29/52 at Grantsburg, WI

Graduated from Grantsburg High School in 1970

Attended Bethel College freshman year

Graduated with B.S. Degree from University of

Wis.: Eau Claire (Education) in 1974

Taught 26 years (so far) in Baldwin, WI

(Special Ed., 3rd and 4th grades)

Married to Rich Meyer on 1/29/83

Richard Allen Meyer

Born 1/7/48 in Chebanse, IL

Went to Lutheran Grade School (1-8)

Graduated from Clifton Central High School in 1966

B.A. in Sociology from Luther College (Decorah, IA)

M.B.A. from U. of MN in 1982

Numerous jobs from strawberry growing to Welfare Case Worker,

Serious head injury in 1987. Currently very busy with many projects.

Special Memories:

I have many memories of times spent with the Peterson family which include:

- 1) Staying at Aunt Annie's & Uncle Freds with cousins
(Singing 7 Little Girls Kissing and a hugging with Fred, riding a pig, combing Aunt Annie's hair, etc.)
- 2) Spending summers at Wood Lake (having towel fashion shows, eating malt powder, canoeing, etc.)
- 3) Trips to Auntie Teela's and playing in the Elm Church and singing for shut-ins.

Not enough room!

Please print neatly in black ink on this side only, each page will be copied to form a book

4) Christmas at Auntie Irene's. Waiting forever for the dishes to get done, so we could open gifts.

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Delroy Tribe

Name of Family: Raymond and Sue Matz
Names of Family Members: Raymond Matz

Sue Matz

Rachel Matz

Steven Matz
Hunter (Sheltie)

Address: 4032 Highland Rd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

Short Family Biography:

Raymond - Grew up in Southern MN (near Albert Lea) Mortgage Loan Originator - Wells Fargo + Co. Met wife Sue at Norwest Bank - married 13 years June 27th.

Sue - I work 3 days a week at Norwest Bank as an auditor/trainer. Organist at Cross of Glory Baptist Church in Hopkins for 23 years in September. Part-time schedule coordinator, sports + music lesson driver, et

Rachel - 12 on April 21st. This is Rachel's first year in middle school. She enjoys school and does well. Rachel plays piano and violin, but her passion is playing basketball and fast-pitch softball.

Steven - 9 on May 25th. Steven is our fun-loving, energetic boy who loves his friends. He also enjoys playing many sports. School is okay, especially as a place to meet new friends.

Hunter - Our 2 year old Sheltie.

Special Memories:

Being the youngest Peterson Cousin I don't have as many memories as some. I do remember many Sunday afternoon birthday parties - especially those at Auntie Parn's and Uncle Dan's cabin.

Our huge Christmas Eve celebrations are my best memories. Raymond first met family at a party at Webster Baptist in '86. He could not believe the closeness and fun times of a family of our size.

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Sue

Viola Peterson

1917

Viola Peterson was born November tenth, lived only a few hours and died on the eleventh.

Elvie Peterson

1918 - 1927

Christmas 1927 was a year which lingers in my (LaVone's) mind. My little sister Elvie Aurora who was 9 years old had passed away in November. She came home from Midway School on a Thursday with a severe headache and passed away on Saturday. She had spinal meningitis. Dr. Lindberg said it was not necessary to have her body embalmed as his wife would come to prepare her for burial. She was such a lovely lady. She put a little black silk dress with bright blue piping on her. A quarantine sign came upon our house. How I hated it! The day that Elvie was buried was very blizzardly but when we got to the cemetery we were surprised to see so many of our neighbors who had braved the elements and come to share our sorrow. Of course there could be no memorial service in the church because of the nature of the disease.

All of us kids wondered who would be next to get it. We girls didn't want to go to our own bedrooms upstairs at night so we put chairs along the side of the bed in the biggest room so we could sleep the other way and be together. I remember talking late into the night wondering what we could do to ward off the disease. We decided that it might be good to spend as much time as possible outside in the fresh air so we skated, used our sleds, played snow games and skied.

I was so glad when the quarantine sign came off of the house. There was one other case of spinal meningitis, a doctor's daughter in Fredric, a town not too far away. She passed away too.

Gladys Fornell wrote a lovely little book about Elvie. She titled it "Morning Light." I have a copy of it.

I could sense that Christmas of 1927 how much Mom and Dad missed Elvie but we knew she was completely well and singing Christmas carols with the angels in heaven. They were so thankful that no one else had become ill but they did not let this incident keep us from having a nice Christmas.

We knew that we would all be re-united with our little Elvie because of the greatest Christmas gift of all, Jesus, who later gave His life that we might have life everlasting!

By LaVone Olson

Parnnell Peterson Johnson

1920 - 1995

Parnell was born October 30, 1920 and was raised on the family farm. She married Donald Arthur Johnson at her parents' farm on June 6, 1942. Donald was in the Army for some of their first years of marriage and Parn really enjoyed the times they could spend together on the white sand beaches of Florida when Don was on furlough. Their first son, Peter, was born while Don was overseas. Later they had another son, Paul, and two daughters, Carol and Connie.

While the kids were young, Parn worked as a court reporter, receptionist for the county jail, and assistant to Judge Harry Gundersen at the courthouse in Grantsburg. Later, she worked transcribing medical records at the Grantsburg Clinic. She was still working there part-time when she was killed in a car accident September 19, 1995. She loved both jobs and enjoyed friendships at both places. She always looked professional and handled herself in a professional manner. Connie says she used to love visiting her mom at both jobs and seeing those "mysterious" places.

It has been said that Parn "could type up a storm and for many years she typed the church bulletin that often was completed late on a Saturday night. Sometimes the process could be a real trial but Parn enjoyed it on the whole. She loved to take care of the church and would often stop to dust, touch up a bulletin board, or put something in order.

Parn loved to read and always had many things going at once. She scoured the newspaper and Christian magazines and was always up on the latest happenings. Although the Johnson's never really had a garden of their own over the years, Parn enjoyed working in the garden as well as eating the various fruits and vegetables that were produced. Since she didn't have a garden, she would often stop at one of her sisters and get her hands dirty pulling a few weeds or picking a few beans. Freezing some corn (usually from Sandberg's garden) was an annual late summer activity for her.

Parn's children remember her as being a stickler for having hair combed and faces clean when going to church or anywhere public. Paul remembers slimy stuff she used called "Wave Set" to get their hair to cooperate and if that didn't work, a little saliva could be added to the mix and it would really hold.

They say she also had a great sense of hearing. In their teenage dating years, if the kids weren't home by the appointed curfew hour they knew it was next to impossible to sneak in undetected. They didn't always hear about it that night, but they knew that the activities of the next morning wouldn't really get underway until they had explained their late arrival. Parn also had a "cough" that could be heard in almost any situation. Most often it was used when the kids were sitting somewhere other than with Parn and Don in church and were misbehaving in some way. If they heard the "cough" they knew they'd better shape up.

Parn was always doing something for someone less fortunate, behind the scenes - bringing a meal her or there. She loved to share with others, including her home and cabin at the lake. While everyone else was swimming or water skiing she was usually preparing something for everyone to eat. When she did take time to relax, she could spend hours out picking weeds in the lake or floating on an inner tube or air mattress.

Parn also could have a lot of fun. When friends and cousins spent the night at their house or tree house, she would bring them breakfast in bed (cinnamon toast according to one source). Parn enjoyed driving in the country, looking at old farmsteads and trips to Frederic for coffee and shopping.

In later years, she was an incredible caregiver to Don with his Parkinson's disease. She devoted so much time and energy to caring for him at home that her children began to be concerned about her health. Once Don moved into the Extended Care Center in Grantsburg, she visited every day until her accident.

(Compiled from notes by Paul, Connie, and Anne Janda)

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Parnell

Name of Family: Peter and Judy Johnson

Names of Family Members: Peter

Judy Matthew

Heidi and Thomas Kolarsky
(Just married)

Address: 821 Alice Drive Thief River Falls, MN
56701

Short Family Biography:

Peter and Judy were married in Mt. Lake, MN in 1966. Their probd parents were Parnell and Don Johnson and Aer. Irving and Maye Malm. Peter and Judy are Bethel graduates. Peter graduated from medical school at the University of Iowa. Judy taught high school while Peter was in school. They have lived in Thief River Falls in Northwestern Minnesota since 1973 where Peter has practiced medicine at Dakota Clinic. Matthew & Heidi arrived as beautiful babies gifts from God in 1976 & 1979. They both will graduate from Bethel this Spring (2000). Heidi majored in Socio-cultural Studies. She was recently married to Thomas Kolarsky (Jan. 8, 2000). Matthew has a physics major and a music major.

Special Memories:

There are so many special memories!
The early years when we all got together for Christmas are especially good memories.

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OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Tribe of Parnell Eleanor Peterson

Name of Family: Paul and Barbara Johnson

Names of Family Members:

- Seth and Christin Johnson • Noelle and Jeff Gustafson
- Adam Johnson • Tyler and Anna
- Amanda Johnson • Katie Ferch

Address: 903 - 2nd Avenue South Buffalo, MN 55313

Short Family Biography:

Following our first marriages (each of which was over 20 years in length) Barb and I met at Bethel, were married in September, 1996, and instantly formed our blended family. Following 10 years on Bethel's faculty and 15 years as the Director of Aftercare Services for Bradshaw Funeral Homes, I am now a consultant and trainer on issues related to loss and grief. Barb has been the coordinator of the Victim Assistance Program in the Wright County Attorney's Office in Buffalo, MN for the past 9 years. Seth and Christin will be married on May 27! Seth is the Assistant Manager of The Midas Muffler and Brake Shop in Roseville and Christin has just graduated from St. Catherine's as an occupational therapist. Adam has just completed his first year of college at Lake Forest College near Chicago but plans to transfer to Macalester for the remainder of his schooling. Amanda lives with her Mom in Shoreview, spends some weekends with us in Buffalo, and is excited about her up-coming graduation from Irondale High School. Noelle and Jeff live in Hazen, ND where Noelle is a home-maker and works part-time at a group home. Jeff heads the Parks Department and coaches the high school hockey team. Tyler (5) and Anna (1) keep them busy and make us wish we lived closer. Katie will graduate from Louisiana State University in December with a degree in Elementary Education and wants to come back to MN to teach.

Special Memories:

Here are some free-floating, random memories: Being at some relative's house almost every Sunday to celebrate someone's birthday; Bible School at Wood River Church and playing softball in the parking lot; falling into the pig pen at Sandberg's farm, taking an embarrassing bath in the kitchen sink to clean up, and having to wear Jude's underwear for the rest of that day; getting my hand in the wringer washing machine at Sandbergs; sleeping out on their summer porch; pulling rocks around Tyberg's backyard; staying at Fred and Annie's for a week with Rick, Steve, and Peter; playing basketball and pingpong in Delroy's basement; church league softball at "Coupie Stadium" in Falun; The great singing at Wood River and all family gatherings; surfboarding at Wood Lake; running pool. The "fiery furnace" when going in to visit Uncle Irvin at the cremery; eating fresh peas that fell off the truck in Alton; ^{great food} home made bread and buns, fried chicken, rice pudding.

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OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Parnell Tribe

Name of Family: Bengtson (Parnell's daughter Carol's daughter Dawn + husband)

Names of Family Members: Hokan Bengtson
Dawn Bengtson

Address: 1385 Rum River Court; Milaca, MN; 56353

Short Family Biography:

Dawn grew up in Mudegon, MI, daughter of Carot & David Ahlqvist. Hokan grew up in Northfield, MN. In 1989 Dawn's family moved back to Shantaburg, WI. In 1995 both Dawn & Hoke graduated from high school & began at Bethel College where they met each other.

Four years later on June 12, 1999 they were married & moved to Milaca, MN. Hoke is teaching 3rd grade and coaching. Dawn is an RN at Fairview Northland Hospital in Princeton, working on a medical-surgical floor and with post partum moms.

Our biggest news is arriving around November 9th, 2000 (unexpectedly!) - a new baby!

Special Memories:

My most treasured memories are of times when all four families (Peter's, Paul's, us & Connie's) were at Shabdoma & Shantaburg for Christmas. Singing Christmas carols around the tree before opening presents with four-part harmony, sliding at the golf course with the Gussers or playing hide-and-sit-bee.

Also the reunion on Wood Lake when we were young kids. I treasure these family memories.

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OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

NAME OF TRIBE:

PARNELL E. PETERSON

NAME OF FAMILY:

DAVID & CAROL (JOHNSON) AHLQUIST

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBERS:

DAWN BENGTON (married to HOKAN - 6/12/99)
MEGAN (age 17, Grade 12; born 3/8/83)
ADAM (age 14, Grade 9; born 9/7/85)

ADDRESS: 227 E. SUMMIT AVE., GRANTSBURG, WI. 54840 - Phone: (715) 463-5485
e-mail Address: dcquist@win.bright.net

SHORT FAMILY BIOGRAPHY:

Parnell E. Peterson (born 1920) married Donald A. Johnson in 1942, and after 2 boys (Peter & Paul), had me - (Carol D. Johnson Ahlquist) in 1949 at the Siren Hospital. My sister Connie was born 3 years later. We lived in Falun, WI. until I was 10 mo. old. I grew up on the corner of Park & Broadway (in Grantsburg), overlooking Memory Lake, until 1967 when I left for Bethel College.

At Bethel, I met my husband, David Ahlquist, & we were married in 1969. In 1971 He completed Seminary & I received my BS degree in Nursing. We then moved to Muskegon, MI. where David served for 18 yrs. as Youth Pastor & Dir. Of Christian Education. During those years I worked full time as a Geriatric & Oncology Nurse at Hackley Hospital. Our three children (listed above) were born in Muskegon.

In June 1989, God led us back to Grantsburg, with David as Associate Pastor at Grace, and Carol as Director of Nurses at Burnett Medical's Continuing Care Center. This allowed us to be near Carol's parents, who died in '95 (Parnell) & '96 (Donald). Praise God for his faithfulness & guidance in our lives. We have now completed 10 years in ministry together in Grantsburg-and love it here at "home".

SPECIAL MEMORIES:

- singing together at Wood River Church with Uncle Delroy leading (& me struggling at the Piano).
- VBS (all day long) at Wood River Church; softball, & lunch bag eating among the tomb stones!
- Christmas Eve gatherings; relatives' birthday gatherings (almost weekly).
- when "Sunny", the bull, got loose in Uncle Vern's barn & Jr. yelled, "get up in the hay mow!"
- riding the pigs & hay wagons at Uncle Fred & Aunt Annie's farm during the annual girl cousins' week long stay. Singing as a group for anyone that Aunt Annie could get to listen to us.
- "Rocko" passing electric shocks through himself, Jim & me, while holding a live wire in the barn. during chores, while playing "Vegetable, Mineral, or Animal". Picnics by the Tyberg creek.
- blueberry picking with Nancy in Sandberg's pasture. Playing with all the new kittens.
- eating Sandberg's corn on the cob - & tons of other great food at family gatherings.
- killing chickens at Uncle Vern's & all the women plucking & cleaning the birds!
- the marigolds at Auntie Vone's & the lilies of the valley at Auntie Irene's.
- baling hay & hiding in the corn fields.
- digging for fishing worms with Nancy by the chicken coops.
- Nancy teaching me to make bread at the Sandberg cabin.
- the lamp that turned, that looked like a burning forest fire. Was that at La Vone's or Annie's?
- Nancy's commissioning service to Ethiopia at camp. Did the guy cousins sing? What song?
- many gatherings at "Uncle Don's Cabin" - swimming, roasting wieners, diving, surf boarding, horseshoes, and using the outhouse in pairs!

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Parnell Tribe (Donald and Parnell Johnson)

Name of Family: Clark
Names of Family Members: Gary and Connie
Aaron
Courtney
Katie

Address: 4524 81st Ct., Urbandak, IA 50322

Short Family Biography:

Connie married Gary Clark on September 14, 1974, after graduating from the College of St. Catherine with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Gary finished his M-Div. at Bethel Seminary over the next three years and we lived in Seminary housing.

Gary took his first pastorate in July 1977 and we moved to a tiny farming town in Iowa, Kilon. We enjoyed 5 wonderful years there. Connie worked part time in Denison, but then stayed home when Aaron was born, January 27, 1979. Courtney came along in 1982 on May 9th.

When Courtney was 5 months old we moved to Rockford, IL. Gary was one of four ministers at Temple Baptist. Connie worked very parttime at the Public Health Department. We have many wonderful memories from our years with this church family as well.

Special Memories: In July of 1987 we moved to Des Moines where Gary became the only pastor of a smaller church. Six weeks later, Catherine (Katie) was born (August 26th). Connie finished her Masters in Nursing Education at Drake University in 1991, the same year she began working at Mercy College teaching nursing.

At this time (January 2000), Gary remains at Olivet Baptist (Des Moines) & Connie at Mercy College. Aaron is in his third year of college. Courtney is a senior in high school,

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Katie is in 8th grade.

Maurice Peterson

Born 1923

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: MAURICE

Name of Family: PETERSON, Maurice & Joyce Soderberg Gramer Peterson

Names of Family Members: Maurice Alton Peterson

Joyce Soderberg Gramer Peterson

Glenn, Teresa & Cassandra (7/26/86) Gramer

Gary, Wendy, Nick (3/3/83) & Dustin (12/30/89)

Address: Peterson - 5459 Mail Road, Danbury, WI 54830 715-866-7557

Short Family Biography:

Maurice is the 11th child of Otto and Hulda, born 9/20/23. He graduated from Grantsburg High School. He married Agnes Olin on October 18, 1948. They have three children; Valerie, Anne, & Rebecca. They were divorced in November of 1976. For most of his life he has been employed at Ford dealerships in Minnesota and Wisconsin except for the years spent at the Grantsburg Lumber Yard. He also used to drive the school bus for Grantsburg Integrated Schools and his daughters found it particularly entertaining to have a school bus as a playhouse during the summer months.

On June 4, 1977, he married Joyce Gramer (8/23/30), mother of Glenn and Gary. Maurice's avocation is music and he has spent many years as a member of the Polk County chapter of SPEBSQSA. He considered his options when the director began assigning him more speaking roles and when the risers seemed to be getting higher. He and Joyce still travel to Barbershop "doings" in various parts of the country. Currently semi-retired, he still works part-time at the Ford garage in Grantsburg.

Special memories: "Music has always affected me in many ways. The most profound - after Delroy had been critically ill and most thought he would die - was at the wedding of Sue & Raymond. One of Sue's brothers, I don't remember if it was Rick or Steve, led the congregation in "To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done". I didn't sing much.... Along with Val, the doxology (especially when Judie tells me after we've sung that it doesn't sound right if I'm not there).... On stage at Orchestra Hall along with 350 other men who liked to sing, and with that group sing "Give Me Your Tired and Poor" (whatever is written on the Statue of Liberty).... and with our small barbershop group from Polk County, watch as we sang "Amazing Grace" in the auditorium at Hazelden and see men of the cloth put their arms and head on the back of seat in front of them - shoulders shaking with sobs as the harmony enhanced the magnitude of the meaning of the words of Hope... And sitting with two daughters on a bed in Annie's room singing "Haven of Rest" and "Walking in The Light" shortly before she passed on.... Watching my Grandkids excel in school.... Mowing the yard with a sleeping Dustin sitting in my lap with his fist tangled in my sweaty T-shirt to hang on."

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Agnes Louise Olin Peterson

TRIBE OF MAURICE

Family:

Valerie Jo Peterson Day

Anne Louise Peterson Ganda

Rebecca Jean Peterson Menk

Bio:

Born: October 11, 1923

Marrried: October 18, 1948

Divorced: November, 1976

I have been employed in hospitals in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. I worked at the Grantsburg Clinic for 10 and 1/2 yrs. and at the St. Anthony Orthopaedic Clinic in St. Paul for 12 years. Since I retired in 1988 I have been involved in research of the Olin Family History as well as branches of my Grandmother Olin's family. A lot of interesting travel in connection to the search.

Special Memories:

Christmas eves and mornings. Birthday celebrations. Gatherings at "the Lake"--Auntie Irene's and Uncle Don's cabins. Crnex Meadows. Northern Lights. My flower garden.

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe: Maurice

Name of Family : William Lawrence (Larry) and Valerie (Peterson) Day

Names of Family Members: Thomas Andrew Day (August 6, 1980)

Christopher Lawrence Day (January 8, 1984)

Laura Christine Day (August 5, 1988)

Address: 225 Male Ave. Syracuse, NY 13219-1709 (315)468-2225

Short Family Biography:

Larry and Val met as summer missionaries assigned by Bethel College to the Seward neighborhood of Minneapolis in 1968. They were married May 30, 1970 in Grantsburg and moved to Mesa Arizona, where Val received a nursing degree from Arizona State University. Larry worked in a variety of clinical positions and finally in staff development at Arizona State Hospital in Phoenix. Returning to Minnesota in 1976, Larry attended the U of M for a Masters in Health Administration. After a 10-month residency in Binghamton NY, they moved to Syracuse in 1978. Larry became Administrator for Psychiatric Services at a local general hospital and is now Administrator of Long Term Care services. Val worked in mental health and with developmentally disabled adults until 1980. Since then, her primary role has been homeschooling the children. Tom, an electronic media communications major at Onondaga Community College, enjoys music. Chris is an avid reader and aspiring pilot. Laura loves crafts, gardening and would love to have a pet—preferably a horse or dog. The family is active in various ministries of Syracuse Alliance Church.

Special Memories: The doxology at every family gathering... getting homesick at Wood Lake camp... riced potatoes at Sandbergs... Uncle Don's tin of jawbreakers... swimming at "the cabin" ... Auntie Vone's Sunday School story about the red hen who hid her chicks under her wing... Larry's first Christmas Eve with the family, 40 below zero at Uncle Delroy's ... Uncle Irvin getting us ice cream from the creamery... Uncle Delroy leading the "opening exercises" at Wood River church... waiting until the dishes were done to open gifts on Christmas eve... having to confess when I stole a keychain from Judie's room... Auntie Teela's prayers and homemade rolls (they often went together)... riding to CYF in Pauls VW... pigs, peas from the pod, "kick-the-can" and singing in the neighborhood when we visited Aunt Annie... finding kittens in Sandberg's barn... Auntie Vone's egg coffee... the family singing "Great is Thy Faithfulness" at Christmas eve in Webster church

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

Name of Tribe:

MAURICE

Name of Family:

JANDA, Mark Dean & Anne Louise (Peterson)

Names of Family Members:

Mark Dean Janda - 2/22/54

Anne Louise (Peterson) Janda - 7/3/52

Elizabeth (Libby) Olin Janda - 7/28/86

Andrew (Drew) Mark Janda - 2/6/88

Address:

8361 West 109th St. Bloomington, MN 55438 - 952-947-9475

Short Family Biography:

Mark and Anne met in the choir at Bethlehem Covenant Church where they were later married on May 16, 1981. Libby is currently a ninth grader at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis. Her interests are reading and horses. Drew is a seventh grader at Minnehaha. His interests are music, computer graphics, and drawing. Mark is a graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance with a minor in Viola. He is a partner in the consulting firm of Faulise, Janda & Docherty and spends his spare time sailing, reading, and woodworking. Anne is not employed for financial remuneration. She enjoys reading and writing and thinking about what she would like to be when she grows up. She takes an occasional class at Luther Theological Seminary. She is actively involved with church and school. A "middle child" (blessed are the peacemakers) she learned at an early age that humor can de-fuse stressful situations, a tactic which has gotten her into trouble on more than one occasion. However, her children may well be better for it.

SPECIAL MEMORIES: Making butterscotch parfaits with Kathy at Aunt Annie's... Christmas Eve & Thanksgiving at Auntie Irene's... staying overnight at Auntie Vone's and being scared of the dark because I couldn't have a nightlight... "baptism practice" at Uncle Don's cabin... riding the bus to Madison with Carol Johnson for State Speech... she was reading "Green Mansions" and I was in trouble with the relatives for doing "O Ye Jigs and Juleps" as a declamation (see "humor and coping skills" above)... pancakes in the summer kitchen... riding the hay wagon with the cousins while Uncle Fred tried to bale hay... Aunt Annie's blue bowls for cucumbers... Wood River Baptist Church... Parn's macaroni & cheese... staying with Nancy in her apartment in "the Cities" - she gave us handmade Barbie doll clothes... staying overnight with Judie and going out for supper and to a movie... singing harmony with Dad and sisters in the truck while he plowed driveways... Rook... Auntie Irene's pantry... Dove soap in the basement... the red stool at Auntie Irene's... the pigpen and granary at Auntie Annie's... staying up late laughing with Val, Beck & Mom... reminiscing with the cousins... meeting my Washington relatives... and music, music, music... Thank you, Otto & Hulda!

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Otto's Kids Reunion

Name of Tribe: Maurice

Name of Family: David Arthur and Rebecca (Peterson) Menk

Name of Family Members: Rolland David Menk 9/28/89-10/19/89
Daniel James Menk 11/5/90
Emily Anne Menk 7/4/92

Address: 540 Riverbirch Drive, Smithfield Ut 84335 (435) 563-2632

Short Family Biography: Dave and Becky met in Marshall, MN while Becky was working at KKCK Radio. They were married May 20, 1983. After several job related moves around the state, they eventually stayed in the Brainerd area long enough to have the kids. When Emily was 6 weeks old, we moved to St. Peter, MN where Dave completed his BA in Psychology at Gustavus Adolphus. After a year as a Teaching Assistant, graduate school brought us to Utah. Dave has completed the course work in a Masters/PhD program in "Quantitative Research & Methods of Psychology" – (That's basically Statistics to you and I) at Utah State University. Becky continued to work in Radio until relocating to Utah. After working for Icon Health & Fitness for a number of years, she took a position with Michaels Arts & Crafts, where she teaches classes. She also works in a gift shop in Smithfield. She also is room mom" for Dan, who is a Third Grader at Hillcrest Elementary in Logan. He plays soccer, is a computer whiz and a Bear Scout. He also golfs better than his mother. Emily is in Second Grade, is in gymnastics, seems to have inherited the crafting gene from mom and is a Brownie scout. We are active in Prince of Peace Lutheran church in Logan, as well as a number of other organizations. Dave is the Soccer Coach and Den leader for Dan's Scout group and Becky is Pack committee chairperson and newsletter editor. Beck also is Brownie leader, Hillcrest PTA Public Relations Chairperson, and a member of the Northern Utah Tole Society (That's another Newsletter she does, too) Add to the household a skink, 2 hamsters, 20 fish, a dog, 2 cats & a visiting raccoon, and you get the idea. Life is good.

Special memories: Summer Visits at Annie & Fred's – riding on the hayracks, playing in the oat bin and pigpen. Naming all the kittens "floral" names, Playing " Life" on the dining room floor. Making home made Ice cream. Vacation Bible School at Wood River with Shirley Olson. Gathering eggs at Auntie Irene's – fresh spritz cookies and Riced Potatoes. The colored aluminum tumblers at auntie Parr's and the little plastic people who "walked" down a slanted board. Learning to Water ski at Uncle Don's cabin. Playing in the gym and preschool rooms at Elim Baptist. Nancy making Barbie doll clothes for the littler cousins. And playing hospital in her old student nurse uniforms in the porch at the farm. Pit (Trade 2!) Rook and always Singing.

Roger Peterson

1926 - 1958

Roger, being a bright child and his birth date being October, was able to start attending the Midway School across the pasture at the age of four. He graduated from Grantsburg High School at seventeen and had close to two years at the University of Wisconsin, Madison when he was called into the army. He was in the post war occupation army as a lieutenant and went overseas to the European sector and became Aid de Camp to some general in the occupation army of Germany. While serving in Germany he met Sarah Smith of Denver, Colorado who was at that time administrative assistant to the Chief of Chaplains of the Armed Forces in Europe. They were married in Denver, August 11, 1949.

I (Maurice) remember him bringing his new bride to Wisconsin shortly after that. They got as far as Cushing, Wisconsin, stayed with a Jensen family for a day and a half while the snow storm subsided and the plows could get through. They were driving a Studebaker, a 2 door model with the three torpedo front end and grille.

He served in the army for eight years, and reached the rank of Captain. He remained in the inactive reserves and was promoted to the rank of Major, January 3rd, 1958. I personally remember him tell he had the opportunity to attend West Point through some Senator from California.

During his for and a half years of civilian life, he was affiliated with the Travelers Insurance Agency of Hartford, Connecticut working through a branch office in San Francisco. He was Assistant Group Supervisor. I remember they had the Foremost Dairy account and Roger flew into Duluth during a strike at the milk-handler union. He had something to do with the benefit package offered by Travelers.

Roger had gone in for minor physical concerns in December of 1957. When the reports came back he was told he was terminally ill. Delroy, Don, Irvin and I left on New Years Day, 1958 and drove to San Francisco. Rudy and Gordon left Washington so they reached San Francisco shortly ahead of us. We were there when he died. Don stayed in California and attended the services there and flew back to Wisconsin with Sarah and the casket.

Some of the old family friends thought I had died when they heard Otto Peterson's youngest son had died. Roger had been gone from the community for fourteen years and people forgot about him. I know this for a fact. I answered the phone in the mortuary on the morning of the funeral and an elderly ladies voice asked if they could view the remains of Maurice at that time. Pastor Dahl was standing beside me at the time. I remember he through it was very funny.

By Maurice Peterson

OTTO'S KIDS REUNION

May 22/2008

Name of Tribe:

Fred Soderquist (Canada)

Name of Family:

Soderquist

Names of Family Members:

Vern Soderquist (son)
(Vernon Lloyd)

DOB

August 15 - 1934 -

Carmanagay, Alberta, Can.

Address:

2211-18th Ave. So. Lethbridge, Alberta, Can
403-327-8268 T/K 1C7

Short Family Biography:

My Father was a brother to Aulela Peterson - nee Soderquist the third of a family of eight, 2 girls + 6 boys. He was born April 12, 1890. + emigrated to Carmanagay, Alberta, Can. in the Spring of 1906, with five brothers + 1 sister. (Richard, Fred, Tom, Edna, Walter, Melvin + Wilma.) most of them including Fred homesteaded and thus became Canadian citizens.

My father married late in life at age 43, 1932. + I was born in 1934.

As I remember him, being so much younger than he, he worked very hard with a grade four education, through the depression years + can't remember missing a meal. He passed away in March, 1964. + my mother was born 1906 in Ontario and passed away 1975.

My widow, after 37 years - 1996.

My friend ~~that~~ ^{Special Memories:}

A wonderful trip during Christmas + New Years by train, 1948-49 to St. Paul + Minneapolis for 3 weeks, (Don Johnson meeting our family at the train).

Look forward to seeing the country side in the summer + the relatives we met 50 years ago

I'm very pleased to be able to return this Reunion. Yours. Fred Soderquist

Please print neatly in black ink on this side only, each page will be copied to form a book.

Christmas at the Peterson's

By LaVone Olson

Christmas was a time when we shared. I think Mom and Dad taught us the joy of giving when we were young. A few days before Christmas we were each given about 2 or 3 dollars to spend on our siblings. (What would kids thing today if they were given that amount!) How times have changed! We went to Art Anderson's store in Alpha (little did I know then that Irvin and I would be spending many years in that little town and the same store would be there then) where we found gifts for each family member. Perhaps a pretty little glass plate would cost only 10 cents. I was sad when just a few years ago I broke a little glass plate that I had received then. It really took us quite a while to finish our purchases. Art Anderson was really patient with us. (I can still remember the smell I associated with the store.)

We took our purchases home and we were so excited to wrap them - no fancy colored tissue paper or wrapping or tying with pretty ribbons. Most of the time we used newspapers (I believe that fad is coming back today) but today a lot of money is spent on fancy wrapping and ribbon. I'm so glad Mom and Dad taught us the joy of giving. It didn't have to be a huge expensive gift. It was a gift from the heart. I'm thankful for the lessons I learned.

My mom always fixed a delicious meal on Christmas Eve. It included mashed potatoes, gravy, roast beef and pork, sulta, lutefisk, potato sausage and vegetables - often tapioca pudding or rice pudding for dessert. My mother made the best tapioca pudding. We had a huge Christmas tree in one corner of the dining room (I don't know why it was called that - we never ate there.) The tree was so close to the wood heater that it lost its needles pretty early. We had real candles on it but a pail of water stood close by it in case it needed to be used. We were warned that we must not light the candles when we were alone. They were lit once on Christmas Eve just before we opened our gifts. We almost always received socks, scarves and mittens that our mother had knit. I can still hear the click of her needles as she would knit in the evenings. Daddy would read the Christmas story and we always said our pieces or sang our songs that we had for the Sunday School program. It seemed as if we never had our program until after Christmas.

Of course as we got older and several of us started to teach, the Christmas gifts were some larger. The younger ones were quite excited as to what they would be getting.

Everyone from miles around came to our Sunday School programs. People started coming by our house (we lived just a short distance from church) as early as 6:30 so they could get a seat. The church was always crowded, many people standing in the back and in the little entry. (I wonder what today's fire department would think about it with all of their rules.)

I will have to say that the programs were always good, even if I had charge of the music some years. We wondered, would the kids remember their verses and how many would come down with colds and a cough. We were quite relieved when it was over. People said they liked our programs because we had a lot of singing and many good little singers.

For many years Daddy was Sunday School Superintendent so we kids helped him fill all of the boxes with nuts and candy for all of the Sunday School kids. They were such pretty little boxes. Then bright red delicious apples were passed around for everyone in the crowd. After a few years the boxes were eliminated and small paper bags were used. It didn't seem quite the same. That little church at Christmas was a beautiful sight, candles in every window and on the tree.

We, as a family, always went to early five o'clock Julotta service on Christmas mornings. We kids liked to go in the early years in a horse drawn sleigh. There were warm bricks there to keep us warm. I can remember many years back when only Swedish songs were sung at that service.

We never locked the doors on our house when we went away. One morning after the Sunday School program my mother went out to the summer kitchen to get some meat to prepare for our dinner. When we butchered, the meat was always left out there as it was cold and we didn't have to worry about it thawing and freezing. Mother had made some of her delicious potato sausage. (We never got the recipe

as she didn't really have one.) I can see those casings and the bone stuffer that was used at the end of the casing for snuffing. My mother came back in the house. Her face had the funniest expression as she said that all of the meat was gone, even the sulta and sausage. Some of it was frozen to the stove lids so they were gone, too. My mother said, "What do we do now?" Daddy said he was sure that the culprit would confess. It was many years before a letter came with a confession. He didn't live too far from us and Daddy said "Maybe he needed the meat worse than we did. We'll just have to butcher again." He had planned to sell some of the animals for cash but now could not plan for that needed money.

My dad just didn't seem to worry about everything. He left it with the Lord and he trusted that He would take care of us. I do wish that more of that would have rubbed off on me.

It seemed as if our Christmases were never spent alone. If our pastor and his family weren't able to go to their homes they were with us. The Lord always provided that extra bit. I have fond memories of many of our pastor's families that spent Christmas with us. I know they were a blessing to us all. We always did a lot of singing together.

My mind often goes back to those family Christmases. Christmas has really changed. I know we were poor when I was growing up but I didn't know it then. The Lord always provided, not always what we wanted, but what we needed.

Christmas 1927 was a year which lingers in my mind. My little sister Elvie Aurora who was 9 years old had passed away in November. She came home from Midway School on a Thursday with a severe headache and passed away on Saturday. She had spinal meningitis. Dr. Lindberg said it was not necessary to have her body embalmed as his wife would come to prepare her for burial. She was such a lovely lady. She put a little black silk dress with bright blue piping on her. A quarantine sign came upon our house. How I hated it! The day that Elvie was buried was very blizzardily but when we got to the cemetery we were surprised to see so many of our neighbors who had braved the elements and come to share our sorrow. Of course there could be no memorial service in the church because of the nature of the disease.

All of us kids wondered who would be next to get it. We girls didn't want to go to our own bedrooms upstairs at night so we put chairs along the side of the bed in the biggest room so we could sleep the other way and be together. I remember talking late into the night wondering what we could do to ward off the disease. We decided that it might be good to spend as much time as possible outside in the fresh air so we skated, used our sleds, played snow games and skied.

I was so glad when the quarantine sign came off of the house. There was one other case of spinal meningitis, a doctor's daughter in Fredric, a town not too far away. She passed away too.

Gladys Fornell wrote a lovely little book about Elvie. She titled it "Morning Light." I have a copy of it.

I could sense that Christmas of 1927 how much Mom and Dad missed Elvie but we knew she was completely well and singing Christmas carols with the angels in heaven. They were so thankful that no one else had become ill but they did not let this incident keep us from having a nice Christmas.

We knew that we would all be re-united with our little Elvie because of the greatest Christmas gift of all, Jesus, who later gave His life that we might have life everlasting!

Visitors from "Far Away Places"

By LaVone Olson

My childhood home was a place that was open to strangers. It seemed as if the student pastors always stayed at our home. I remember names like Everett Bachlian, Ned Holmgren, Drury Miller, Ernest Olson and many more.

Klingberg, who founded the children's home in New Britain, Connecticut stayed with us one weekend. I think it was because we had given our Sunday School offerings to him and Daddy was Sunday School Superintendent. We sure like to listen to him as he told about the trials they went through, like sometime wondering where the next meal was coming from and miraculously food would appear on the doorstep. He certainly trusted in the Lord for all of their needs. I have two friends here at my church who lived in Klingberg's home for awhile.

One student pastor, Ernest Olson, who stayed with us always walked in the woods to practice his Sunday services or sermons. One time he had an encounter which wasn't very pleasant. He came home smelling very bad. He had had an encounter with a skunk. Mother tried to get the odor out of his clothes but it was impossible. He didn't have very many clothes. The folks took him into town where they paid for a new outfit. I believe it was purchased at Wedin's store.

This pastor also played the violin a wee bit. He wanted to teach me something about it so the folks bought me a violin and I learned a wee bit about it. I did play the violin in our church orchestra. My old violin is in my storage bin here where I live. It is in pretty bad shape. I should really clean it up some and hang it on one of my walls as a memory.

Another time a student asked if he could stay with us again the following summer. During the summer he had been married and didn't tell my mother until just a short while before they came. We had a long table outside under the trees where we ate most of our meals. We also had a tent out there. I know there were several pictures taken of these times. It would be so nice to have them now.

I often think of my mother and the big family that she already had and then always sharing with others. I don't think that it was always easy for her.

There was a peddler that always stayed with us too and I'm sure he made his route out so he would arrive at our place in the late afternoon. He drove a horse and buggy in which he had his wares. His name was Toma Zeon. He was an Arab. He did tell us that his ancestors were descended from Abraham and Hagar, the handmaiden to Sara. The trunks he had were peculiar looking, made of some kind of fiber. As he brought them into the house our eyes as children would open wide. What could there possibly be inside? As he spread his wares around, draping them on every piece of furniture there was underwear caps, mittens, jackknives, buttons and suits. I can just see his big wide smile as he tried to make a deal. He would stay overnight and most of the next day when he would travel on to a place where he knew he was welcome. As he left he always gave us a huge box of candy. I have never seen any candy just like that. As Earl Fornell our cousin said, "They are impressions we must not let time erase but recall them to one another that they may live and remind us how light and free our lives were and how many odds and ends of good people gave us our happy childhood."

There was also a traveling lady peddler who stayed with us trying to sell her wares. One thing that I remember about her was that she wore many, many petticoats. She didn't seem to be real clean. I do remember her hearty laugh. Her name was Martha Joseph. I can still see her devouring many pancakes at breakfast time.

There was a leather couch in the flower room where the peddlers slept. They were never given our beds. We were worried that they carried little bugs with them. The blankets and sheets were always washed right after they left.

There were roving Gypsies that sometimes parked in our woods. Once in a while in the dark of night they would come and steal some of our chickens but we were never harmed by them.

My dad used to tell about Indians coming to their door when he was young. The Indians never harmed them if they gave them what they asked for which was usually sugar or flour.

I think that we were fortunate to have all of these different people in our home. We weren't able to travel but through them all we learned about other places in the world and were blessed.

I do think you can truly say that my folks had the gift of hospitality. The people they entertained weren't kings and queens but each of them left memories and an influence on our lives.

This and That Memories

By LaVone Olson

One of the things we kids would like to do when Daddy was out exchanging work with the neighbors like silo filling, etc. was to try to have all of the barn chores done when he came home. Like milking the cows, separating the milk, feeding the calves, and slopping the pigs. We knew that Dad would be tired and we were so happy if we could have all of these chores done.

Dad passed away in July of 1942. The Wood Lake Camp was in session then. All of the campers came walking through our dining room where my father's casket was standing. It was a solemn moment. Daddy had donated much to camp: time, potatoes, milk, beef, etc. Sometimes he gave and as he gave so much I wondered if it was a sacrifice to his own family. It was a wonderful way for the campers to recognize this at his death. Daddy, I'm sure, would never have wanted anything like that to happen. He was a great man, never wanting praise for anything he had done. I'm sure that his rewards will be great. God bless his memory.

In those days they thought mattresses had to be aired in the sun each spring. We girls took it upon ourselves to get the mattresses down from the upstairs and in the sun. Many times we got them caught in the stairway and were not able to get them up or down giggling for many minutes. Finally we got them out and had accomplished our purpose.

I also think back on the "John" we had in the backyard. Sometimes to get out of doing noon dishes we would say we had to go to the buffy and a couple of us would end up sitting out there. We didn't have toilet paper so we used a catalogue. Those slippery pages were awful. We were so glad when mother canned peaches or pears because the paper wrapped around each of those was much better. The visits out to that cold, cold place in the winter were never very pleasant. I remember Daddy cleaning it out occasionally. What a job! When Irvin and I visited friends in Verden, Manitoba, Canada, men came by very early in the morning to clean out the toilets. Modern conveniences are truly wonderful!

We had a huge garden - strawberries which we picked by the milk pail full. I do often think about that first leaf lettuce out of the garden. We put sugar and vinegar on it. Oh, it was good! Sometimes I would go to the garden as Mother would ask me to clean out the little carrots so that the others would have a chance to grow. In the fall we would put dry sand in barrels and buried the carrots and stored them in the cellar. I wonder how many of those small carrots I ate, sand and all as I was cleaning out the rows.

Mother's aim was to always try to have fresh peas and small red potatoes for the 4th of July. She also aimed for a fresh blueberry pie for dessert. My mother absolutely loved scouting the woods for blueberries. She never became twisted in her directions. Picking them was O.K. but cleaning them was a process. We usually had so many leaves and twigs. That first blueberry pie was delicious. Some summers we picked a lot of them so Mother canned many jars of them. It tasted so good in the winter.

My mother had such lovely sweet peas in the garden. Daddy put up kind of a fence that they grew on. What a beautiful odor they had! She planted many different kinds of flowers and neighbors sometimes came to pick a bouquet if they had something special at their house.

Mother also canned a lot of meat - both pork and beef. It was delicious to have in the winter. I believe these jars had to be processed in a boiling bath of water for three hours. I can still see that big boiler. When mother brought some of those jars from the cellar I can still see that good-jellied "stuff" on top. It made such good gravy.

One summer our place was devastated by snakes. There seemed to be snakes everywhere. Mother went down to the cellar to get some potatoes. There was no light down there. I can still see her face as she came up to the kitchen. She had picked up a snake. That summer we had a patch of cucumbers for the factory in Grantsburg. It gave us kids a little extra "fun money." As I picked them it was easier if you kind of picked the plant up and took the cucumbers off. One time I picked up a snake that was all curled up in the plant. Another time a snake was curled up in a flower pot on the porch.

They were all "blow snakes" and were not poisonous. To this day I just hate snakes of any kind. I don't believe there are so many of them around anymore. I'm glad!

We did not have electric lights when I was growing up. We did, as kids, have some delegated jobs. I remember when I had to clean the lamp chimneys and see that the lamps were filled with oil. I remember using newspaper to shine the chimneys.

I don't remember what year it was but Daddy decided to have a "Delco" light system installed in one of our buildings. One whole wall was lined with these glass squares. The first night when we tried it out we turned on every switch: the house, barn, chicken coop, granary, and a yard light. How excited we were! Our place looked like a little village. After that system was installed we got some electrical appliances like a toaster and an electric iron. It certainly made ironing a lot easier.

Daddy always asked us to sing as we milked the cows. I can see him standing in the aisle between the cows suggesting songs that he wanted us to sing. Even if I say so myself, we made some pretty good harmony. Daddy used to say that he thought our cows gave more milk than our neighbors because our cows were sung to. The milk was brought to the creamery at Alpha every day. Sometimes the farmers picked up each others. Little did I know then that Irvin would be butter maker there and we would live there for many years.

One job we girls all liked to do was wash the separator and all of the discs after milking time in the morning. It wasn't so nice in the winter as it was really cold out there but in the summer it was so quiet and peaceful. I know I was guilty many times of spending more time at it than really necessary but was just a task I liked. In the evening after milking the discs were just rinsed. I can still see the time when the separator was running and for some reason or other the discs started to fly out in every direction. Some of them flew into the barn where the cows were. They were so frightened. Luckily those spinning discs didn't hit any of us, it could have been quite disastrous.

One winter when I was around ten years old we had a very severe winter. We had a blizzard and the drifts covered our clothes lines. We had tunnels in the snow over our whole yard. We worried about finding our way to the barn because it was a little ways from the house. We had read those stories about very severe blizzards when they had to stretch ropes from building to building. We couldn't walk to school so Daddy took us by horse and sleigh. We thought that was quite fun. He'd also come and get us when school was over. I wore leather moccasins to school in the cold weather. I think I froze my feet in that cold school house. I suffered with chilblains for many years and I think it has still affected my feet.

Creamery Days at Alpha

By Lavone Olson

Being butter maker was not all "fun and games." It was hard work! Irvin got up every morning at a quarter to four (Never used an alarm clock). He did almost all of the repair work so usually didn't get home until around 5 or 6 o'clock. Then living net door to the creamery people would often stop by after hours to buy butter or ice cream.

When I saw the creamery house I didn't know if I wanted to live there. We worked hard in the evenings and on our own, we started to paint and fix it up. It was a very, very cold house. We burned coal. When the creamery ordered coal Irvin ordered some for the house (which he paid for) at the same time. In later years Irvin put in an oil burner on his own in the furnace and a trash burner in the kitchen.

Testing the butterfat for each farmer's milk was always a process. He took samples of their milk every day and figured out their butterfat once a month. They were paid for their milk on this procedure. Some farmers would complain that their test wasn't right so Irvin would re-test it before their very eyes. Sometimes Irvin would be accused of giving his relatives a higher test but that was never true. He was as honest as the day was long and I know this paid off too.

Irvin always had to test a wee bit of each churning before he finished. There were specifications as to how much salt and moisture could be added otherwise you would get it back to be re-worked. He used a Bunsen burner, melted a wee bit of butter down in a tiny, heavy, green custard cup. I still have it. This had to be done to every churning.

One year Irvin began to suspect that one of the farmers milk was not just right. He seemed to be bringing in more milk but the butterfat was way down. Irvin thought that he must be diluting his milk with water. He called John Belle (the trouble-shooter from Luck.) He became a very good friend of Irvin's and stayed at our house many times. John thought too that he must be adding water. This could be a federal offense. He had to go to court and of course Irvin had to go too to testify as to what he had done. He did admit that he was adding water. I don't remember what the punishment was. Things like this happening didn't always make for smooth sailing.

Irvin was champion butter maker of the state of Wisconsin in 1953. John Belle told Irvin that he should send a sample of butter to the State Fair in Madison. Instead of only taking the best milk, he took a normal days run. One day as the farmers were starting to bring in their milk in the morning they would put their heads in the window and say "Congratulations." Irvin didn't know what they were talking about but finally one of them said they heard on the radio that Irvin had been chosen as Wisconsin's first place butter maker. We had to go to Madison to receive his award (a silver platter.) We got to Madison and the Braves were playing ball in town. We couldn't find anyplace to sleep overnight so we had to drive back about 40 miles before we found one. Irvin's folks were so proud as they took a Swedish paper and there was a short paragraph in it about winning. I was happy for Irvin when he received his award. Some of his hard work had paid off. Not that we should receive recognition, but it was kind of a boost.

One summer the creamery needed to drill a new well. The well drillers came and I had to feed them. I think there were 2 or 3 men on the rig. I gave them noon meal and afternoon coffee. These were the days of stamp rationing. I think they were at the creamery 2 or 3 weeks. It was really hard to do much baking on the few sugar stamps we got. One day Lydia Swenson (one of the creamery board members wives) came over with some stamps she wanted to share. She said that she felt sorry for me. I never received any extra money from the creamery for feeding them. The men shook my hands when the left and thanked me for the good food.

One night Irvin and I were up all night repairing the boiler. In order to be able to churn in the morning it had to be repaired. Irvin mixed up concrete, put bricks in a wheel barrow and I handed them to him. He got done just in time so he could do in the house, put on a clean pair of overalls and do the churning. I was so glad that I was able to help him. Paul always talks about how afraid he was to run

past that boiler as he went into the creamery coming from our house. It always made him think of Daniel in the lion's den.

Peter helped Irvin a bit one summer. He still talks about that good AA grad butter that he sampled fresh out of the churn. Peter also talks about how quickly Irvin could wrap those pounds of butter. There were just a few flicks of his fingers and the pound was wrapped. I sometimes went out to the cooler and tried to learn this feat but I could never accomplish it.

Irvin wanted the creamery to look nice when the annual meeting was held. We would paint it in the evenings. I have some color slides of Mariette and Lawrence (Irvin's sister and husband) helping us out a few nights. It was always so much work painting around all of the pipes. Irvin didn't receive extra pay for this.

When Harold Ledborn (from Bethel) was at the creamery to interview Irvin about coming to Bethel he wrote out a report that was really nice. He said that he'd never seen such a clean place, even wrote that the driveways were so clean that you could eat off of them. When the pick-up trucks would spill any milk on the driveways Irvin would always hose them down. He also had big push brooms that he used to sweep the driveway.

One winter morning in the wee hours we heard a loud knock on our outside door. It was bitterly cold out. WE slept upstairs but we heard it. Irvin said he bet someone's pipes had frozen in the barn. Sure enough, he was right. It was Kenneth Swenson. He wanted Irvin to help him thread some pipes upstairs in the creamery where there was equipment for this. Irvin helped him and he was glad he could. He came back to bed for a couple of hours.

The same patron came in the house one morning after Irvin had churned and he was having his breakfast about 8:30 and said to us, "I bet you can't guess what happened." We thought it must be something important and it was. Doris, his wife, had just given birth to twin boys. He was really excited. He wanted to share the news with us and we were glad he did. They are both grown up and have families of their own now.

When we were packing to leave for St. Paul one of our patrons (Carl Peterson) stopped by with a lovely painted plate. He said, "This is to thank you for all of the cups of coffee I've had here in this house with you." What a nice way to show he cared about us and wished us well.

WE had some sad feelings as we left. There had been many family gatherings and coffee after church, etc. in that house. Nancy and Judy came to live with us for a few months when Irene was sick as they both went to Alpha School. Irvin's folks were especially sad. WE had seen them several times a week and helped them with various things.

Although Irvin worked long hours he never thought of staying home from Sunday evening church or Wednesday night prayer meetings. I never once heard him say that he was too tired to go. He held several positions in church and was almost more than faithful in everyone. He faithfully helped with cemetery mowing and cleaning and other jobs that had to be done.

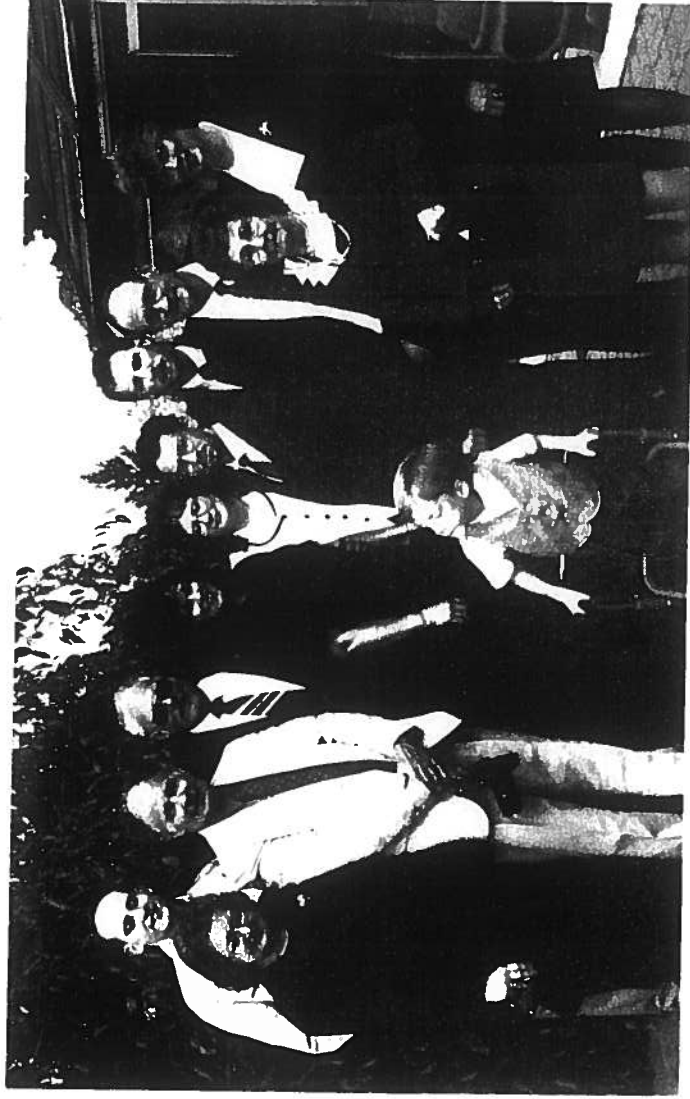
Yes, we would miss our little country church, our relatives, neighbors, and friends. But we knew the Lord would make some new friends for us.

So it was not all fun and games as you heard. But Irvin left the creamery knowing that he had done his very best and had even gone beyond the call of duty. We knew we would be making many adjustments, going from a large house to a very small apartment which would be different. Then we couldn't take "Tiger" our cat along. Irvin was sad about his. But we left knowing we were guided by our Lord who had give us a new challenge in a different place of service and new adventures.

Rudy Tribe Photos



Back Row: Kathy and Steve Peterson, Shelley and Mark Brady. Center: Kathy (Mrs. Rudy Peterson) Rozar. Front Row: Michelle Peterson, Shawn Peterson (Son of Steve and Kathy), Gordon Peterson.



Left to Right: Nancy Peterson, Dale Peterson (Son of Grant and Nancy), Gary Peterson, Gordon Peterson, Shelly Brady, Kathy Peterson, Mark Brady, Steve Peterson, Grant Peterson, Kathleen (Peterson) Rozar, Linda Peterson. Front: Shawn Peterson.

Ahlquist Family



Left to Right: Adam, Carol, Dave, Megan, Hokan and Dawn Bengston.

Sandberg Family



Left to Right: Philip, Bev, and LaVerne Sandberg, Cassie, Pete, Alyssa and Jen Sandberg, Joy, Zach, and Tom Tebow.