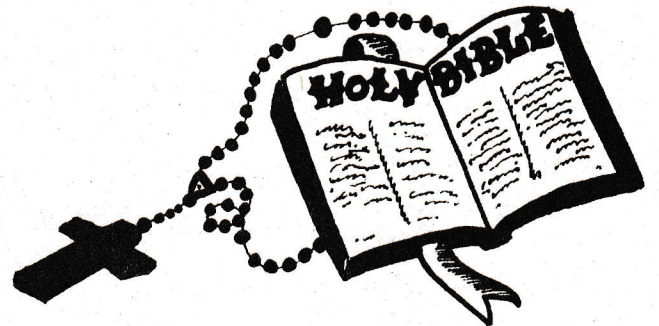
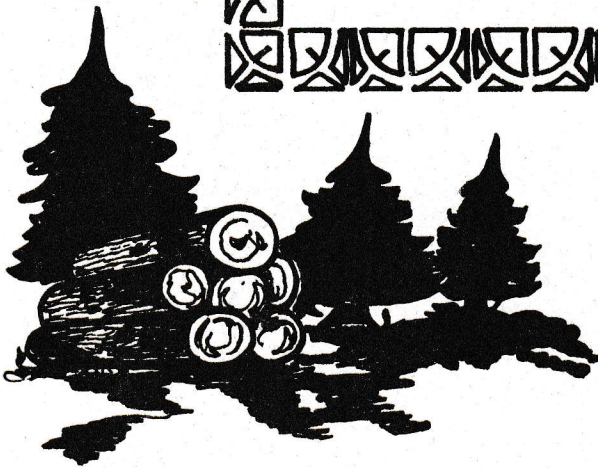


**MICHAEL
AND
BRIDGET
KUZNIA**



Family Tree of Michael and Bridget Kuznia

MICHAEL J. KUZNIA b-1887, d-1974
to
BRIDGET ZAKRZEWSKI b-1896, d-1964

1. Albert Kuznia b-1915 to Irene Stucynski b-1916

A. Leopold Kuznia b-1940 to Marlys Setten b-1946

- 1) Darin Kuznia b-1967
- 2) Valerie Kuznia b-1969
- 3) Brenda Kuznia b-1971

B. Lambert Kuznia b-1940

C. Elizabeth Kuznia b-1945 to Robert Belch b-1939

- 1) Jason Belch b-1974
- 2) Mark Belch b-1978

2. Stephen Kuznia b-1917

3. Philomae Kuznia b-1918 to Chester Dziengel b-1914, d-1966

A. Adeline Dziengel b-1944 to Gene Weber b-1943

- 1) Mark Weber b-1965
- 2) Rick Weber b-1967

B. Virginia Dziengel b-1946 to William Rexine b-1946

- 1) Todd Rexine b-1974
- 2) Jason Rexine b-1977

C. Michael Dziengel b-1948, d-1969

D. Marileen Dziengel b-1959

4. Melany Kuznia b-1920

5. Ira Kuznia b-1923

6. Emil Kuznia b-1925 to Florence Donarski b-1933

A. Rodney Kuznia b-1953 to Joyce Pawlowski b-1952

- 1) Karissa Kuznia b-1978
- 2) Kuznia b-1981

B. Gregory Kuznia b-1955

C. John E. Kuznia b-1957

D. Douglas Kuznia b-1968

7. Rosalia Kuznia b-1927 to Bernard Stusynski b-1920

A. Theresa Stusynski b-1950 to Kenneth Sylskar b-1949

- 1) Kenneth Sylskar, Jr. b-1970
- 2) Michael Sylskar b-1971

B. William Stusynski b-1953

C. Leonard Stusynski b-1955

D. Peter Stusynski b-1957

E. Bernadette Stusynski b-1960

8. Veronica Kuznia b-1930 to Donald Johansen b-1927

A. Darryl Johansen b-1953

B. Randall Johansen b-1954 to Janet Olson b-1955

- 1) Jesse Johansen b-1978

C. Mary Lou Johansen b-1956

D. Jeanette Johansen b-1958 to Marvin Momerak b-1956

- 1) Amy Momerak b-1977

E. Donald Johansen, Jr. b-1964

9. Michael S. Kuznia, Jr. b-1933 to Lillian Dostal b-1946

A. Gina Kuznia b-1968

B. Cynthia Kuznia b-1970

C. Maribeth Kuznia b-1978

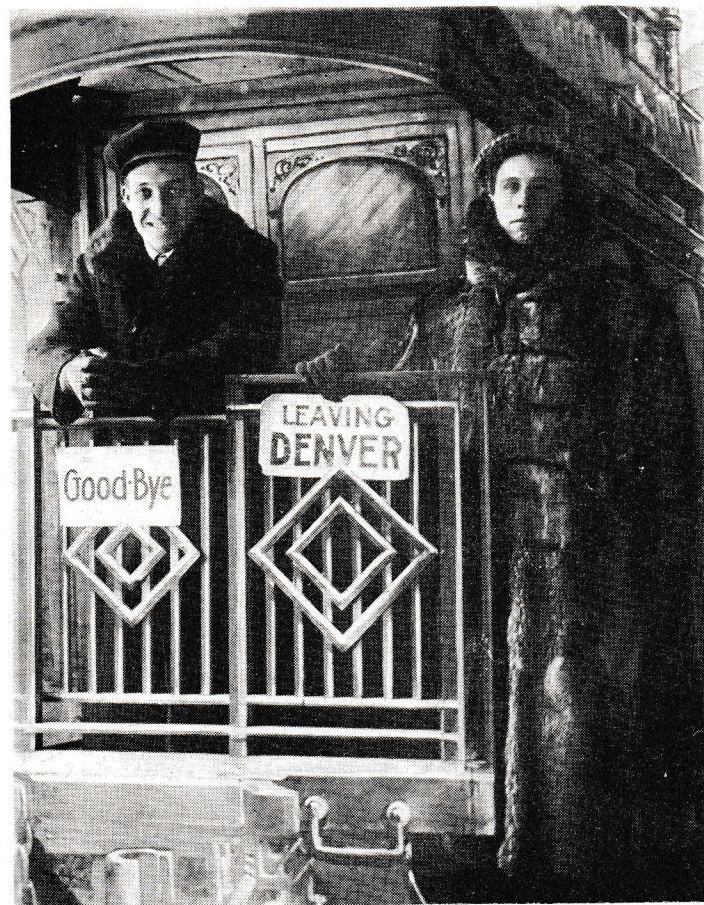
D. Jan Kuznia b-1980

Michael and Bridget (Zakrzewski) Kuznia

Michael Kuznia and a twin brother, Bert, were born December 2, 1887, to Albert and Hedwig (Krzyszosiak) Kuznia at their home in Wright Township, Section 7. The twins always seem to celebrate their birth date on different dates, but the birth registrar for Wright Township lists them as born December 2.

As a child, Mike remembers playing with the Indian children that traveled with their parents through the area in covered wagons. The Indians were on their way to Warroad, Minnesota, for the winter and asked permission to dig snakeroot. Contrary to the popular idea that Indians took without asking, Mike said they never found this to be true. The Indian children would help Mike and Bert herd the cattle. Herding cattle was a common chore for children. Once, while Mike and Bert were herding cattle, the bull attacked. Bert got to the safety of a stack, but the bull was mauling Mike. Apparently a neighbor was close by and sent his dog after the bull, saving Mike's life.

As a youth, he must have attended school in Florian. As a very young man, Mike contracted tuberculosis, and it was decided a change of climate would improve his health. He "hitchhiked" his way south on railroad cars and worked as a lumberjack in the Zuni Mountains of northwestern New Mexico for about three years. Afterward, he returned home and worked on the Fodstad farm southwest of Stephen. He was never bothered by tuberculosis again.



Walter Chlapinski and Mike Kuznia
[On their trip south as young men]

On October 13, 1914, Mike purchased the northeast quarter of Section 7 of Wright Township from his parents, Albert and Hedwig, for fifteen hundred dollars. On November 25, 1914, Mike married Bridget Zakrzewski at St. Mary's Catholic Church at Florian, Minnesota, with Father Anton Drewnicki officiating at the marriage. Mike and Bridget were to have been married in October, but Bridget contracted diphtheria, and the wedding was postponed. Also, later in October, Mike's dad, Albert, died.

After the wedding in Florian, they traveled by buggy and wagon to Bridget's home northeast of Warren for the reception. In the evening, the wedding dance was held in the living room. Paul Kuznia's first wife, Mary, always a lively and cheerful person, can be remembered by one of the bridesmaids as singing and dancing at this wedding. No doubt the wedding pictures were taken in Warren. Many of the guests stayed overnight and returned home the next day, when it had gotten very cold and was snowing.



Michael and Bridget Kuznia Wedding -- 1914
[L-R] Joseph Kuznia, Stella [Przybylski] Gratzek, Bert Kuznia
Hedwig [Kuznia] Pietruszewski, Benedict Kuznia,
Balbina [Kasproicz] Borowicz
[Seated] Michael and Bridget

Bridget Zakrzewski was born February 29, 1896, near Ashton, Nebraska, the youngest child of Antonia Antoszewski and Frank Zakrzewski. The Frank Zakrzewskis moved to a farm northeast of Warren when Bridget was a child. Her brother, Joseph, later moved to Chicago. Ignatius married Katherine Przybylski and lived in Florian. Stanley was the third child. Anthony married Clara Stanczyk June 25, 1912, and died the next year at age 23. Clara later remarried to an Ovsak. Mary Zakrzewski married John Rymer and lived in North Dakota and Montana.

Bridget attended rural school northeast of Warren. At this time, the school still stands along the river and is used as a township hall.

The year Bridget and Mike were married, work was begun on their new home on the south edge of the settlement of Florian. Mike's brother, Anton, was the chief carpenter and later built the other buildings also. They lived the first winter of their married life near Bridget's family home. In 1915, the house was finished, and they moved to Florian, where they lived all their married life. It was here all nine children were born. All the children received their First

Holy Communion and were confirmed in the Catholic faith at the Florian Assumption Church.

In the early years of their marriage, cattle were herded to Stephen or Strandquist. As you drove the cattle, people added their cattle to the herd. In town, they were loaded on the train, then shipped to South St. Paul.

Taxes paid in 1918 on their quarter of a section were \$49.45. (Taxes paid on this same quarter in 1979 were \$547.94).

Cattle herding was always the children's chore, and all nine children can remember herding the cattle.

Bridget always had a big garden, and vegetables were canned to provide for the needs of the family. Mike had various medical problems, and often Bridget did a lot of the farm work. In the early 1920's, during one of Mike's illnesses, Bridget was out shocking grain, and those caring for the baby would bring the baby out to the field when it was time for her to nurse it, and then take the baby back home. Besides the gardens and harvest, Bridget did all the family sewing, altering or making patterns as needed.

The family also raised turkeys. The incubator for hatching turkey and chicken eggs was in the main bedroom of the home. In 1928, the price for turkeys was very good, so Mike and Bridget purchased their first car, a tan Ford. Mike received no instructions on how to drive the car. He drove the car home and then could not remember how to stop it. When he got to the yard, Bridget was carrying two pails of water to the house. Realizing he didn't know how to stop the car, she dropped the pails and ran for the house. The car finally came to a halt against a boxelder tree.

That was in 1928 when the prices had been good; in 1929, the crash came, and they lost the farm for three years. The cream check was always used for groceries. Once Mike was taking the cream to town and when he made the turn on the Florian road to Stephen, the cream can rolled over. The cream gone, Mike turned around and came home. No cream, no groceries!



Mike and Bridget Kuznia Home about 1928
[Rosalia and Emil Kuznia standing out front]

In the early 1930's, Mike had surgery for ulcers, and again Bridget had to care for the farm and many young children. Albert,

the oldest son, got to attend very few days of school because he had to do the farm work.

The year the youngest child, Mike Jr., was born, 1933, the family had many crises: Rosalia got scarlet fever; Emil also got a touch of it; Melany got pneumonia; Philomae lost a few fingers from a dynamite cap that exploded.

The upstairs attic of the Kuznia home had a staircase but was unfinished. The children would sleep up there, even in cold weather, under thick feather ticks, when guests stayed overnight. Otherwise, it was used for storage and occasionally for hanging ham and bacon. In the 1940's, the house was enlarged with the addition of an enclosed porch, wash room, and the kitchen was enlarged. In the 1950's, it again underwent some remodeling, with all the ceilings being lowered, all new windows put in, and new interior walls and woodwork.



Mike Kuznia home -- 1980

Besides raising grain, the family also raised potatoes. Life became a lot easier when combines came into use. Bridget continued her sewing, which also included sewing many, many stuffed animals to be sold for the fish pond at the church bazaar. The statue of St. Joseph was purchased by fish pond earnings. She continued to garden -- even when she became ill in 1963. She had a large garden and did canning that fall. On February 13, 1964, Bridget passed away from cancer of the liver.

In the fall of 1967, their youngest son, Mike Jr., got married and Mike moved to the new home of his son, Ira, at the crossroads in Florian, across from the church.

Despite the many medical problems that had plagued Mike, his sons remember him as a very strong person, with a gentle touch. In 1972, at the age of 85, he helped his son, Mike Jr., fence a newly landscaped barnyard, when the route of the creek was changed by



Michael and Bridget Kuznia with sons and grandsons -- about 1948
[L-R] Leopold, Mike Jr., Albert, Stephen, Bridget, Mike Sr., Ira, Emil, and Lambert

the soil conservation service to flow north of the farm yard. In the spring of 1974, his health began to fail him, and on September 14, 1974, Mike passed away.

All the children remember their parents as devoted to the church, frequenting daily Mass, devoted to each other and to their children.



Mike and Bridget Kuznia Family -- 1980
[Back L-R] Philomae, Melany, Rosalia, Veronica
[Seated] Albert, Ira, Emil, Mike Jr.
[Not pictured is Stephen]

ALBERT AND IRENE [STUCYNSKI] KUZNIA
Stephen, Minnesota 56757

Albert Kuznia was born October 21, 1915, the first child born to Mike and Bridget Kuznia. He married Irene Stucynski on October 12, 1938, at Florian. Irene was the daughter of John and Julia (Szklański) Stucynski and has four sisters: Regina (Mrs. Roman Kuznia), Genevieve (Mrs. Stanley Rominski), Elizabeth (Mrs. Stanley Tragarz), and Alice (Mrs. John Gratzek).

Albert and Irene are the parents of three children: twins sons Leopold and Lambert, born July 16, 1940, and a daughter, Elizabeth, born September 14, 1945.

Leopold is married to Marlys Setten. Lambert is engaged in farming the family homestead. Elizabeth is married to Robert Belch. Albert and Irene have five grandchildren.

LEOPOLD AND MARLYS [SETTEN] KUZNIA
Stephen, Minnesota 56757

Leopold Kuznia and a twin brother, Lambert, were born to Albert and Irene (Stucynski) Kuznia. On January 1, 1967, Leopold married Marlys Setten, the daughter of Severt and Anna (Frei) Setten. Marlys has one sister, Lois (Mrs. Stanley Demeyere). They are of Norwegian descent.

Leopold works for the Stephen Fertilizer Company as a salesman. Leopold and Marlys are the parents of three children: Darin, Valerie, and Brenda, who attend Stephen School.



Albert and Irene Kuznia

ROBERT AND ELIZABETH [KUZNIA] BELCH
 2840 116 Avenue N.W.
 Coon Rapids, Minnesota 55433

Elizabeth Kuznia was born to Albert and Irene (Stucynski) Kuznia, the last of three children. At St. Stephen's Catholic Church on April 26, 1969, she married Robert Belch, the son of Thomas and

Alma (Zwack) Belch. Robert has two brothers, John and Donald; and three sisters, Elizabeth Musachia, JoAnn Pavlacky, and Mary Dahle. His parents are of French Canadian descent.

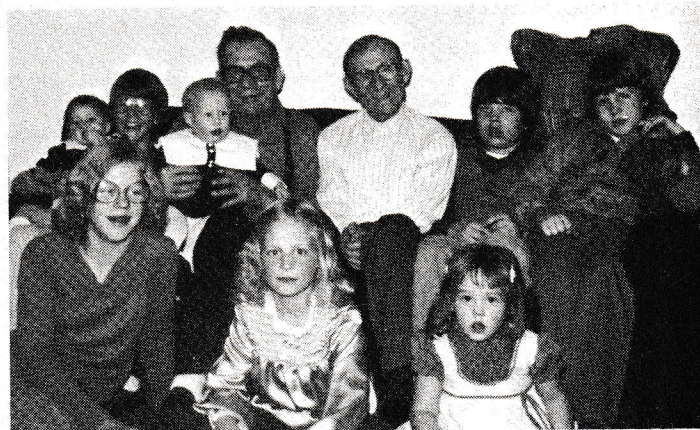
Robert is a repairman for a furniture company, servicing office furniture in the metro-area. Robert and Elizabeth are the parents of two children, Jason and Mark.

STEPHEN KUZNIA
 Strandquist, Minnesota 56758

Stephen Kuznia, the second son of Michael and Bridget (Zakrzewski) Kuznia, was born February 7, 1917. He attended Florian School.

As a child, he had polio and was hospitalized at Gillette Hospital in Minneapolis. With the aid of braces, he regained the strength of his legs again. Along with his other brothers, he helped his parents farm and suffered more injuries in a farm tractor accident.

Since his youngest brother was married in 1967, he has made his home with his brother, Ira, in Florian.



[Back L-R] Karissa, Douglas, Maribeth, Ira and Steve Kuznia, Kenneth Jr. and Michael Sylskar
 [Front] Gina and Cynthia Kuznia, Amy Momerak -- 1980

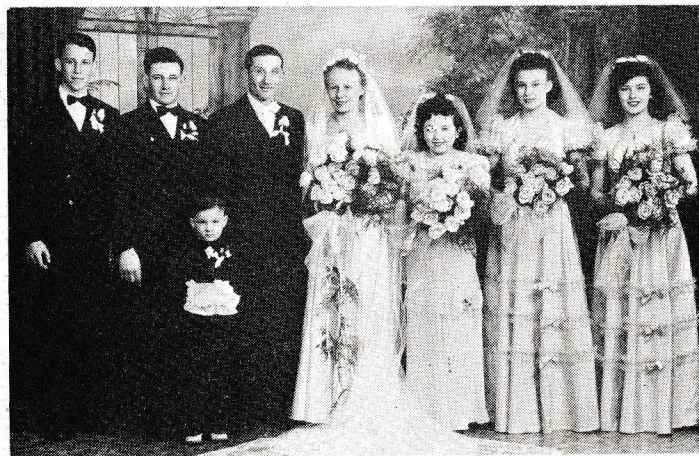
CHESTER AND PHILOMAE [KUZNIA] DZIENGEL
 920 Lilac Drive
 Sauk Centre, Minnesota

I was born Philomae Kuznia at the home of my parents, Michael and Bridget (Zakrzewski) Kuznia in Wright Township, Marshall County, Minnesota, on November 8, 1918.

On March 9, 1943, I married Chester Dziengel at the Assumption Catholic Church in Florian. Chester was the son of Peter and Josephine (Sivinski) Dziengel. He has eleven brothers and sisters: Clemence (married to Christine Tragarz), Edwin,

Adolph, Teckla (Mrs. Al Depew), Louis, Irene (Mrs. Edmund Nowacki), Thomas (married to Loretta Stusynski), twins Delores and Dorothy (Mrs. Clarence Zaun), Josephine (Mrs. Kenneth Doerer), and Peter.

We farmed for one year near Argyle, Minnesota, then we moved to Westport, Minnesota, and farmed there for one year. The following year, we bought a farm in Ashley Township, Stearns County, Minnesota. Four children were born to us: Adeline,



Chester and Philomae Dziengel Wedding -- 1943
 [L-R] Emil Kuznia, Thomas Dziengel, Chester and Philomae, Delores Dziengel, Rosalia [Kuznia] Stusynski, Josephine [Dziengel] Doerer and the ring bearer, Allan Nowacki



Michael Dziengel before he left for Vietnam

Virginia, Michael, and Marileen. Adeline, Virginia, and Michael attended Lyman Prairie County School the first six years and then went to Sauk Centre Junior-Senior High. Marileen attended Sauk Centre schools, both elementary and secondary. They were all members of the Raymond Ashley 4-H Club, and we are members of Our Lady of the Angels Church.

Adeline married Gene Weber of Elrosa, Minnesota. Virginia married William Rexine of Jamestown, North Dakota. After graduation, Michael attended diesel school in Fargo, North Dakota, and went into the service. He spent one year of service in Germany, then the following year he was stationed in Vietnam. On October 13, 1969, he was killed. His body was brought back to Sauk Centre for burial. Marileen is presently attending St. Cloud State University, where she is double majoring in elementary education and reading.

Chester passed away January 28, 1966. We lived in a very active community. I was, and still am, a member of the South Ashley Homemakers, the Lyman Prairie Birthday and Anniversary Club, and the St. Theresa Mission Group. I am now working with the school lunch program at the junior-senior high school, and I rent my farm to my son-in-law, Gene Weber.

GENE AND ADELINE [DZIENGEL] WEBER
Melrose, Minnesota 56352

I was born Adeline Dziengel on June 26, 1944, in Melrose, Minnesota, to Chester and Philomae (Kuznia) Dziengel. We lived on a farm 12 miles southwest of Sauk Centre. There were four of us in our family: Virginia, Michael, and a younger sister, Marileen.

I went to a country school the first six years and attended and graduated from Sauk Centre Public the other six years. After graduation, I attended Brainerd Vocational Technical for a year and graduated as an L.P.N. That summer, I met my husband-to-be, Gene Weber. I worked at the St. Cloud Hospital for a year and then I moved to Melrose and worked at the hospital there. In the fall of 1964, on October 17, Gene and I were married.

Gene was born in Melrose, Minnesota, May 21, 1943. He grew up on the family farm near Elrosa with his parents, Frank and Frances Weber. Frances Weber was the daughter of Henry Meyer. There were six children in Gene's family: Valeria, Delores, John, Marie, and Art. He went to school a couple of miles from home, which was a small country school, then to Elrosa for five years, and later to Melrose Public. He stayed and helped his dad with the farm until he took it over himself.

After we were married, we moved onto the family farm near Elrosa, Minnesota, where we are presently living. It has been in the Weber family for three generations.

We have two sons, and both were born in Melrose. Mark was born July 20, 1965, and Rick was born May 12, 1967. They attended

school the first six years at Springhill, Minnesota, and are presently attending Melrose Public.

We are still farming. My husband raises hogs and row crops, and I work part time at the Melrose Hospital.

WILLIAM AND VIRGINIA [DZIENGEL] REXINE
5016 142 Path W.
Apple Valley, Minnesota

I, Virginia Dziengel, was born July 28, 1946. I'm the second oldest daughter of Chester and Philomae (Kuznia) Dziengel. I was born at Melrose, Minnesota. I lived on a farm twelve miles from Sauk Centre and graduated from Sauk Centre High in 1964. In January of 1965, I went to school at Wahpeton State School of Science for LPN training and graduated in January of 1966. I then worked at St. John's Hospital in Fargo for two years. In January of 1968, I moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was employed at Abbott Hospital, working in the intensive care and coronary care units for five years.

On November 9, 1968, I married William Rexine from Jamestown, North Dakota, at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church in Sauk Centre, Minnesota. Bill is the third youngest in a family of ten children of Ted and Agnes (Brophy) Rexine of Jamestown, North Dakota.

We have two children; Todd was born August 1, 1974, and Jason was born November 13, 1977. My husband is presently employed at Thermo King as a planning engineer for the Ireland plant. I'm presently employed at Group Health, St. Paul Clinic, in the obstetric and gynecology department as charge nurse.



William and Virginia Rexine Family -- 1978
[L-R] William, Virginia, Jason, and Todd

MELANY KUZNIA
7412 West 22nd Street #207
St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55426

Melany Kuznia was born July 31, 1920, the fourth child of Mike and Bridget (Zakrzewski) Kuznia. I attended school in Florian and spent my teen years in that community.

During the Second World War, I left Florian and went to Bremerton, Washington, to work. My brother, Ira, was employed at Bremerton at that time, and it made the transition that much easier.

During the four years I worked at Bremerton, I registered for night courses and went to night school.

A very memorable thing happened to me while walking down the street with my friends in the vast city of Seattle. Almost unthinkable, that relatives should meet. My cousin, Valerian Kuznia, was in the army at that time and was transferred from the

Aleutian Islands, with a stop over in Ft. Louis, Washington, before his furlough home. He came with his buddies to Seattle for the day. Low and behold, someone taps me on the shoulder, and that was Valerian! From shock, all I could say was "Jesus, Mary" (in Polish). As unreal as it may sound, it really happened!

I left Bremerton, Washington, just before the war ended, with a stopover in Spokane. While there, I heard the great news: The war was over!

After a brief stay in Florian, I went to Minneapolis to seek employment. I applied for a job at Dayton's, one of the department stores, and was hired. I have seen the store grow from one to a total of thirteen stores. Six stores in the suburbs and six outside of the Minneapolis area. With encouragement from the store officials, I registered and went to night school. Over the years, I have been an assistant buyer in various departments of the store. Presently, I am assistant buyer in boys' department, ages 4-7, and for the Boy and Girl Scout uniforms. Our job is vast, as we buy for all thirteen stores. As of now, I have been with Dayton's for 35 years.

Through the years, I have been very active in various church and social organizations. As a result, I have been blessed with true and lasting friends. I consider myself very lucky in that respect. God has been good to me.



Melany Kuznia -- 1979

IRA KUZNIA
Strandquist, Minnesota 56758

I, Ira Kuznia, the third son of Michael and Bridget (Zakrzewski) Kuznia, was born March 24, 1923, at their home in Florian.



Ira Kuznia with his parents, Mike and Bridget -- 1944

I attended grade school in Florian through fourth grade. I then attended the Cathedral school in Crookston, Minnesota, for fifth and sixth grade. This school was taught by the Sisters of St. Benedict. From seventh through twelfth grade, I attended Stephen High School. I graduated from there in 1941. I was the first Kuznia to graduate from Stephen. I then attended the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, where I took a nine-month welding course. I stayed at the YMCA and walked to Chandler Hall for lessons.

After finishing school, I took the train to Bremerton, Washington, to work in the Bremerton Naval Yards. When I got there, I had to take a welder's test on vertical, overhead, and flat welding. It was a very hard test, but I passed, and started welding on battleships. Some of the ships I welded on were the Nevada, Tennessee, West Virginia, and California. From Bremerton, I came home for one year and helped my dad on the farm.

Florian Kuznia, Ole Kleinsmith, Adolph Dziengel, and I went to LaGrande, Oregon, to get a job with the railroad. We had to make ten student trips before we qualified as brakemen, as we had to learn all the signals. We worked on big, compound maules steam engines that had sixteen steel wheels. I stayed there for a year and a half. Before going home, I went to Portland, Oregon, to take my physical for the Army and then to Bremerton to see my sister, Melany, who was working at the naval yards.

I was drafted into the Army and inducted into the service at Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minnesota. Nick Plencner and I joined the Navy. We took our basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, which is between Milwaukee and Chicago. After training, I went to San Diego, California, and stayed there for a while before I sailed overseas. I sailed on a troop transport to Manila Bay, and from there to other islands. While I was at one of these islands, I ran

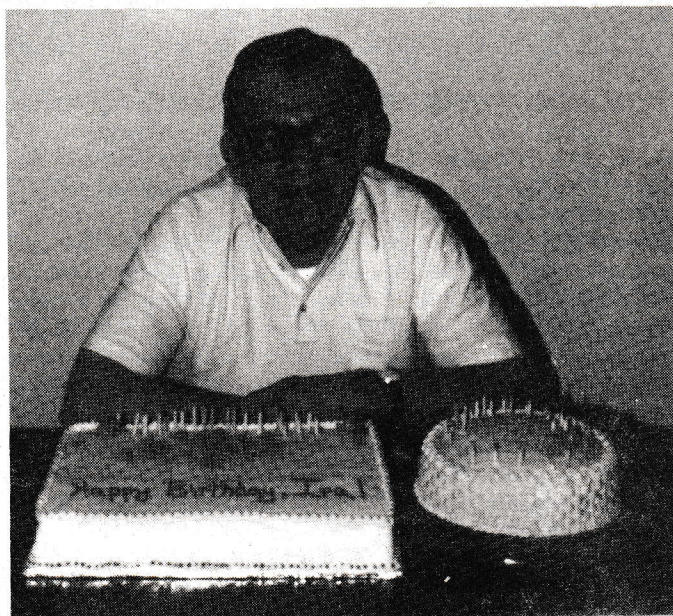
into Harry Kuznia. I was on crutches, and he was busy reading a book. I nudged him with one of my crutches. From there, we sailed back to Manila Bay on a destroyer. We ran into a terrific storm; dishes were falling of the shelves, and I thought we had been hit by a torpedo. We were called dry land sailors. I worked with the fire department, and with 100 pounds of pressure, the hoses were hard to hold on to.

From there, I sailed back to the United States and landed in San Francisco Bay at an island under the Golden Gate Bridge. I was supposed to sail back overseas, but I had a letter from Dad and went to see Lt. McCormick, and he told me, "Son, you are going home." I was so glad!

I stayed home for a year, and then Edmund Sczepanski, Kenneth Price, Florian Kuznia, and I went to Florida. We worked for the Far South Growers. On the way home, we went enroute Washington, D.C. There we saw the Smithsonian Institute and the plane which Charles Lindberg flew across the Atlantic. We took the first double lane highway built in the United States -- from Harrisburg to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. From there, we went on to Chicago to visit Henry Pietruszewski; then on to Milwaukee, St. Paul, and home. I also worked in Florida two years later. After my second year in Florida, I came home and started farming with my brothers. I've been in almost every state, except those which are north of Pittsburg.

In 1967, when my brother, Mike, got married, I built a new home in Florian, on the corner lot across from the church. My dad lived

with me until he passed away, and also my brother, Steve, who still lives with me.



Ira Kuznia -- 1980

EMIL AND FLORENCE [DONARSKI] KUZNIA
Stephen, Minnesota 56757

Emil Kuznia was born May 22, 1925, in Wright Township, Marshall County, Minnesota, to Michael and Bridget (Zakrzewski) Kuznia, their sixth child and fourth son. He attended Florian grade school and graduated from Stephen High School with the class of 1943. While in grade school, he attended and served Mass daily at the Florian Assumption Catholic Church for Father Kosian. Also, on the way to Mass, he would deliver milk and cream to the parish pastor as it was needed.

Emil enjoys all sports and likes to hunt; he played baseball with the Florian team in the late 1940's. He worked on the family farm with his dad and brothers. Emil, along with five other area young men: Alphonse, Florian, and John P. Kuznia, Edmund and Gordon Sczepanski, spent the winter of 1946-47 in Florida doing farm labor and sightseeing on their time off from work. In 1949, he started farming in partnership with his brother, Ira, raising small grain and potatoes.

On June 10, 1952, Emil married Florence Donarski, the daughter of John and Helen (Blazejewski) Donarski. She was born January 24, 1933. We homesteaded in Sinnott Township that fall. To this union, four sons were born: Rodney, Gregory, John Emil, and Douglas. The three oldest all graduated from the same school as their father, in the classes of 1971, 1973, 1975, and Douglas is a student at Stephen Public School. Rodney is married to the former Joyce Pawlowski, and they have one daughter, Karissa Kay. They now live on a farm in Nelson Park Township. Rodney, along with his brothers Gregory and John, are farming, taking over the family farm operation, which also includes a large beef herd. The brothers put in a lot of hard hours of farm labor, putting up the winter supply of feed for the cattle, baling hay and straw, and raising corn for silage.

The children all remember the Kuznia grandparents, except Douglas, who does not remember Grandma Kuznia, as he was born April 22, 1968, after she had passed away. The three older boys remember Grandma's home sewed shirts and stuffed toys, and her



Emil and Florence Kuznia Family -- 1974
[Standing L-R] Emil, Florence, Joyce, and Rodney
[Seated] John, Douglas, and Gregory

RODNEY AND JOYCE [PAWLOWSKI] KUZNIA
Strandquist, Minnesota 56758

chocolate cake, ginger snap cookies, and other goodies, her warm affection and smile. They all remember Grandpa Kuznia, as he would help with the summer farm work, always keeping the fences mended. Grandma Kuznia passed away in 1964, and Grandpa in 1974.

As for the Donarski side, my mother passed away when I was very young, in fact, less than two years old, September 23, 1934, leaving my father a widower with three young children. At that time, my sister, Dolores (now Mrs. Harry Kujava) was seven years old, and my brother, Louie Donarski, was five years old. My parents were building a new home when mother passed away, but somehow Dad managed. With his deep faith in God and help of family and neighbors, life went on, and he kept us all together. I can remember being left alone at times while my older sister and brother were in school and Dad would be out doing chores. One time I got a scissor and cut my hair very short on one side, and another time I cut a hole in a new oilcloth on the kitchen table.

In the fall of 1937, while on a hunting trip up north, my dad met Frances Skrabala. She was from Tolstoi, Manitoba, Canada. They were married February 8, 1938, so then we had a mom. To this union were born three children: Arlid (Mrs. Milfred Westberg), Veronica (Mrs. Wallace Knoll), and Allen John Donarski. We were all one, big happy family. Dad would refer to us as the "first batch" and the "second batch".

Life went on. In 1949, Dolores got married, and then Louie left home to work for several individuals. In 1952, it was my turn to leave the family, marrying Emil Kuznia. Family get togethers are very special to my family.

On July 19, 1955, our second son, Gregory, was born. On September 10, 1956, my father passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack. He left his widow with three young children, all in school: Arlid was a senior, Veronica a freshman, and Allen in grade school. He also left all the farm work, which included a herd of milk cows, a flock of sheep, chickens, etc. Again, with help from family and neighbors, Mom carried on. Emil and I and our family moved in to help with the farm chores. We spent the winter of 1956-57 taking care of the estate. It was while living here that John Emil was born on January 28, 1957; he was named after his grandfather and father. In March of 1957, a large estate sale was held, and after that we moved back to our home near Stephen. My home place, the Donarski estate, is located in Wright Township near the Old Mill.

In 1967, Mom, Frances Donarski, remarried. She married Walter Donarski, a widower and brother of my father. They are retired now, living on the Walter Donarski farm for the summer and spending their winters in Port Richey, Florida.

In 1969, my sister, Arlid Westberg, passed away very unexpectedly at the age of 28, leaving her husband, Milfred, and two small children: Jeffrey and Jody.

We are members of St. Stephen's Catholic Church, where all the boys were baptized, made their first Holy Communion, and were confirmed.

In June of 1977, we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary by taking a two week trip to Yellowstone National Park, Cody, Wyoming, and on to Montana. We timed our trip to attend the ordination of a cousin, Ted Szudera, to the priesthood at Billings, Montana. The ordination took place the day of our anniversary. When we returned home, our children hosted a very enjoyable evening out for dinner and champagne at the Crossroads in Hallock in celebration of our 25th anniversary.

During the winter months, Emil spends a lot of time at the local curling club, which most of the family have a great interest in. I also curl for a hobby, and I like to crochet and knit. In the summer, I have a large vegetable garden. We also enjoy being Grandma and Grandpa to our little Karissa Kay, as we never had a daughter, but now have a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter!

Rodney Joseph Kuznia was born March 20, 1953, at Karlstad, Minnesota, to Emil and Florence (Donarski) Kuznia.

We met November 1970 at a basketball jamboree in Argyle, Minnesota. Rod graduated in 1971 from Stephen High School in Stephen, Minnesota. Joyce Marie (Pawlowski) Kuznia graduated in 1971 from Argyle High School in Argyle, Minnesota. In September of 1971, Rod went to Thief River Falls Area Vocational Technical School for two years (1971-73) to be a carpenter. Joyce moved to the Cities after graduation to find secretarial work. After he was finished with vocational school, Rod also moved to the Cities for work. First he worked for Cecil Anderson of C.L.A. Construction as a carpenter. He later worked for LeRoy Jones as a brick layer. Then we went back to work for Anderson as a carpenter foreman on a housing project.

We were married Saturday, June 22, 1974, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Argyle, Minnesota. After our vows were spoken, there was a Model T (owned by Norman Bruneau and David Conely) waiting to take us to the reception, followed by a dance, which was held in my father, Ralph Pawlowski's, potato warehouse on his farm.

Joyce was born May 17, 1952, and is the daughter of Ralph and Evelyn Pawlowski. Ralph Pawlowski and Evelyn Deschene were married January 14, 1949. They have six other children: Mary Pawlowski married Kenneth Hage on May 16, 1970, and they have two sons: Westley Allen, who was born November 21, 1976, and died March 20, 1980, and Kerry Kenneth, born February 26, 1979. They live in Rogers, Minnesota. Kenneth Pawlowski married Diane Kostrzewski on July 26, 1975. They have one son, Anthony Wayne, who was born February 8, 1979. They live by Argyle. Donald Pawlowski married Phyllis Knoll on June 5, 1976, and they also live near Argyle. Joseph Pawlowski graduated from Argyle High School in 1979. Betty Pawlowski is in tenth grade, and John Pawlowski is in seventh grade.



Rodney and Joyce Kuznia and daughter Karissa -- 1980



Karissa Kay Kuznia -- -17½ months

During the first three years of our marriage, we did a lot of traveling. We saw most of the western United States. The most enjoyable place, to us, was seeing the Pacific Ocean. It was just breath taking! While there, we collected drift wood, beautiful starfish, large crab, and sea shells. We also saw Pike's Peak, Royal Gorge, the Coor's brewery, Four Corners (Arizona, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico), Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, and found pieces of turquoise in different caves.

In April of 1977, we moved to the Strandquist, Minnesota, area. We lived on the Kuznia "Ponderosa" farm, Section 20 of Nelson Park Township, owned by Emil Kuznia. The house is an old log cabin; actually, the Ponderosa was a stagecoach stop in the late 1800's and early 1900's. On June 30, 1978, it was a thrill to watch as the stagecoach made its overnight stop on its way to start Stephen's Centennial celebration. To commemorate the stagecoach stop, Emil Kuznia and sons put on a beef roast, with family and friends stopping by during the day.

During October of 1978, we moved to Section 16, Nelson Park Township, which is also known as the old Bringelson farm. The farm was purchased in 1975 from Lawrence and Russell Rood. When we moved to the farm, there was a big red and white barn and a steel bin, to which we added a trailer home and shop. Two weeks after moving to our farm, our daughter, Karissa Kay, was born, October 31 1978. Karissa is the first grandchild for Emil and Florence Kuznia.

Rod and Joyce are active in the Stephen Curling Club in the winter months and also enjoy bowling during the winter months. Joyce also belongs to a birthday club, which meets once a month. They are members of Assumption Catholic Church at Florian.

**BERNARD AND ROSALIA [KUZNIA] STUSYNSKI
Strandquist, Minnesota 56758**

I, Rosalia Ann Kuznia, was born at the family home in Wright Township, Marshall County, Minnesota, on November 25, 1927, which was the thirteenth wedding anniversary of my folks, Michael and Bridget (Zakrzewski) Kuznia.

I received my education, grades one through eight, at the Florian District #44 Country School. In those days, school began by attending Mass first, before school started. Father Kosian was pastor at this time. The one who was to lead prayers before Mass was appointed by him. During the Mass, we would sing Polish hymns. After Mass, we would run across the road to school, which would usually begin at 9 a.m. The teacher would ring the bell, and we would then take our places at our desks. The first thing we would do was stand up and say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. At noon, we would run home for dinner. This meant that Mom had to have the noon meal ready for us on time, nine months out of the year.

What I remember best of childhood summers was herding cows. Early in the morning, Emil and I would have to take the cows two miles away, east across the river, where the folks owned land. Here we would herd the cows in open meadows. At noon, we would water the cows at a fenced-in water pond. Later in the afternoon, we would then chase them back home. We didn't have wrist-watches, so we got to be pretty good at telling time by our shadows.

We were never bored when we were herding cows. We always thought of something to do. On one occasion, we took old lumber off an old granary and built a tree house. Dad didn't know where the lumber was disappearing to until he found the tree house. He put a stop to that quickly.

Evenings were spent playing hide-and-peek, ball, etc., with the neighbors' kids.

I didn't work out like the other kids did, so I spent most of my time helping on the farm. There were always things to be done: housework, fieldwork, and chores in the barn, as we always milked quite a few cows.

On June 14, 1949, I married Bernard Stusynski at the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church of Alma. We couldn't be married at Assumption Church of Florian, as the upper structure was being built. I will never forget how shocked I was as we came out of the



**Bernard and Rosalia Stusynski Family -- 1980
[L-R] Leonard, Theresa, Peter, Rosalia, Bernard,
Bernadette and William**

church on our wedding day; there stood a great big amphibious jeep, all decorated. We rode home from church in this jeep, which was about ten miles to my folks' place. John Kazmierczak and Nick Zakrzewski were our chauffeurs. When we arrived home, my oldest sister, Phil, was waiting for us on the door steps. She toasted us with water and dry bread. Our wedding reception was at my folks' farm, with my aunts providing both the dinner and the supper meal. Later in the evening, we had a wedding dance at the Florian Hall.

Bernard was the son of Adam and Anna (Staloch) Stusynski of Strandquist. He was born August 16, 1920, at his parents' home in Nelson Park Township, Marshall County, Minnesota. He served in the Armed Forces from 1944 to 1946. He was stationed in the Philippines and then did occupational duty in Japan. He has two

brothers, Ludvig and Robert, and three sisters: Florence (Mrs. Gerard Budziszewski, Loretta (Mrs. Thomas Dziengel), and Joan (Mrs. Kenneth Omdahl).

Following our marriage, we moved to a farm in Nelson Park Township. We started our farm with five head of cattle which were given to us by our parents. Barney and his brother, Ludvig, farmed in partnership for quite a few years. Later, Barney farmed until 1978 and then, because of health reasons, rented his farm out.

To this union, five children were born: Theresa, William, Leonard, Peter, and Bernadette. They all attended grade school at Englund Country School. Theresa graduated from Strandquist High School. Later, our district transferred over to Karlstad, where the rest of the children graduated.

Theresa married Kenneth Sylskar. William was born July 27, 1953, and now resides in Minneapolis and is working for a construction company. Our second son, Leonard, was born December 6, 1955. He works for the Soo Line Railroad in Minneapolis and has worked there for several years. On January 16, 1957, our third son, Peter, was born. He resides at home and worked for a lumber company in Stephen after graduation. Bernadette was born April 23, 1960, and after graduation from high school attended the AVTI in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Berna now works at the University of North Dakota Plant Services, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

We are active in various community affairs. I have held offices with the Assumption Ladies of Florian and the Polish National Alliance. I have also taught C.C.D. classes. Barney has served on the church council, held various offices in the P.N.A., and will be remembered as the Florian cop, which he served as for many years. He also served as a member of the township board, the Karlstad Hospital Board, and the Englund School Board. He is a Legion member. My hobby is crocheting, and his include fishing and playing cards.

KENNETH AND THERESA [STUSYNSKI] SYLSKAR
Karlstad, Minnesota 56732

I, Theresa Bernadette Stusynski, was born at Warren, Minnesota, on September 7, 1950, to Bernard and Rosalia (Kuznia) Stusynski.

I graduated from Strandquist High School in 1968. The following fall, I attended nurse's training at St. Joseph's School of Nursing, which was affiliated with the University of North Dakota. After one year and a half of training, I married Kenneth Sylskar on November 29, 1969, at the Assumption Catholic Church in Florian.

Kenneth is the son of Chester and Evelyn (Bouvette) Sylskar. After his father's death in 1959, his mother married Ellkay



Kenneth and Theresa Sylskar Family -- 1979
[L-R] Theresa and Kenneth
[Front] Michael and Kenneth, Jr.

Spangrud. He has two brothers, Danny and Tommy; and one half-sister, Lisa Spangrud. The Sylskar name originates in Norway.

After we were married, I quit nurse's training and got a job at St. John's Hospital in Fargo. We lived in Fargo for two years, and during this time, our two sons were born: Ken, Jr. and Michael.

In February of 1972, we moved back to my husband's home town of Karlstad. Here we managed Ken's stepdad's tavern business for one year. We then bought the business and changed the name to Ken's Pub.

I am active in several organizations. I've served as a voluntary member of the Tri-County Ambulance Squad for the past three years. This involves a lot of classes to keep up your certification. During the summer, both my husband and I enjoy playing softball; during the winter, skiing and snowcatting.

DONALD AND VERONICA [KUZNIA] JOHANSEN
Edinburg, North Dakota

Veronica Kuznia, the eighth child of Michael and Bridget (Zakrzewski) Kuznia, was born June 24, 1930. The birth took place at their home, as did the births of each of her sisters and brothers.

Being the eighth born wasn't always easy. When Veronica, nicknamed "Ronnie", was little, her older brother, Emil, and her older sister, Rosalia, would go out to herd cattle. Left home all by herself, Veronica would become lonesome. To call them in for lunch, she would take a white dish towel, find a high place to stand, and while waving the towel yell, "Cows, come home!"

While attending grade school at Florian, and speaking only Polish at home, Ronnie and Joann Rominski one day were ringing and ringing the school bell. The school teacher kept yelling, "Drop,

drop, drop!" Not knowing what the word "drop" meant, they kept ringing the bell. Later on at home, Veronica told her mom that today she had learned what "drop" meant.

In 1947, at only sixteen years of age, Ronnie graduated from high school at Stephen, Minnesota. She always wanted to be a nurse, but she had to be eighteen before she could enter the nursing school. She therefore worked as a nurse's aide at the Warren Hospital for one year, giving her much practical experience. She then entered Sister's of St. Joseph School of Nursing at Fargo, North Dakota, graduating in 1951. Veronica began nursing immediately at the Grafton Deaconess Hospital in Grafton, North Dakota. It was during this time she met Donald Johansen, her

future husband.

Donald was born September 21, 1927, to Henry and Frances (Murphy) Johansen. His was a large family, with many brothers and sisters: Robert, Norma, Douglas, Wallace, Margie, Gerald, and Clinton, who died in 1967.

Veronica and Donald were united in marriage on September 6, 1952, at St. Mary's Church in Park River, North Dakota. Their reception was held in the home of her parents. Home for the new couple was the Johansen family farm located northwest of Edinburg, North Dakota. They resided there until 1974, when they moved into a new home just west of Edinburg.

Five children were born to them: three sons and two daughters. Darryl arrived April 30, 1953. He graduated from Edinburg High School in 1971 and attended Wahpeton State School of Science. He is presently employed by Harold Sundvor of Edinburg in the farming business. Darryl enjoys outdoor activities; his favorites being hunting and fishing.

On August 27, 1954, a brother, Randy, was born. Darryl and he remember many fun times they had together, especially as children. What one wouldn't think of to do, the other one would. They were constantly getting themselves into rough situations. Randy also attended Edinburg school, graduating in 1972. He was married to Janet Olson in 1977, and they have one son, Jesse Michael.

Ronnie and Donnie had their first daughter May 6, 1956. They named her Mary. The boys didn't now what to think of her at first, but later on she did many nice things for them which only a sister could do. She also attended Edinburg school and graduated in 1974. Mary attended Mayville State College and Aaker's Business College. She was employed as a secretary in Grand Forks for several years and now is located at the PAR Missile Site north of Edinburg. Mary has many outside interests which keep her busy. She has made a great many ceramic items, decorates cakes, crochets many lovely pieces, bakes, and grows plants, of which she has enough to start her own nursery!

A second daughter, Jeanette, was born into the family June 28, 1958. She attended Edinburg school, graduating from there and attended Wahpeton State School of Science. In 1977, she married Marvin Momerak. They have one daughter, Amy Louise, who is the first grandchild of Veronica and Donald.

Donald, Jr. was born September 10, 1964. He is a student at Edinburg High School. During the summer, he works for area farmers.



Donald and Veronica Johansen Family
[Standing L-R] Darryl, Randall, Donald Jr., Mary Lou
[Seated] Donald, Jeanette, and Veronica

Veronica is employed as the head nurse at St. Ansgar Hospital in Park River, North Dakota, where she has worked for seventeen years. She keeps up her requirements for nursing by attending various workshops. Ronnie is also a member of the Quick Response Team in Edinburg. Donald is employed by Windingland Potato Company of Edinburg. They are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Park River, where Ronnie is a member of Altar Society and also of a newly formed prayer group, Christian Mothers. Their biggest enjoyment is their two grandchildren.

RANDALL AND JANET [OLSON] JOHANSEN **Edinburg, North Dakota**

Randall (Randy) Johansen, second-born son to Donald and Veronica (Kuznia) Johansen, was brought into this world on August 27, 1954, at the St. Ansgar Hospital in Park River, North Dakota. He grew up on the family farm, running and playing like all little boys do. He jumped from the hay loft in the barn, pretending to be Tarzan, and hid in the woods when he knew he deserved reprimanding.

He remembers traveling to his Grandparent Kuznias' home for the holidays and enjoying the old rickety bridge between North Dakota and Minnesota which he watched for on the way. He liked the sound of the wood as the car drove over. Naturally, through, the whole reason for the trip was the "best molasses cookies in the world" which Grandma would have waiting for him.

Randy also liked chocolate chip cookies, so much in fact, that he pretended he was sick one day at school. When they let him go home, he stirred up a batch of cookies and ate so much dough he really did get sick. Needless to say, Randy didn't bake again for a long time.

Randy attended grade school and high school in Edinburg, North Dakota, graduating from there in 1972. He worked through high school for a construction company building houses. He worked very hard in the hot sun tarring basements, but it all taught responsibility. He owned his own car and paid for its upkeep. His first few cars were being worked on more than they worked! One day while working under his car, it fell, burning Randy's arm quite badly. Scars remain today, reminding him to be more careful.

It was during his senior year of school that he met Janet. Janet Olson was born in Plentywood, Montana, on February 15, 1955, to Lawrence (Larry) and Bonita (McCall) Olson. Janet attended kindergarten in Plentywood, then her family moved to Great Falls, Montana, where they remained until after her sophomore year of high school. She moved to Edinburg, North Dakota, with her family, where her father was employed as an electrician on the missile sites. While they had never lived in the area, Janet's grandmother was born and reared some 80 years previous at Adams, North Dakota, a small town fifteen miles from Edinburg. They enjoyed the privilege of getting acquainted with many aunts, uncles, and cousins. In 1973, after one more year in Great Falls, they made a permanent move to Edinburg, where her father now has an electrical business.

Janet is the eldest of six children, having four sisters and one brother. Two sisters, Judy and Lori, are teachers. Jill is a home economics major at NDSU in Fargo. Mark is in high school at Edinburg, active in sports and music. Marjean, attending grade school in Edinburg, is also interested in music. She plays the piano and marimba quite exceptionally.

Randy and Janet went to the same school for one year, but nothing may have come of it if Randy's sister, Mary, hadn't done a little "matchmaking" one night after a ball game. It seems they couldn't get past dating once they learned how, either, for they went together more than six years and in three states before tying the knot.

Following that school year, Janet moved back to Great Falls, graduating from Charles M. Russell High in 1973. Randy followed to Great Falls and started work at a large food center, where he soon became the night manager. He left that job to move back to Edinburg when Janet started college in Moorhead, Minnesota. She graduated from Concordia College in 1977 with a major in music and a minor in English. Randy and Janet were married that summer, July 30, 1977, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Edinburg, where they are members. They purchased land two miles west of Edinburg and placed a mobile home there. Randy has since built a garage, also.

Randy is the bulk petroleum agent at the Edinburg Farmers Union Oil Company. This job gives him unlimited access to everything he needs to keep his cars in tip-top shape, something he does almost excessively. (Janet jokingly says he washes his car more than he washes dishes!) One of his favorite cars, a fairly new Ford Gran Torino, was always kept shiny and running smoothly -- that is, until Janet started driving it. Only a few months after they were married -- the first icy day of the year -- Janet totaled the car in an accident. Luckily, the only injury was to the car, but Randy insists on reminding Jan **often** of her unwanted wrecking service.

On June 7, 1978, their first son, Jesse Michael, was born. He was delivered at St. Ansgar's Hospital in Park River, the hospital where Randy was born. His grandmother, Veronica, was one of his nurses. Jesse has fun playing with anything he **shouldn't** have, loves the outdoors, tractors and riding lawn mowers (until they are started and make noise). He also has a great time with his only cousin, Amy.



Randall and Janet Johansen with son Jesse -- 1980

Randy is the president of his bowling league and is also a member of the Edinburg Volunteer Fire Department. He has taken courses in CPR in order to be a member of the Quick Response Team in Edinburg. Janet has taught public school music since graduation and has given piano lessons since early in high school. She enjoys teaching very much but has, at the present, only been teaching part-time in order to be home with Jesse. Summers are busy with gardening, canning, freezing, caring for a large lawn with a slow riding mower, and plowing around many new little trees.

MARVIN AND JEANETTE [JOHANSEN] MOMERAK Edinburg, North Dakota

Jeanette (Jeanne) Johansen, fourth child of Donald and Veronica (Kuznia) Johansen, was born June 28, 1958, at St. Ansgar's Hospital in Park River, North Dakota.

At the time Jeanne went to grade school, there was a merger between schools in Gardar, Mountain, and Edinburg. Jeanne, therefore, went to first and second grade at Edinburg and third through sixth grades at Gardar. Later, the elementary school was held only at Edinburg. In 1976, she graduated from Edinburg High School. She then attended North Dakota State School of Science at Wahpeton, North Dakota, for one quarter. She became engaged to Marvin Momerak, and they were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Park River, North Dakota.

Marvin is the son of Glenn and Sally (Dub) Momerak. He grew up in Park River, attended school there, and graduated in 1975. He has one sister, Betty, who lives in East Grand Forks, and three brothers: Donald, married to Marilee Sein and living near Gardar, Tommy, and Michael, who are attending grade school in Park River.

Marvin and Jeanne made their first home in Voss, North Dakota. Marvin was employed at Minto Mobile Services. Voss was nice, but Minto was closer to work, so later they moved to Minto. They now have a secluded spot east of Edinburg where they have placed their trailer home. Their daughter, Amy Louise, was born December 31, 1977. She was just two hours short of being a New Year's Baby, but is treasured all the same.

Amy is a fast learner. When she had her first real haircut at age 2, she promptly came home and showed her ability as a beautician. While sitting on her Aunt Mary's lap, she cut a big lock of hair from the back of her own head.

Jeanne is now employed full-time as a nurse's aide at Borg Memorial Home in Mountain, North Dakota. Marvin drives a semi-truck for Bruce Ellingson of Park River. They are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Park River. Jeanne and Marvin enjoy sports, specially snowmobiling and swimming.

MICHAEL AND LILLIAN [DOSTAL] KUZNIA Strandquist, Minnesota 56758

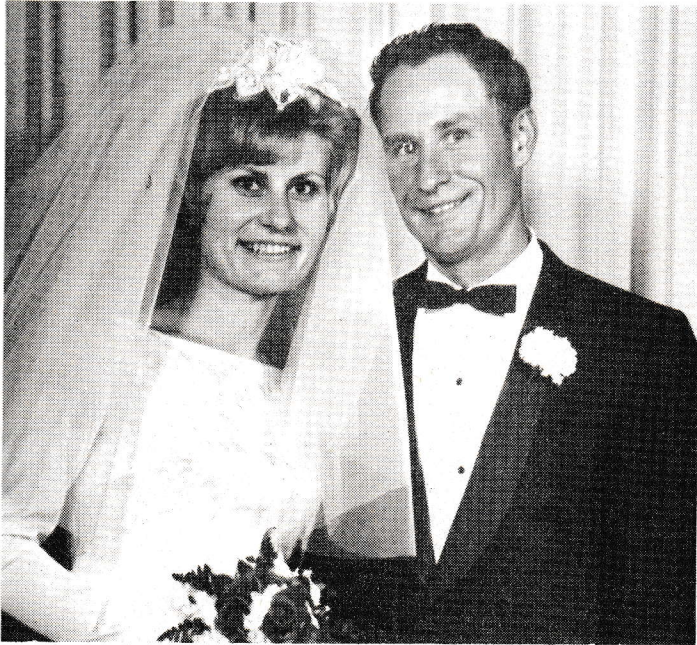
Mike S. Kuznia, Jr. was born October 3, 1933, at his parents' home in Wright Township, Marshall County, Minnesota. He was the last of the nine children born to Michael and Bridget (Zakrzewski) Kuznia. The other children had to go stay at an aunt's house until he was born, then they were allowed to come home and see their new little brother.

Mike attended first through fifth grade at the Florian School and finished his schooling and graduated from Stephen High School in 1952. During the winter, he often stayed with Aunt Agnes and Uncle Peter Kuznia at their home in Stephen, Minnesota. He recalls

that the rural school bus didn't follow much of a time schedule. After graduating, he farmed with his father and brothers. After his dad retired, he took over the ownership of the homeplace.

On September 23, 1967, Mike married Lillian Dostal at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Badger, Minnesota. Their wedding dinner and supper was held at her parents' farm in their machine shed, with one part sectioned off as a kitchen area. In the afternoon, they went to the studio to have their wedding pictures taken, but never did end up buying them. In the evening, a wedding dance was held at the Florian Hall. Lillian's parents couldn't make it to the

wedding dance, as her dad had just been released from the hospital shortly before the wedding, and she was grateful that he felt up to being at the wedding and giving her away. Up until the time of the dance, everything had gone as planned, and no one got "butterflies", but when the band was failing to show up, the bride and groom started to get worried. The delay was caused by a flat tire.



Mike Jr. and Lillian Kuznia -- 1967

Lillian Marie Dostal was born in Roseau, Minnesota, on April 6, 1946, the youngest daughter of Norbert and Helen (Kukowski) Dostal. Her maternal grandparents were Frank and Michaelena (Cybulski) Kukowski; paternal grandparents were Albin and Julia (Lubinski) Dostal; great-maternal grandparents were Andrew and Mary (Osleski) Cybylski and Anthony and Elizabeth (Shriver) Kukowski; great-paternal grandparents were Frank and Josephine (Koszita) Lubinski and Frank and Frances (Blazek) Dostal.

Lillian graduated from Badger High School in 1964, and then worked as a nurse's aide at St. Francis Hospital in Crookston, Minnesota, and as a teller at Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has four sisters: Virginia (Mrs. Chester Szklarski), Margaret (Mrs. Eugene Kuznia), Julianna (Mrs. Hilary Kuznia), and Edwardine (Mrs. John Szklarski). She also has two brothers: Bernard is married to Lois Meier, and James married to Kathleen Murray.

After they were married, they lived with Mike's dad and his brothers, Steve and Ira, for about a month, until Ira's new home was finished.

On August 8, 1968, at Crookston, Minnesota, their first child Gina Maria, was born. She was followed two years later by the birth of Cynthia Lynn, on October 17, 1970. She was born at Karlstad, Minnesota. In the winter of 1974-75, Mike, Lillian, and their two daughters loaded down the trunk of their little Plymouth with a few essentials of homemaking and clothing and lived in Tucson, Arizona, for almost four months while Mike sought medical advice. Gina received some of her first grade schooling there. Their nephew, Greg Kuznia, tended their cattle and lived in their home that winter. Until this time, Mike had done small grain farming and raised a herd of 130 beef cattle. In 1977, he sold the remainder of his beef herd.

In 1976, their home -- which had been in the family since 1914 -- saw the large enclosed porch remodeled into a small entry and an enlarged living room.

Gina will always treasure a large toy firetruck she won when she was grand prize winner of the fire poster contest in second grade. At age eight, Cynthia was probably the youngest organist to play for Mass at the Florian Church. Both girls attend Stephen Public School. On October 16, 1978, a third daughter, Maribeth Therese, was born. She was born the same day that the first Polish Pope, John Paul II, was elected. It was also the 50th wedding anniversary of their neighbors, Andrew and Kathryn Rominski. About a day or so later, St. Stanislaw Catholic Church at Warsaw, North Dakota, had a fire with extensive damage. Maribeth was born at Warren, Minnesota.



Mike, Jr. and Lillian Kuznia children -- 1980
[Back] Cindy and Gina; [Front] Jan and Maribeth

Having no natural born sons, the Kuznias have sponsored two "spiritually adopted" sons, Battu Marianna of India and Win U Joseph of Burma, since 1977. In 1979, they also added Raju John of India to their family. These sons are cared for by the P.I.M.E. missionaries and write letters to their parents.

Mike and Lillian are involved in their church's organizations. Lillian has taught many different grades in the C.C.D. program, been an officer of the Assumption Ladies of Florian, and both have served on the parish council. Mike is also a past president of the Polish National Alliance.

An event the family will never forget is their bus pilgrimage to Des Moines, Iowa, in October 1979 for the Mass celebrated by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, at the Living History Farms.



Jan -- born September 9, 1980

As this history gets ready to go to press, the Kuznias are awaiting an addition to their family in August or September of 1980. If it arrives a girl, it will be named Jan Josephine, and if it arrives a boy, it will be named Donovan Michael.

Being co-chairman of this book, Lillian has asked special privileges from the printer to reserve a spot for a photo of this new Kuznia, who has been with mother constantly for the past six months while she edited, researched, typed, and got the book ready for press and will lose out on some extra attention as Mother proofreads the book.