

# BENEDICT AND MATRILDA KUZNIA





# *Family Tree of Benedict and Mathilda Kuznia*

**BENEDICT KUZNIA b-1889, d-1960**  
to  
**MATHILDA STALOGH b-1899, d-1970**

**1. George Kuznia b-1920 to Zefiryna Adamski b-1926**

**A. William Kuznia b-1953 to Rosemary Bergeron b-1954**

- 1) Shane Kuznia b-1972
- 2) Dana Kuznia b-1973
- 3) Chad Kuznia b-1974
- 4) Stacy Kuznia b-1975

**B. Helen Kuznia b-1959 to David Goroski b-1953**

- 1) Derek Goroski b-1978

**2. Alphonse Kuznia b-1922 to Eleanor Grochowski b-1930**

**A. Roger Kuznia b-1951 to Bonnie Sundby b-1952**

- 1) Amy Kuznia b-1975
- 2) Rebecca Kuznia b-1977
- 3) Sarah Kuznia b-1979

**B. David Kuznia b-1953 to Adell Kostrzewski b-1956**

- 1) Jami Marie Kuznia b-1976
- 2) Tracy Kuznia b-1978

**C. Dean Kuznia b-1956 to Jillayne Bluhm b-1957**

**D. Daniel Kuznia b-1964**

**E. Mary Kuznia b-1967**

**F. Gerard Kuznia b-1974**

**3. Florian Kuznia b-1924 to Nettie Donarski b-1930**

**A. Henrietta Kuznia b-1950 to David Linder b-1949**

- 1) Carrie Linder b-1972
- 2) Jeremiah Linder b-1977

**B. Gerald Kuznia b-1952, d-1975**

**C. Dorothy Kuznia b-1953 to Wyman Hjelle b-1951**

- 1) Tracey Hjelle b-1974
- 2) Travis Hjelle b-1979

**D. Karen Kuznia b-1955 to Bruce Clark b-1953**

- 1) Heather Clark b-1979

**E. Michael B. Kuznia b-1957 to Carol Vik b-1958**

**F. Kevin Kuznia b-1962**

**G. Kimberly Kuznia b-1966**

**H. Garnette Kuznia b-1968**

**4. John P. Kuznia b-1926 to Elizabeth LaPlante b-1925**

**A. Paula Kuznia b-1954 to Waldemar Storm b-19**

**B. Renee Kuznia b-1957**

**5. Raymond Kuznia b-1928 to Agnes Cullen b-1938**

**A. Joseph Kuznia b-1959**

**B. Patrick Kuznia b-1960, d-1960**

**C. Timothy Kuznia b-1962**

**D. Benedict Kuznia b-1963**

**E. Geralyn Kuznia b-1964**

**F. Patricia Kuznia b-1965**

**G. Raymond D. Kuznia b-1966**

**H. Della Kuznia b-1968**

**I. Jayne Kuznia b-1971**

**6. Theresa Kuznia b-1930 to Fred Capistran b-1920**

**A. Donald Capistran b-1949 to Alnora Fitzke b-1929**

**B. Dale Capistran b-1952 to Vicki Fotia b-1960**

- 1) Tonella Marie Capistran b-1980

**C. Diane Capistran b-1954 to Kenneth DeVine b-1954**

- 1) Theresa DeVine b-1978

**D. Daryl Capistran b-1956**

**E. Darlene Capistran d-infancy**

**Theresa Kuznia to Bennie Jackson b-1933**

**7. Ben Jacob Kuznia b-1933, d-1933**

**8. Eugene Kuznia b-1934 to Margaret Dostal b-1939**

**A. Brian Kuznia b-1960**

**B. Ken Kuznia b-1961**

**C. Minda Kuznia b-1963**

**D. Jonathan Kuznia b-1964**

**E. Ivan Kuznia b-1965**

**F. Darla Kuznia b-1967**

**G. Gerda Kuznia b-1971**

**9. Irene Kuznia b-1937 to Lawrence Kiesow b-1928**

**A. Marilyn Kiesow b-1958 to Ron Bryl b-19**

**B. Laurie Kiesow b-1959**

**C. Dean Kiesow b-1961, d-1979**

**D. Judith Kiesow b-1962**

**E. Mary Kiesow b-1964**

**F. Bruce Kiesow b-1965**

**G. Ronald Kiesow b-1966**

**H. Betty Jo Kiesow b-1970**

**I. Lynn Marie Kiesow b-1972**

**J. Jackie Lee Kiesow b-1974**

**K. Kristi Kiesow b-1980**

**10. Rudolph Kuznia b-1939 to Anita Bouton b-1941**

**A. Charles Kuznia b-1964**

**B. Amy Kuznia b-1971**

**11. Clarence Kuznia b-1941 to Pauline Schmitz b-1949**

**A. Denise Kuznia b-1968**

**B. Dion Kuznia b-1970**

**C. Wade Kuznia b-1974**

**D. Christopher Kuznia b-1977**



## *Benedict and Mathilda (Staloch) Kuznia*

Benedict Walter Kuznia was born in Wright Township, Marshall County, Minnesota, on April 1, 1889, to Albert and Hedwig (Krzyszosiak) Kuznia. He was the thirteenth of sixteen children born to Albert and Hedwig.

Ben attended the District #44 School in Florian, Minnesota, which was about one and a quarter miles across the fields, so walking to school was always in order rather than using work horses for transportation. At that time, there was a dance hall, grocery store, gas station, and U.S. Post Office in Florian. After his schooling, Ben stayed home and helped his father farm until he was drafted into the military service during World War I. After receiving an honorable discharge, Ben returned to live and farm with his parents, brothers, and sisters.

Ben was especially fond of horses, which he took care of for his dad. He had a special knack of curing medical problems associated with horses. This frequently had neighbors referring to him as "horse doctor". It was during this time, while helping on the family farm, that Ben became acquainted with Miss Mathilda Staloch, whom he courted using a bicycle for transportation.

Mathilda became Ben's wife on October 14, 1919. They were married at the Assumption Catholic Church in Florian, with Reverend Hipolit Skopowski officiating.

Mathilda was born February 10, 1899, to John and Hedwig (Evon) Staloch, of Polish descent. She lived on a farm in Alma Township located in Marshall County, Minnesota. John Staloch was born May 12, 1861, in Poland. He married Hedwig Evon on February 23, 1892. Hedwig was born October 8, 1869, in Poland. John died in 1954, and Hedwig in 1950. Mathilda had four brothers: Paul was born January 1, 1894, and married Celia Hapka; Anzelm married Polly Pietruszewski; John, Jr. married Helen Wilebski; and Louis married Gertrude Benke. She also had three sisters: Mary was born in December of 1894 and married Frank Stancyk; Julia was born February 16, 1897, and married Jacob Hapka; and Anna married Adam Stusynski.

Ben and Mathilda bought a house from his brother-in-law, Tom Wilbeski. They moved the house to a homestead on 160 acres of land located three quarters of a mile west of Florian. The land was given to Ben by his father before he was married. Ben and Mathilda lived on this homestead their entire life. This marriage was blessed with eleven children: George, Alphonse, Florian, John, Raymond, Theresa, Benedict (who died in infancy), Eugene, Irene, Rudolph, and Clarence.

Ben raised oats, wheat, chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, pigs, cattle, sheep and horses. For transportation, he used a horse named Topsy and a buggy until 1934, when he bought a Model "A" Ford. He was known in the community as a blacksmith and veterinarian. On the back of the Model "A" was tied a table with his tools. Ben, along with his boys, would often spend all day working on a neighbor's herd, while taking only a few dollars for the service. On one occasion, a farmer called about his cow that couldn't get up. Ben, good fellow that he was, went over to help. After looking at the cow, Ben told the farmer it was suffering from starvation sickness. The farmer remarked that he had never heard of such a sickness.

Along with neighbors, every fall it was the custom to go to Terrebonne, Minnesota, located southeast of Red Lake Falls. Using



**Benedict and Mathilda Kuznia -- 1919**

a truck, they would bring a load of their wheat and exchange it for a year's supply of flour and breakfast cereals. In the fall, they would also go to the Red Lake Indian Reservation for fish. They butchered their own pigs and cured the meat for use the next summer. Ben enjoyed shooting jack rabbits with his Winchester 45-90 rifle, as it only took one shot to the head and the head was gone. Rabbits were also considered a good food source. As a sport, Ben also enjoyed getting into boxing matches with friends.

In January of 1946, the family had some excitement when the house burned down. A few of the children were home at the time; Raymond ran through the deep snow to Uncle Vincent's house to call the fire department. The house burned so fast, it could not be saved. Also, everything inside the house was lost. The family then moved into Roman Kuznia's house, located a half mile north. They lived there until April, while arrangements were made to purchase a house from Anders Bagaas. They moved the Bagaas house, located



in Wanger Township, across the fields while the ground was still frozen. The house was moved onto the same foundation as the old house. This house is still there today. William Kuznia, Ben's grandson, and his family now make it their home.

Ben had some health problems during much of his lifetime. He started having gall stone attacks at the age of forty-two, but it took doctors six years to diagnose the problem and remove the gall stones. In the mean time, he was treated for everything imaginable,

including tuberculosis. When he was sixty-two years old, his heart started to give him problems, and this condition continued until he died of heart failure on April 5, 1960, at seventy years of age.

Mathilda was a very healthy and energetic woman, who stayed active all her life. She loved to challenge people to a foot race, often winning against much younger opponents. Her death on March 4, 1970, at age seventy, was due to cancer, which resulted from an accidental eye injury four years earlier.



**Benedict and Mathilda Kuznia Family -- 1959**  
[Standing L-R] Eugene, George, Raymond,  
Florian, John P., and Alphonse  
[Seated] Rudolph, Theresa, Benedict, Mathilda,  
Irene, and Clarence



**GEORGE AND ZEFIRYNA [ADAMSKI] KUZNIA**  
Argyle, Minnesota 56713

George Aloyz Kuznia is the eldest son of Benedict and Mathilda (Staloch) Kuznia. He was born on June 21, 1920. He attended public school in Florian, Minnesota, where he excelled in a game called wolf, which was part football and part tag. After completing school, he worked for a couple of farmers in the area. He then was called into the Service on March 5, 1942. It was the first large group to leave Marshall County. He served in the North African Campaign, Italy, southern France, and into Germany. He had the distinction of coming home from England on the Queen Elizabeth, which made its record run of three days and eleven hours, which still stands today. They were the first large group that were discharged on September 30, 1945.

Right after the first of the year, his folks lost their home due to a fire. George stayed home and helped them place another house on the farm. There were a lot of barn dances that year. That's where he met his future wife -- at a barn dance. In the mean time, he got into farming.

George married Zefiryna Adamski, daughter of Joe and Helen Adamski, on October 21, 1947. They bought the farm where they presently live in 1950.



**George and Zefiryna Kuznia**

They were unable to have children of their own, so they tried adoption. On August 13, 1953, they were blessed with an eleven-day-old boy whom they named William. Six years later, on March 23, 1959, they were blessed with a girl. They named her Helen.

At present, their son, William, is engaged in farming with his dad. They grow wheat, corn, sunflowers, and hogs.

George and Zefiryna have been doing foster care. At present, they have taken in their twentieth foster child. Some foster children have occupied their home for just a short time; the longest has been a period of five years.

Zefiryna has taken an active part in the church. She has been a past president of the Assumption Ladies. She is also active in the American Legion Auxiliary in Argyle, Minnesota, and a member of the Polish National Alliance.

George has been active in the Assumption Church at Florian, where he has been a lector for over 25 years. He has been a past president of the P.N.A., and is presently the commander of American Legion Post #353, Argyle, Minnesota. He is chairman of the Marshall County Park Board of Florian Park, and has been since its development.



**William and Rosemary Kuznia Family**  
[L-R] Stacy, Chad, William, Rosemary, Dana, and Shane

**WILLIAM AND ROSEMARY [BERGERON] KUZNIA**  
Stephen, Minnesota 56757

William Paul was born in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, on August 2, 1953. He was adopted and brought home on the fourteenth of August by Mr. and Mrs. George Kuznia, who are of Polish descent.



and live in Wright Township of Marshall County, Minnesota.

William obtained all his schooling at the Argyle Public School, where he became acquainted with Rosemary Bergeron in junior high. She later became his wife.

They were married at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church at Argyle, Minnesota, on August 28, 1971. The ceremony was officiated by Reverend Henry Rousseau, who soon retired. They were the last couple he was to marry.

Rosemary Bergeron was born in Crookston, Minnesota, on September 13, 1954, to Kenneth and Eleanor (Dufault) Bergeron, who are of French descent. She has three brothers and one sister: Wayne married Gerrie Gustner and farms in Argyle; Gayle married Sharon O'Keefe and they live in Thompson, North Dakota; Linda

died when she was fourteen years old; Dwight is married to Sarah Swenside and they live in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

William and Rosemary live in the house which once belonged to his grandfather, Ben Kuznia. They rented the house and also were engaged in farming with his father, who had been farming this land for many years. William and his father later formed a partnership, "Kuznia Dairy Farms". In 1977, William bought the farm from his father. They grew wheat, sunflowers, and corn, and they raised dairy cows until 1979, then went into hogs. William has enjoyed working with motors or mechanic work in his spare time.

Born to William and Rosemary are four children: Shane - January 11, 1972; Dana - April 25, 1973; Chad - May 5, 1974; and Stacy - May 3, 1975. They all attend Stephen Public School.

Their farm is located one-half mile west of Florian, Minnesota.

**ALPHONSE AND ELEANOR [GROCHOWSKI] KUZNIA**  
Argyle, Minnesota 56713

Alphonse Kuznia, the second of eleven children, a son of Benedict and Mathilda (Staloch) Kuznia, was born in Wright Township, Marshall County, Minnesota, in March of 1922. After attending rural school in Wright Township, he worked for several farmers for a number of years. He joined the U.S. Army in 1946 and served most of the time in the Philippine Islands. He was discharged in 1948.

In October of 1950, Alphonse was united in marriage to Eleanor Grochowski at Assumption Catholic Church in Florian, Minnesota, by Rev. Michael Wisiewski. Eleanor and Alphonse were both members of the Assumption parish.

Eleanor is the daughter of Walter and Plidy (Chwialkowski) Grochowski. She was born in Wright Township, Marshall County, Minnesota, in June of 1930. She also attended rural schools in Nelson and Wright Township. She had four brothers: Ferman of St. Paul, Minnesota; Raymond of Strandquist, Minnesota; Louie of Maple Grove, Minnesota; and Walter, Jr., who died when he was six months old. She has two sisters: Antoinette (Mrs. Ray Donarski)

of Argyle, Minnesota; and Theresa (Mrs. Leonard Kathman) of Argyle, Minnesota.

Alphonse and Eleanor bought a farm in Foldahl Township in January of 1951. They built a new home in 1966, and at present are still living there.

They are the parents of six children. Roger is married to Bonnie Sundby, and they live in Elk River, Minnesota. David is married to Adell Kostrzewski, and they live near Argyle, Minnesota. Dean is married to Jill Bluhm, and they live in Warren, Minnesota. Daniel was born in January of 1964, Mary was born in October of 1967, and Gerard was born in January of 1974. They are living at home. Alphonse and Eleanor have five grandchildren.

Since May of 1956, Alphonse has worked in building construction as an equipment operator. Both Alphonse and Eleanor belong to a number of organizations in the area. They are both of Polish descent and still are members of the Assumption Catholic Church in Florian, Minnesota.

**ROGER AND BONNIE [SUNDBY] KUZNIA**  
7824 Odell Avenue  
Elk River, Minnesota 55330

Roger Ignatius Kuznia was born July 31, 1951, to Alphonse and Eleanor (Grochowski) Kuznia. He was born at the Warren Hospital in Warren, Minnesota. He was the first of six children.

Roger attended country school in Foldahl Township through the fourth grade. Since Polish was spoken at home, English was learned while attending country school. He attended Newfolden Community School from fifth through eighth grade. Then, due to a shift in school district lines, Roger attended Argyle High School from ninth through twelfth grade.

Upon graduation, Roger attended Moorhead State University, Moorhead, Minnesota, and during the summers of college worked in construction and helped out on the farm. While attending college,



**Alphonse and Eleanor Kuznia Family**  
[Standing L-R] Roger, Dean, David, Daniel  
[Seated] Alphonse, Gerard, Mary, and Eleanor

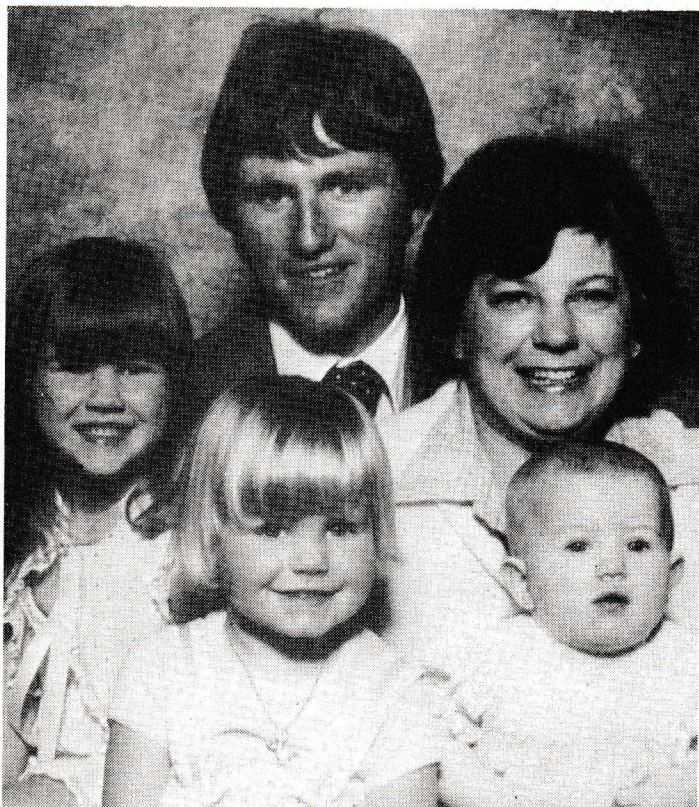


Roger met Bonnie Lou Sundby. He graduated from Moorhead State University in May of 1973, and was married to Bonnie the following fall on September 1, 1973, at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Roger sold real estate and worked as a purchasing agent following graduating from college. He then worked as a service representative for Allis-Chalmers Corporation for five years. He is currently employed as a technical service manager for International Harvester Company.

Bonnie is the daughter of Howard and Lorraine (Forsgren) Sundby and was born in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, November 3, 1952. She has four sisters: Jerri Baker, Lona Jose, Vicki Langeberg, and Cindy Sundby; and two brothers: Tom and Tim. Bonnie attended Moorhead High School and graduated in June of 1971. She attended and graduated from Moorhead Area Vocational-Technical Institute in 1972. She worked as a secretary for the Department of Education, State of Minnesota, St. Paul, for three years. She quit in the spring of 1975.

Amy Beth was born June 18, 1975. Rebecca Anne was born two years later on June 28, 1977. Sarah Marie was born on October 3, 1979.



**Roger and Bonnie Kuznia Family -- 1980**  
[Children L-R] Amy, Rebecca, and Sarah

Roger and Bonnie have lived in various apartments around Minneapolis-St. Paul and then built a home near Elk River, Minnesota, the summer of 1977. They moved in during November of 1977, and are currently living in the same home. They are members of St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Elk River, Minnesota.

**DAVID AND ADELL [KOSTRZEWSKI] KUZNIA**  
Argyle, Minnesota 56713

David Paul Kuznia, son of Alphonse and Eleanor (Grochowski) Kuznia, was born on June 28, 1953, in Crookston, Minnesota. He

attended country school for two years. For four years, he attended Newfolden Public School. He finished his remaining years in Argyle Public School, where he graduated in June of 1971. For one year, he attended Moorhead State College, Moorhead, Minnesota. David worked on various construction jobs, and he is presently doing the same.

On November 22, 1975, David and Adell Kostrzewski were united in marriage at the Assumption Catholic Church, Florian, Minnesota. Adell is the daughter of Roman and Helen (Kroll) Kostrzewski of Stephen, Minnesota. Roman is of Polish descent, and Helen is of Polish and German descent. Adell has one brother, David, of Stephen, Minnesota. She also has five sisters: Delphine (Mrs. Gordon Pietruszewski) of Strandquist, Minnesota; Eleanor (Mrs. Robert Berberich) of Brooks, Minnesota; and Denise and Sheryl at home. Adell attended Stephen Public School and graduated in 1974.



**David and Adell Kuznia -- 1975**



**Tracy Ann and Jami Marie Kuznia -- 1979**



David and Adell have two daughters. Jami Marie was born September 11, 1976, and Tracy Ann was born November 25, 1978.

In the summer of 1978, David and his father -- with the help of many friends -- built a new home in Foldahl Township, rural Argyle, Minnesota, where David and Adell now live.

**DEAN AND JILLAYNE [BLUHM] KUZNIA**  
**Warren, Minnesota 56762**

Dean Alphonse Kuznia was born on May 14, 1956, to Alphonse and Eleanor (Grochowski) Kuznia in Crookston, Minnesota. After coming home from St. Francis Hospital, he made his home at Route 1, Argyle, Minnesota, with his parents and two brothers, Roger and David. The family later grew, adding Daniel, Mary, and Gerard.

Dean entered school in Newfolden, Minnesota, in 1962, for his first three grades. He then went to Argyle Public School for the rest of his public school education. After graduating in 1974, Dean decided to attend Moorhead State University in Moorhead, Minnesota. He graduated in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in finance. He is currently employed as an accountant at Warren Implement Company, Inc., in Warren, Minnesota.

In August of 1979, Dean and Jillayne Bluhm were united in marriage at the First United Congregational Church in Alexandria, Minnesota. Jill was born to Don and Carol Bluhm on May 5, 1957, in Wheaton, Minnesota. She attended elementary school at Wheaton. With her parents and brother and sister, Chuck and Jackie, they moved to Alexandria, Minnesota, in 1967. Jill graduated from high school there in 1975. She then moved to Moorhead, Minnesota, in 1976 to attend Moorhead Area Vocational Technical Institute to further her studies in the secretarial field. She worked for Structural Products in Fargo, North Dakota, for three and a half years until her marriage in 1979. Jill is currently employed by Marshall Polk Rural Water in Warren, Minnesota.

Dean and Jill live in Warren, where they attend Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.



**Dean and Jillayne Kuznia -- 1979**

**FLORIAN AND NETTIE [DONARSKI] KUZNIA**  
**Strandquist, Minnesota 56758**

Florian Joseph Kuznia was born March 16, 1924, to Benedict and Mathilda (Staloch) Kuznia in Wright Township, Marshall County, Minnesota. Florian met Nettie Donarski, a girl from a neighboring farm, and they were married June 27, 1950, at Assumption Catholic Church in Florian, Minnesota.

Nettie's parents, Nick and Dorothy (Paluszynski) Donarski, are of Polish descent and farmed in Wanger Township. Nettie had eight brothers and sisters: Elenore, who died as an infant; Eileen Tucher of Grand Forks, North Dakota; Frances Dahl of Grand Forks, North Dakota; Stella Fitzsimmons of Aurora, Minnesota; Nick, Jr., who died at age 36 of a heart attack; Theresa, who died as an infant; Irvin, who lives on the home place in Wanger Township; and Yvonne Kostrzewski of Warren, Minnesota.

After their marriage, Floyd and Nettie lived with her parents until January of 1951. Their first child, Henrietta Ann, was born December 11, 1950. They moved to care for Frank Parr's farm while Parris were vacationing in Texas. The following spring, they moved in with Nettie's great aunt until they bought a farm in Nelson Park Township. Florian did some farming and worked on construction.

Their second child, Gerald Joseph, was born February 16, 1952. Dorothy Mae was born July 30, 1953, and Karen Marie was born June 4, 1955. In 1957, they moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, as Florian was employed at the Grand Forks Air Force Base doing construction work. On December 25, 1957, Michael Benedict was born. In 1961, they moved back to the farm in Nelson Park Township. They bought a house which had belonged to Florian's uncle, Joe Kuznia, and had it moved to their farm. Kevin Ignatius was born January 5, 1962. Kimberly Elizabeth was born December 23, 1966, and Garnette Mary was born May 29, 1968.

The oldest son, Gerald, entered the Marine Corps in 1972 and was stationed in Okinawa, in the north Pacific, for one year. He was discharged in February of 1974, and then worked in construction. He died in a drowning accident July 4, 1975, at Lake Bronson, Minnesota.

Kevin, Kim, and Garnette are living at home and attend Karlstad Public School. Florian is presently working in Grand Forks, North Dakota, as a construction worker, and Nettie is working at home caring for her family.





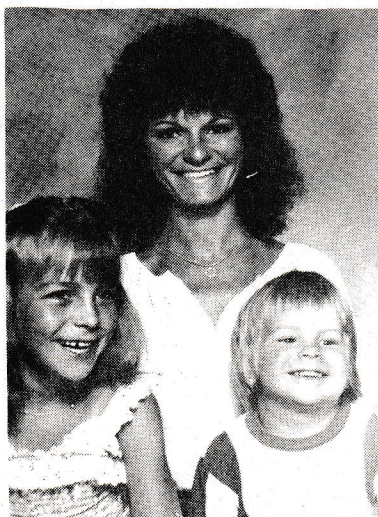
**Florian and Nettie Kuznia Family -- 1977**

[Back L-R] Dorothy, Kevin, Henrietta, Michael, Karen  
[Front] Garnette, Nettie, Florian, Kimberly

**HENRIETTA [KUZNIA] LINDER**  
Warren, Minnesota 56762

Henrietta Kuznia was born to Florian and Nettie (Donarski) Kuznia on December 11, 1950, at Drayton, North Dakota. She attended numerous elementary schools and attended high school at Karlstad, Minnesota. She met David Linder in 1967, while she was a junior in high school. He then entered the armed services and was discharged in 1971.

Henrietta graduated from Karlstad High School in 1968. She graduated from the Thief River Falls School of Practical Nursing in 1970 and was then employed at Northwestern Abbott Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota, until her marriage to David Linder on June 26, 1971, at Assumption Catholic Church of Florian. David was employed in construction.



**Henrietta Linder**  
Carrie and Jeremiah

David was born June 27, 1949, to Arthur and Delores (Schey) Linder of Strathcona, Minnesota, who are of Swedish descent. He had four brothers and sisters. James is living at home in Strathcona, Minnesota; Daniel was killed in a car accident in 1977; Debra Hornbeak is living in Kennedy, Minnesota, and Janell is still living at home. David attended Greenbush High School.

In 1972, David and Henrietta lived in Warren, Minnesota, where Henrietta was employed by the Good Samaritan Center as a charge nurse. Their first child, Carrie Ann, was born September 10, 1972.

When Carrie was a month old, David and Henrietta left to travel for one year. They lived in the following cities: Aberdeen, South Dakota; Denver, Colorado; Phoenix, Arizona; Tucson, Arizona; and then just before returning to Minnesota, they joined a harvest brigade in Kansas.

In September of 1974, while they were living on the farm of Henrietta's grandfather, Nick Donarski, in Wanger Township, David and Carrie were in a car accident while Henrietta was at work. Carrie was in St. Luke's Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota, for five weeks with severe head injuries. She has almost total recovery after re-learning all body functions.

On May 16, 1977, a son, Jeremiah Daniel, was born at the Warren Memorial Hospital in Warren, Minnesota.

David and Henrietta were divorced in December of 1977. Carrie is attending first grade at Warren Elementary. Henrietta is presently living in Warren, Minnesota, with her two children and is employed as a private nurse near Angus, Minnesota.

**WYMAN AND DOROTHY [KUZNIA] HJELLE**  
Strandquist, Minnesota 56758

Dorothy Kuznia is the daughter of Florian and Nettie (Donarski) Kuznia of rural Strandquist, Minnesota. Dorothy was born July 30, 1953, in Karlstad, Minnesota. She attended most of her years of school at Karlstad Public School and graduated from there in 1972. On August 18, 1973, she was married at the Assumption Catholic Church in Florian, Minnesota, to Wyman Hjelle of Newfolden, Minnesota.

Wyman was born to Christ and Ellen Hjelle on October 8, 1951. He has one brother, Elroy, who lives outside of Milaca, Minnesota. His sister, Carolyn, lives in Fort Madison, Iowa. They are of Norwegian and Swedish descent. Wyman graduated from high school in Newfolden, Minnesota, in 1969. He is self-employed in roofing and also does a lot of mechanic work.

Dorothy has been working for Arctic Enterprises for the past three years. After they were married, they settled in Fridley, Minnesota, for about six months. They later moved to Milaca, Minnesota, and lived there almost a year. After that, they bought a



**Tracey and Travis Hjelle -- 1979**



house by Drayton, North Dakota, and had it moved to Nelson Park Township, rural Strandquist, Minnesota, where they now live.

Wyman and Dorothy have two children. Tracey Jean was born on May 29, 1974, and Travis Wyman was born September 15, 1979. They were both born in Karlstad, Minnesota.

**BRUCE AND KAREN [KUZNIA] CLARK**  
2708 84th Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55444

Karen Kuznia is the daughter of Florian and Nettie (Donarski) Kuznia of Strandquist, Minnesota. She was born in Karlstad, Minnesota. She attended Karlstad School and graduated from Karlstad in 1973.

On July 6, 1974, she married Bruce Clark, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Clark of Karlstad, Minnesota. He was born and raised in Fulda, Minnesota. Bruce graduated from Fulda in 1971.



Heather Clark -- 16 months

**JOHN AND ELIZABETH [LAPLANTE] KUZNIA**  
Crookston, Minnesota 56716

On June 24, 1926, a baby boy was born near Florian, Minnesota. "We'll name him John Paul," his parents said. But mostly they called him John. So Ben and Mathilda's son was baptized John Paul Kuznia at the Assumption Catholic Church in Florian, Minnesota. His baptismal sponsors were Peter Kuznia and Julia Staloch Hapka.

John was the fourth child in the family. His parents, Ben Kuznia and the former Mathilda Staloch, already had three sons: George, Alphonse, and Florian (Floyd), respectively.

The farm where the Kuznias lived was small, but it proved to be large enough to support Ben, Mathilda, and their family of ten, including little John.

Baby John grew fast. Soon he was crawling; then he was walking and talking, and following behind his older brothers. Ben Kuznia looked at his son and joked about the way little John could

After their marriage, they resided in the Minneapolis metropolitan area. Karen attended Hennepin County Vocational School for medical secretarial studies and later worked at Fairview Southdale Hospital and Children's Health Center in Minneapolis. Bruce has been employed with Honeywell since 1973 and is a 1979 graduate of the University of Minnesota, with a bachelor of science degree in computer science.

They have one child, Heather Lynn, who was born March 4, 1979.

**MICHAEL BENEDICT KUZNIA**  
Strandquist, Minnesota 56758

Michael Benedict Kuznia was born to Florian and Nettie (Donarski) Kuznia on December 25, 1957, at St. Michael's Hospital in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He attended school in Karlstad, Minnesota, and graduated from Karlstad High School in 1976. Michael was very athletic in high school, playing in football and basketball. He attended the University of Minnesota at Crookston, Minnesota, for two years, majoring in computer business systems. He graduated in 1978 with an applied science degree.

Michael was married on September 3, 1977, to Carol Vik of Halma, Minnesota. She was born April 27, 1958, and graduated from Karlstad High School, where she and Mike met. Carol was a cheerleader during her high school years. She is the daughter of Robert and Alice (Anderson) Vik. She had two sisters and one brother: Cheryl Sjodin of Karlstad, Minnesota, Cindy Hansen of Karlstad, Minnesota, and David Vik of Moorhead, Minnesota.

Mike and Carol made their home in Crookston, Minnesota, and they both attended U.M.C. In the fall of 1978, they were resident group home parents for the retarded in Crookston, Minnesota, at which time Michael was also employed by Smith Construction of Grand Forks, North Dakota. On March 3, 1979, Carol was in a car accident that kept her hospitalized for several months. Mike and Carol were divorced in the fall of 1979. Michael is presently living at his parents' home in rural Strandquist, Minnesota, and is employed by Smith Construction of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

talk and talk, but Ben was proud because John had inherited a characteristic which would prove to be an asset to John for the rest of his life: that is the ability to get along with people of all walks of life.

Following in his strong Catholic heritage, John made his First Penance, his First Communion, and Confirmation at the Assumption Catholic Church in Florian, Minnesota. John also served as an altar boy at the Assumption Catholic Church.

John went to elementary school at Florian, Minnesota, speaking English in the classroom and sneaking in some Polish at recess. John graduated from elementary school at Florian, Minnesota, and proceeded to attend high school at the Stephen High School, Stephen, Minnesota. John, while attending Stephen High School, was involved in the typical high school activities that mark an



adolescent's life while attending school. But if you ask John his most remembered moments, they were those spent participating in basketball. That enthusiasm for sports is still very apparent in John's life. If in doubt, ask his wife where you can find John during the different sports seasons on Sunday afternoons and Monday nights.

Ben Kuznia had his own farm near Florian, Minnesota, so John learned to do all kinds of hard work. John plowed fields. He planted seeds, fed animals, threshed grain, picked potatoes, and cut corn. John chopped down trees and split logs for firewood. When John's father didn't need him on his farm, John helped on the farms of his neighborhood relatives. John continued to work on farms after his graduation from high school. For six years during the springs, summers, and falls, John labored and toiled on the Frank Parr farm near Stephen, Minnesota, migrating to Florida for the winters. John's answer for working hard during his life is the fact that his father taught him to work hard, but to do that work with a smile on his face and a prayer in his mind.

War once again broke out overseas, and the need for young men to defend our country left not a community within the United States spared. John was drafted into the Army in June of 1950. John served in the First Calvary Combat Division in Korea. John was awarded the Purple Heart for being wounded in action while serving in Korea. During his bout in the Army, John was awarded the Occupational Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Campaign Stars. After serving in the Army for two years, John received an honorable discharge in June 1952. Johnnie then came marching home to the familiar tune of "Where do I go from here?".

John returned to his father's farm, but remained there for only a short time, basically long enough to date, propose, and marry Elizabeth (Betty) Adelle Bilden La Plante, a cute, little blond-haired blue-eyed farm girl from rural Crookston, Minnesota.

So, the wedding bells rang out on a bleak day in November; to be exact, on the 19th day of November at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Church, in a private ceremony presided over by Monsignor John R. McAleer. The day may have been bleak, but to John and Betty Kuznia, it was the brightest day in the world, as those days continue to be bright and happy for them after 27 years of marriage.



**John and Betty Kuznia**

After their marriage, John and his new bride moved to a farm near Crookston, Minnesota, where they began to farm. The farm they moved on to was filled with old buildings, but together they worked, tore down the old buildings, and replaced them with new

ones -- that is, with the assistance of his brothers -- to give their farm its own character. So, on the farm they built together, (better known as "Green Acres"), they still reside some 27 years later. It is located three miles west and a mile and one half north of Crookston, Minnesota. Remember, if you are ever in the area, stop by and you will be welcomed by the aroma of Betty's kitchen and the friendly smile and hello of John at the door.

As the years have gone by, John is still engaged in farming. Also, he is employed at the American Crystal Sugar Company of Crookston as a first class technician. John is also involved in many community clubs and organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, DAV, American Legion, Eagles, Elks, and the Big Blue Club. John and Betty are both members of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Church. Betty is and always will be a first class homemaker (or should I say "household engineer"). The main job of their life has been very enjoyable, as they witnessed the growth and development of their two lovely daughters, Paula Marie Kuznia Storm and Renee Kuznia.

Betty gave birth to Paula on April 2, 1954, at St. Francis Hospital in Crookston, Minnesota, with an anxious young John waiting to take his wife and new daughter home. Baptized Paula Marie, she was a very active little girl, always on the go, and the "apple" of her father's eye.

Paula attended Cathedral Grade School and Mount St. Benedict High School in Crookston, Minnesota. She graduated from high school in 1972, but her education did not stop there. Her inherited strong-will and determination led her on to college. Paula graduated from the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota, in 1976 with a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education/special education. Her desire to achieve did not stop there, either. Paula continued her education at the University of North Dakota, where she worked on her Masters in education/slow learning disabilities. Paula met her husband, Wally Storm, while attending the University of North Dakota, where he was attending medical school.

Paula Marie Kuznia and Dr. Waldemar George Storm II were united in marriage on June 11, 1979, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Church in Crookston, Minnesota, witnessed by a sentimental father and mother. But, as the saying goes, John did not lose a daughter, he finally gained a son. Paula and Wally are happily married newlyweds working together as their parents did to build a life together in that same Kuznia tradition.



**Wally and Paula Storm**

Paula was the "apple" of one of John's eyes, and the "apple" of John's other eye followed Paula about three years later. Renee Jean Kuznia interrupted the harvest of her father's crops on a hot August day. Betty gave birth to Renee on August 25, 1957, at the St. Francis Hospital in Crookston, Minnesota. Baptized Renee Jean



Kuznia, she and her mother joined an out-numbered father and an anxious sister on their farm near Crookston, where Renee hobbled and bounced herself into action.

Renee was educated in a tradition that was established by her older sister. Renee attended Cathedral Elementary School and Mount St. Benedict High School in Crookston, Minnesota. She graduated from Mount St. Benedict in 1975, with the poise and determination of those who proceeded her. The hard-working little farm girl continued her education at the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota, where her older sister, Paula, had set the pace three years prior. Renee graduated from the College of St. Benedict in 1979 with a bachelor of arts degree in business administration/management and a bachelor of arts degree in sociology. Renee is now working and also plans to further her education to enable herself to establish a career.

The main job of John and Betty's lives is not over, although their daughters are grown and away from home. They have the past memories, but more so, they have the memories of today and the future that their generation -- as the generations before -- give to one another.

As I look back on my life, I will always remember my two little girls, Paula and Renee, saying to me, "Thank you, Daddy, for being you!" Well, I would also like to say, "Thank you, Father, for being you!"



**Daughters of John and Betty Kuznia -- 1979**  
**Paula [Kuznia] Storm and Renee Kuznia**

**RAYMOND AND AGNES [CULLEN] KUZNIA**  
**Stephen, Minnesota 56757**

Raymond I. Kuznia, the son of Benedict and Mathilda (Staloch) Kuznia, was born near Florian, Minnesota, in July of 1928. He was the fifth of eleven children; the family being of Polish descent.

Ray attended Florian grade school for eight years and then started high school in Stephen. Since this was during the War years, help was needed at home, so he was not able to complete his most-wanted education. He entered the Army in July of 1952, serving in the Korean War. After the war was over, he attended school in Japan and was discharged from the Army in July of 1954.

After returning home from the service, he went into farming for one year. In May of 1955, he began working for the Stephen Elevator. This business was purchased by local farmers in 1958, at which time it was given its present name, Farmers Grain Company. Since then, this facility has been completely rebuilt. In October of 1961, Ray was asked to be the manager. He accepted the position and, to the present day, holds this job.

On June 7, 1958, Raymond I. Kuznia and Agnes B. Cullen were united in marriage. This wedding took place at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Goodridge, Minnesota. Agnes was the fourth of eight children. Robert (deceased) was in the U.S. Marine Corps and died while serving in the Korean War. Lauretta, John, Agnes, Thomas J., Douglas, Joseph, and Margaret were the other children in the family. Parents of Agnes are Thomas and Leola (Portine) Cullen. This family is of mostly Irish descent.

To this union of June 7th, nine children were born. Joseph, presently serving in the army; Patrick died when two days old of Hyland membrane disease. The following are attending Stephen school: Timothy M., who will graduate in the spring of 1980; Benedict, who is a junior; Geralyn, a sophomore; Patricia, who is a freshman; Raymond D., who is in the seventh grade; Della in the sixth grade; and Jayne in the third grade.



**Raymond and Agnes Kuznia Family -- 1980**  
**[Back L-R] Raymond D., Timothy, Benedict,**  
**Joseph, Raymond, and Agnes**  
**[Front] Della, Patricia, Geralyn, and Jayne**

In July of 1966, our dream was fulfilled. We moved into our new home across the street from the home that, by this time, was too small for our growing family. We presently live at 209 2nd Street in Stephen.

Our family's interests are varied. Ray loves to garden, working with different types of trees. His handle on the C.B., "Green Thumb", fits him very well. Of course, like anything else, this has had its disappointments. In the winter of 1977-78, we lost two of our prize apple trees, which were producing bushels of apples in the



fall. The trouble now is we are running out of room to plant in town. We probably will have to do things backward; while most people retire in town, we will have to retire out of town on a few acres of land.

Tim says he wants to work on a farm when he graduates from school. He now works after school and on Saturdays at a local gas station. While a senior in high school, he took an evening course in mechanics at a vocational school.

Ben spent the summer of 1976 building utility barns for a local lumber yard. He has always loved to build things. Since there is not much carpenter work to be done during winter, after school he started working at a local tire and oil company. The boys are now working on a pickup that belonged to their grandfather when he was farming. The pickup had been retired to out behind the barn when Grandpa moved to town. It now sports a new red paint job, plus all the extras.

Geralyn and Patsy keep busy with school work, babysitting, playing basketball, and decorating. Ray (Tiger) tries to keep up with his older brother. He follows his father's footsteps when it comes to his love for hunting and fishing. Della does babysitting and loves to do art work. Jayne loves animals. Her daddy always joked about having a blond-haired gal. He now has one -- even though she wasn't when she was a baby.

Agnes likes to decorate. For four years, she had a business selling wall groupings with a company out of Dallas, Texas. As of now, she plans to go into the drapery-making business.

Camping is done together as a family pass time. The camper got bigger as the family grew!

In October of 1979, Ray had the privilege of going to Des Moines, Iowa, to see Pope John Paul II -- truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.

### FRED AND THERESA [KUZNIA] CAPISTRAN

Theresa Hattie Kuznia was born in 1930 to Benedict and Mathilda (Staloch) Kuznia in Wright Township, the first daughter after five sons.

I had nine brothers and one sister. After attending rural school and helping out on the farm, I was married to Fred Capistran in June of 1948. His parents were Adolph and Agnes (LaPlante) Capistran, of French descent. They were from rural Stephen, Minnesota, but are now both deceased. Fred was born August 15, 1920, at Stephen.

We had five children: Donald, Dale, Diane, Daryl, and Darlene, who died in infancy.

This marriage was dissolved in 1962.

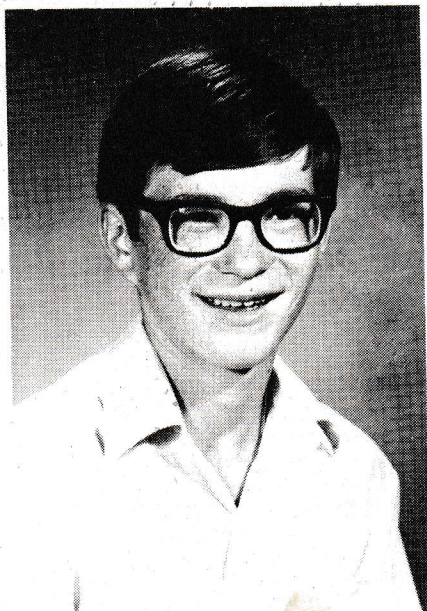
All of the children are married, except Daryl. He works as a draftsman in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

### DONALD AND ALNORA [FITZKE] CAPISTRAN

37 Elmo Park Apartments  
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

Donald Capistran was born October 25, 1949, to Fred and Theresa (Kuznia) Capistran at Warren, Minnesota. He attended grade school in Stephen, Minnesota, and his parents moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where he finished school. Shortly after high school, he entered the United States Air Force.

On October 10, 1975, at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, he married Alnora Fitzke, the only child of Frank and Agnes Fitzke. They are of German and Polish descent. Both of her parents are deceased. Alnora was born April 25, 1929, at Howard Lake, Minnesota. She has two daughters, Cora Lee Peters, who was born January 28, 1948, and Mary Ann Ott, who was born February 23, 1946. Both are married and live in Kansas City, Kansas.



Daryl Capistran -- 1970



Donald and Alnora Capistran -- 1975



Donald works at the V.A. Building in Fort Snelling as an accounting analyst. He has worked there for five years.

Donald and Alnora both like the outdoors. They like fishing and hunting.

**DALE AND VICKI [FOTIA] CAPISTRAN**

**5230 West 102nd -- Apartment 205**

**Bloomington, Minnesota 55420**

Dale Capistran was born in 1952 to Fred and Theresa (Kuznia) Capistran. He served in the United States Army.

Dale married Vicki Fotia, the daughter of Tony and Mona Fotia, from Edina, Minnesota. They are of Italian descent. Vicki has one sister, Penny.



**Vicki and Dale Capistran, Theresa and Bennie Jackson -- 1978**

Dale and Vicki are the parents of one daughter, Tonella Marie, born in 1980.

Dale is presently employed as a clerk accountant for a large firm in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**KENNETH AND DIANE [CAPISTRAN] DEVINE**

**5345 43rd Avenue South**

**Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417**

Diane Capistran was born in 1954 to Fred and Theresa (Kuznia) Capistran. On July 19, 1975, she married Kenneth DeVine, the son of Kenneth and Mildred DeVine of St. Louis Park, Minnesota. They are of Irish and Swedish descent. Kenneth has one brother, Joey.

Kenneth is employed as a railroad engineer for Burlington Northern Railroad. Kenneth and Diane have one daughter, Theresa Jo, who was born in 1978.



**Kenneth and Diane DeVine -- 1975**

**BENNIE AND THERESA [KUZNIA] JACKSON**

**4100 Gettysburg Avenue North**

**New Hope, Minnesota**

In February of 1964, Theresa Kuznia, the daughter of Benedict and Mathilda (Staloch) Kuznia, married Bennie Lee Jackson, who converted to the Catholic faith. His parents, James and Sara (Forest) Jackson, are both deceased. They were of Irish descent. He has one brother, James, in Texas, and one sister, Birdie, in Mississippi. Bennie was born December 28, 1933, at Piquett, Arkansas.

Bennie's mother passed away when Bennie was only a teenager. His father sold their home in Arkansas and moved with his family to St. Louis, Missouri. Bennie finished school in St. Louis and joined the Air Force at the age of 17. He spent eleven years in the military Air Force police. The last two years of his military service were spent at the Grand Forks Air Force Base, Grand Forks, North Dakota. He received his discharge and went to work for a road construction firm.

On his way to work, Bennie's car rolled over and he was badly injured. His back was broken in three places, and half of his face required plastic surgery. He also had one eye repaired and surgery done on his back. He was paralyzed on half of his body.

Bennie spent many months in St. John's Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota. Later he was transferred to the Veteran's Hospital in Fargo. It was here that he was later put in hand braces and a steel back brace and learned how to walk again.

On February 5, 1964, Bennie was released from the hospital and we got married. He loved my four children as his own and helped me raise them.

After one year of recovery, he went to school to become a mechanic in diesel engines and painter.

Two years after our marriage, Bennie wanted to become a Catholic. He took his instructions and was baptized and confirmed as a Catholic. It was then that we had our marriage blessed by the Catholic Church. During this time, we lived in Grand Forks, North Dakota.



In 1969, we moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Our eldest son, Donald, who was in the Air Force in Texas, became very ill. The medical attention he needed was in Minneapolis, so we decided to move for his sake. We both found jobs and bought a home.

Donald is now doing fine, and so is the rest of the family, except me. I was injured in 1972 while working at a Red Owl bakery. A bunch of heavy cast iron pans fell on top of me and almost broke my neck. They performed surgery and another surgery in 1979. I also had another surgery on my back, because of that injury. I am still in a lot of pain, but am trying to learn to live with it.

We sold our home and bought another home in New Hope, Minnesota, where we live now. Bennie works as a foreman for heavy road construction machinery at Minnesota Tractor Company, Bloomington, Minnesota.



Theresa Jackson -- 1979



Bennie Jackson -- 1975

**EUGENE AND MARGARET [DOSTAL] KUZNIA**  
**9106 Columbus Avenue South**  
**Bloomington, Minnesota 55420**

Eugene Raphael Kuznia was born on October 24, 1934, to Benedict W. and Mathilda (Staloch) Kuznia at their farm home in Wright Township, Marshall County, Minnesota. He attended country school at Florian, Minnesota, through the eighth grade. He went to Stephen High until he was sixteen, quitting to care for his parents, as the older boys were in the military service. At age 22, he leased the farm from his parents for eight years. During the winter months, he worked at the American Crystal Sugar Company in Crookston, Minnesota, staying with his brother, John, in Crookston at times.

In June of 1957, he met his future bride, Margaret Dostal, at Smith's Pavilion at Greenbush, Minnesota. They met on different occasions, but it wasn't until Margaret was teaching school at Riverside by the Old Mill State Park that Gene courted her. Roger Kuznia, Gene's nephew, was a second grade pupil at the school. Little Roger arrived on the night of the Christmas program carrying a three pound box of chocolates for the teacher from Uncle 'O'ugene. Margaret ate one piece a day, hoping to share the sweets, but as New Year's came and went, no courtier came. Finally, on January 18, there were five pieces left, and in desperation, the teacher ate them all. The next day, a stranger came to Albert Johnson's, where Margaret was rooming, to tell her that Bernard Kuznia had died January 17 after falling from a haystack.

Eugene and Margaret were married October 8, 1959, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Badger, Minnesota, by Father Donald Archer. The reception was held at her parents' farm. It rained steadily all day and night. People remarked that the weather would bring the newlyweds wealth. After honeymooning in Canada, the newlyweds returned to the Ben Kuznia farm. They converted two upstairs bedrooms into an apartment.

In April of 1960, they rented Grandma Hedwig Kuznia's house in Florian for five dollars a month. The day they were to move, Gene's father died. Brian was born July 21. They were the last to occupy the house. In 1967, it was moved to the John Kazmierczak farm yard, when Ira Kuznia built a new house on the site. The family purchased a 8'x37' mobile home in May of 1961 and moved back to the Ben Kuznia farm. In the fall of that year, the big hip-roof barn burned to the ground. All the hay was lost, but the cattle were saved. Ken was born December 16, 1961. Gene worked as a roofer at the Grand Forks Air Base, Grand Forks, North Dakota. On January 26, 1963, Minda was born. As soon as arrangements could be made, the family moved to Minot, North Dakota, where Gene

hung sheetrock at the Minot Air Base. Six months later, they returned to the farm. On May 14, 1964, Jonathan was born.

Farming was unprofitable and jobs in the area were scarce, so when the lease expired, the family moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, on New Year's Day in 1965. Ivan was born April 26, 1965. They purchased their own home in Bloomington in August of that year. Darla joined the family on November 4, 1967, and Gerda on May 21, 1971.



**Eugene and Margaret Kuznia Family -- 1980**  
**[Back L-R] Darla, Ivan, Brian, Ken, Jonathan, Minda**  
**[Seated] Eugene, Gerda, Margaret**

Gene worked for various drywall companies. In October of 1973, Viking Drywall, Inc. was founded in partnership with his brother, Clarence, cousin Roger Zack, and a friend, Cornelius Odenthal.

The family has hosted foreign students through the International Club from Iran, Pakistan, West Germany, Kenya, Egypt, and Peru.

Margaret is the daughter of Norbert and Helen (Kukowski) Dostal of Badger, Minnesota. She was born June 13, 1939. Her brothers and sisters are: Bernard, Virginia (Mrs. Chester Szklarski), Julianna (Mrs. Hilary Kuznia), Edwardine (Mrs. John



Szklarski), James, and Lillian (Mrs. Mike Kuznia, Jr.). She attended country school near her parent's home and later graduated from Badger High School in 1957. She then attended a one year's

teacher's training program at Thief River Falls, Minnesota, to become a rural school teacher.

**LAWRENCE AND IRENE [KUZNIA] KIESOW**  
**Goodridge, Minnesota 56725**

"It's a girl!" exclaimed Mathilda and Benedict Kuznia on May 22, 1937, as Irene Joan was born. She was the ninth child, but only the second girl. George, Alphonse, Florian, John, Raymond, Theresa, and Eugene were anxiously waiting at their home when their baby sister arrived. Benedict, Jr. was born after Theresa, but died when he was five days old. A few years later, Rudolph and Clarence came alone; Irene remained the baby girl. She was baptized with Frances Stancyk and John Grembowski as godparents.

Living on the farm one mile from Florian, Irene didn't have far to walk to school. Sometimes, during the winter, the horses would get harnessed up and the Kuznia kids would ride to school in style. Irene recalls the incident when, after being stumped on math problems, the whole seventh grade got to school early and copied the answers from the teacher's book. To insure that the teacher wouldn't discover what they did, the smart ones copied all the answers correctly, but the less intelligent purposely made errors. Later, to their dismay, they found it had been in vain; they were assigned more math problems just like the previous ones! Irene also remembers taking part in sneaking lunches up the bell rope to the boys in the attic who were hiding from the teacher.

During the summer, Irene kept busy in the house and out in the garden. She recalls the huge pile of shoes to be polished every Monday morning, and all the white shirts that had to be ironed after wash day.

After receiving her eighth grade diploma, Irene babysat her nieces and nephews, and then she worked for Merv's Grocery in Stephen. There she learned how to handle lutefisk (and she still doesn't know why people bought so much of it!)



**Lawrence and Irene Kiesow -- 1957**

In October of 1956, Irene tagged along with "big brother" Raymond, who was dating Agnes Cullen (Kuznia), to the St. Anne's Bazaar in Goodridge. She met a tall, handsome farmer while visiting at Cullen's home, and he was introduced as Lawrence John Kiesow, son of Erick Emil and Mary Elizabeth Cullen Kiesow. He has two brothers: Charles and Paul; and three sisters: Theresa Mutnansky, Arlyne Neuschwander, and Phyllis Neuschwander.

Unfortunately, during the bazaar, Irene barely had the chance to talk to Lawrence, as the parish priest kept Lawrence busy with various tasks. But, one week later, arranged by Agnes and unknown to Irene, when Ray and Irene drove to Goodridge, Lawrence was waiting for them along with Agnes. One year later, on October 14, 1957 (Mathilda and Benedict's 38th wedding anniversary), Irene became Mrs. Lawrence Kiesow. Benedict gave away his youngest daughter at the Assumption Church in Florian.

Taking off in their blue '51 Ford, the newlyweds traveled throughout Minnesota for three days and then they settled down in their brand new home on the Kiesow farm, ten miles northeast of Goodridge, in Moylan Township of Marshall County. Lawrence and Irene started with, and still are, milking cows and feeding pigs. Small grain crops were, and still are, raised.

Blonde, blue-eyed, curly-haired Marilyn Ann was born on November 4, 1958. Laurie Jean arrived 13 months later, December 4, 1959, on her Uncle Clarence's birthdate. On January 8, 1961, Lawrence and Irene finally got a boy. Dean Lawrence was a handful right from the start.

There is a lot of work to be done on a farm. The first summertime baby, Judith Kay, arrived on July 20, 1962, right in the middle of haying. Mary Joan also interrupted baling two years later -- July 18, 1964. Four girls and only one boy. . . That wouldn't do. Bruce Benedict bounced along during combining -- August 16, 1965. In a few years, Lawrence forgave the trips to Roseau at such a busy time, because Bruce began helping with harvest. Three days after Lawrence and Irene's 9th wedding anniversary, October 17, 1966, Ronald Erick, their third son, was born. The farming operation continued to grow. So did the family. . . Betty Jo Anne, born on August 11, 1970, was another little delay to harvest. The baby girl born on April 28, 1972, was named Lynn Marie after she had come home from the hospital. Jackie Lee was born on July 27, 1974, and the newest little Kiesow joined the family during the summer of 1980. She has been named Kristi.

All of the Kiesow children were born in Roseau, Minnesota. Now, for a little about each one: The two oldest girls, Marilyn and Laurie, started school together. They were taught for eight years at Grygla Public School and graduated after four years at Goodridge High. Marilyn then traveled to Fargo, North Dakota, and is presently a senior in mechanical engineering at North Dakota State University. Laurie stayed in Minnesota, but after two years at Moorhead State University, she transferred to NDSU because she heard so much about it from Marilyn. Laurie is a junior in animal science.

Dean went to school for six years at Grygla and spent the remaining six years at Goodridge. Dean's '56 Ford was a common sight on Goodridge's gravel roads. Dean had planned to attend NDSU and to major in mechanical engineering, but he was killed in a construction accident on July 27, 1979, at the age of 18.



Judy, Mary Jo, Bruce, Ronnie, Betty Jo, Lynn and Jacki are currently attending Goodridge School. Judy is a senior, while Jacki is in kindergarten. Mary is in the tenth grade, Bruce in ninth, Ronnie in seventh, Betty Jo in fourth, and Lynn in second. The Kiesow name is common to the Goodridge teachers!

Judy plans on pursuing a business major at the University of Minnesota in Crookston, where she will continue her education after graduation in May of 1980. Marilyn, being the oldest of seven girls, is busily planning her July 1980 wedding. Her fiancé is Ron Bryl of Goodridge.

Irene Kuznia Kiesow says that cooking, washing clothes, and cleaning for a large family is a full-time job, but coming from one of the same size, she was well-prepared. Irene still finds time to decorate cakes, crochet afghans, and raise a huge garden. She was also employed as salad girl and hostess at the "Steak Knife" in Grygla.



**Lawrence and Irene Kiesow Family -- 1980**  
**[Back L-R] Marilyn, Lawrence, Irene, Laurie, Bruce**  
**[Front] Judith, Ronald, Lynn, Jacki, Betty, Mary**

**RUDOLPH AND ANITA [BOUTON] KUZNIA**  
**RR 1 Box 107**  
**Zimmerman, Minnesota 55398**

Rudolph Zygmunt Kuznia was born in Wright Township to Ben and Mathilda Kuznia on May 2, 1939. He attended grade school in Florian and high school in Stephen, where he was active in sports and was a recipient of the first college scholarship given by the Stephen business community. Rudy attended the University of North Dakota, where he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1962. While attending the University, Rudy played football, was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, where he was house manager for two years, and was also active in several extracurricular activities, including the famous English coulee goose hunt. Upon graduation, Rudy traveled west to Seattle, Washington, where he was employed by the Boeing Company with responsibility to improve the design of transistor communication electronics to function in radiation environment.

While in Seattle, Rudy was married to Anita Bouton, a registered nurse, whom he met while attending the University. Anita's father, Charles, whose ancestry dates back to the very earliest settlers of America, was a farmer near Glyndon, Minnesota, and also served two terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He died on March 3, 1961, at the age of 69. Anita's mother, Louise, who was of first generation Dutch descent, was a grade school teacher, mother, and housewife. She died on October 14, 1974, at the age of 70.

In June of 1964, Rudy transferred to Huntsville, Alabama, to work on the Apollo rocket project. This is the rocket that in 1969 took our first astronauts to the moon. It was a very exciting event for the family as they watched the successful lift-off, journey, moon walk, and return of Neil Armstrong. While in Alabama, a son, Charlie, was born on December 10, 1964. Rudy recalls that the period of time they spent in Alabama was also the time when the South was undergoing major social changes. This was during Martin Luther



**Rudolph and Anita Kuznia Family**  
**[L-R] Rudy, Amy, Anita, and Charles**

King's famous march on Salem and other integration activities involving government institutions and public business places. This was a time when Yankees were not popular in the South, and as hard as Rudy tried, he never was able to talk with a drawl.

In May of 1967, Rudy and his family moved back to Minnesota, where they could be closer to relatives and friends. Rudy took a job with Honeywell, where he still works as manager of their Minneapolis computer operations. Rudy purchased a farm north of Minneapolis, where the family makes their home.



Since moving to Minnesota, a daughter, Amy, was born on March 24, 1971.

Among Rudy's enjoyable events and interests are: visiting with the many friends and relatives they have, Anita's backrubs,

watching Charlie play football and hockey, Amy dancing to records in the living room, gardening, tending to livestock, and being active in the Florian Fruit Growers Club.

When relatives and friends come, they are always welcome!

**CLARENCE AND PAULINE [SCHMITZ] KUZNIA**  
4119 West 108 Street  
Bloomington, Minnesota

Clarence Kuznia was born on December 4, 1941, to Ben and Mathilda (Staloch) Kuznia. Because he chose to come during a snow storm, he was born at home. When the storm cleared, mother and child were taken to the hospital, and both were fine.

Clarence attended school at Florian until eighth grade, and attended Stephen High School for one year. In April of 1960, Clarence's father died of a heart attack, after suffering from a heart condition for about ten years. In the fall of 1957, at the age of seventeen, Clarence started working as a carpenter at the Grand Forks Air Base. He worked there and at various other places as a carpenter until January 1964. Uncle Sam gave a call, and Clarence answered it. He was in Company A First Battalion 16th Infantry. About a year later, his call took him to Vietnam, where he spent about a year fighting in the jungles. Fortunately, God spared him, and he returned home in January 1966.

In July of 1966, Clarence met Pauline Schmitz of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota. She is the daughter of Theodore and Leona Schmitz, of German descent. Clarence dated Pauline, and on her graduation day, June 2, 1967, they became engaged. Their wedding day was a beautiful day, the 14th of October, 1967. This day was chosen because it was also the wedding day of Clarence's parents and the wedding day of Pauline's parents. After their wedding, which took place at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Red Lake Falls, Clarence and Pauline lived with his mother. Clarence engaged in farming from 1966 to 1968. In May of 1968, Clarence and Pauline moved to an apartment in Bloomington, Minnesota, where Clarence then worked with Eugene, his brother, hanging sheetrock.

On September 10, 1968, a daughter was born to Clarence and Pauline. They named her Denise Mary.

Then another big step in their lives came in February of 1969 when they bought their home in West Bloomington. In November of 1969, Clarence's mother, Mathilda, came to stay at their home. She remained with them until March 1970, when she died of cancer.

On November 15, 1970, Dion Michael was born. To his father's delight, he had dark hair and complexion and looked much like his father.

In 1973, a new adventure was undertaken when Roger Zack, Connie Odenthal, Eugene Kuznia, and Clarence formed Viking Drywall, Inc. It started as a small company that grew and grew.

March 9, 1974, brought more joy to the lives of Clarence and Pauline, for that was the day Wade Thomas was born. Then, three



**Clarence and Pauline Kuznia Family -- 1979**  
[Back L-R] Dion, Denise  
[Seated] Pauline, Christopher, Clarence, Wade

years later, on a cold day, the 28th of January, Christopher Patrick was born. His pleasant disposition has brought much joy to the Kuznia family.

Now, several years later, the Clarence Kuznia family still lives in that West Bloomington home they bought in 1969.