

Our Family News Letter

Issue 38

Greendale, Wisconsin

September, 2002

Rosemary A. Reynolds 1915 - 2002

We were saddened to learn of the death of Rosemary A. Reynolds in June of this year. Rosemary was a very special lady and a strong supporter of this newsletter. Rosemary would often call me when she had a "few bucks" left on her calling card just to chat or pass on some little tidbit of information from the past. I especially liked the stories that she would tell me about growing up in a remarkable family. Rosemary and her brother Carl Heinrichs both had polio as youths and both were crippled as a result.



Rosemary, with her grandmother Clara Stratman Henningfeld, and uncles Sylvester and Carlos Henningfeld in 1920.

Her obituary tells a small part of this remarkable person.

Rosemary Ann Reynolds, 87, 1821 N. Fourth Ave., Marywood Convalescent Center, Wausau, WI, died Friday, June 21, 2002, at Marywood Convalescent Center.

She was born February 9, 1915, in Racine. Along with her parents, Mollie Henningfeld and Frank Heinrichs, her family moved to Wausau in 1922.

Rosemary met her husband Damon, who served as Marathon County Treasurer for 28 years, the summer of 1949 at Camp Waubeek in Wisconsin Dells, a camp for the physically handicapped. They were wed on June 10, 1950, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Wausau.

Rosemary held many positions in her life, including secretary, bookkeeper, seamstress and volunteer phone caller. But the job that surprised her most was mother. She and Damon raised their nephew, John, and daughter, Joy.

Her work as a volunteer involved her with the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, St. Anne's Blood Bank, The Salvation Army, RAFT, and the BSA to name only

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<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/heck.html>
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a few. She was also an adopted grandmother for a class at St. Anne Elementary School for many years. Her unselfish volunteerism caught the eye of many and she was honored with the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award in 1993.

Always looking for exciting things to do, she and her daughter hopped on a bus on May 25, 1986, headed for Frankfort, Illinois, to join the Hands Across America project.

Rosemary was a gifted cook and an avid card player. She will be missed by her family, and remembered by the many people whose life she touched with her devotion to helping others.

Rosemary is survived by her daughter, Joy (Randy) Happli; foster son, John (Sue) Dieckman, Sunnyvale, CA; six grandchildren, Brian Happli, Florida, Trish Happli, Wausau, and Michael, Matthew, Andrew and Barbara Dieckman, all of California; one great-grandson, Markel Happli, Wausau; and three sisters, Lorraine (Gilbert) Teuke, Middleton, Dorothy (Jack) Johnson, Shawano, and Joan (Joseph) Woolley, Green Bay; one sister-in-law, Jean (Norbert) Otte, Kaukauna; 30 nieces and nephews as well as numerous grandnieces and grandnephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, Damon; her parents, Frank and Mollie Heinrichs; brothers and sisters, Francis (Karen) Heinrichs, New Berlin, Eugene (Beverly) Heinrichs, Stevens Point, Joseph (Joan) Woolley, Green Bay, Howard and Vivian Patterson and Norbert (Jean) Otte, all of Kaukauna, Gordon (Margaret) Heinrichs, Geraldine and Roy Zarnke and Gilbert (Lorraine) Teuke, all of Wausau; and one nephew, Frank Heinrichs, Milwaukee.

A memorial Mass will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 2002 at the Church of St. Anne, Wausau. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until time of services Wednesday at the church.

Brainard Funeral Home, Wausau, is assisting the family with arrangements.

A large picture of Rosemary and Damon appeared in the local Wausau newspaper several years ago.

The picture showed the two of them in their wheelchairs ringing bells for the Salvation Army.

Gordon A. Heinrichs **1916 - 2001**

We were also saddened to learn that Gordon A. Heinrichs passed away in December, 2001. Gordon was the younger brother of Rosemary Reynolds. Gordon also enjoyed this newsletter.

The Heinrichs family has been hard hit during the past two years. Only three of the original nine siblings are still living. Frank Heinrichs died in 1977, Carl Heinrichs died in 1989, Eugene, Geraldine, and Gordon died in 2001, and Rosemary died in 2002.

Ellen Heinrichs Stiner, daughter of Gordon, was kind enough to send me the obituary of her father.

Gordon A. Heinrichs, 85, of Wausau, passed away on Tuesday, December 11, 2001, at home in the loving care of his wife, Margaret, and their five children.

Mr. Heinrichs was born August 3, 1916, in Racine and moved to Wausau as a child. He attended St. Mary Catholic School and graduated from Wausau High School in 1935, where he played varsity hockey and served as team captain. During those years, the Wausau varsity hockey team lost just one game.

Mr. Heinrichs also played baseball in the city league and played competitive tennis. He attended the University of Wisconsin and the University of Louisville before enlisting in the Army Air Corps. He served his country as a weather forecaster for more than 5-1/2 years, from 1940 to 1945. He married Margaret E. Debalske on October 31, 1942, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wausau. After the end of World War II, he was employed by Procter & Gamble for 31 years, retiring in 1977.

Music played a major role in Mr. Heinrichs' life. He was a longtime member of the Wausau Chapter of

the Society for the Preservation and Enjoyment of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBQSA), serving as its president for several terms. He was named "Barbershopper of the Year" in 1975. He also sang in the first Wausau Elks Club Chorus and sang for many years in the adult choir of St. Anne Catholic Church, where he and his wife were charter members.

Mr. Heinrichs was a recognized and respected toy train and coin collector for much of his life and was a member of the Train Collectors Association and the American Numismatic Association. He was also a member of the Wausau American Legion Post No. 10. Gordon especially enjoyed fishing with his brothers in northern Wisconsin, pheasant hunting in South Dakota, and taking his family on summer vacations. Gordon and his brothers and sisters took great pleasure in playing cards and singing together. He bowled in Monday Night League at the Elks Club for over 30 years. He served on his high school reunion committee for many years, acting as chairman several times.

Mr. Heinrichs is survived by his wife of 59 years, Margaret, of Wausau; five children, Carol (Robert) Dombroski of McFarland, Ellen (William) Stiner of Golden, CO, Tom (Nancy) Heinrichs of Wausau, Nancy (Russ) Wendorf of Ringle, and Kay (Gene) Hintze of Greensboro, NC; 10 grandchildren including Cathy Loayza, Christie Volz, Rob Stiner, Dan Dombroski, Jonathon Wendorf, Amanda Heinrichs, Allison Wendorf, Ben Hintze, Dustin Heinrichs and Patrick Hintze; four great-grandsons; four sisters, Rosemary Reynolds and Lorraine Teuke, both of Wausau, Dorothy Johnson of Shawano, and Joan Woolley of Green Bay; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by three brothers, Carl, Francis and Eugene "Butch" Heinrichs; one sister, Geraldine "Gerry" Zarnke; and one grandson, Derek Heinrichs.

Burlington Historical Society On Line

The Burlington, Wisconsin Historical Society launched a new web site that will interest many of our readers. The web address is:

<http://www.burlingtonhistory.org>

The web site has several databases on line covering events in and around the Burlington area. If a person had roots in Burlington they are probably in the database.

Years ago a lady from Burlington started to collect names and events that appeared in the local newspapers. She had births, deaths and marriages and general interest items. She would collect the information on 3 X 5 cards. I had met her many years ago and had a chance to see some of her collection. She passed away and her son took over the collection. He entered the data into his computer and just within the past month he put the collection on the internet.

What is unique about the collect is that it not only lists an event but it documents where the event can be found in the local newspapers.

As an example, I looked up the name Henningfield and Henningfeld and found 80 entries, some with as many as five events.

Here is an example of what I found for **Fred F. Henningfield**: Born 13 May 1875; married to Adele Wald; S 1/30/1897 moved to Milwaukee; S 3/28/1919 moved to Racine; S 8/23/1935 and S 12/6/1935 auto accidents; F 11/30/1944 grandson Roland died; F 5/24/1949 74th birthday; S 11/29/1958 Fred Henningfield died; Buried at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Burlington in section B, row 7, lot 4.

The reference S 1/30/1897 means The Standard Democrat dated 30 January 1897. The F 11/30/1944 means the Burlington Free Press.

Microfilms of all of the newspapers are available at the Burlington Public Library. The web site makes it easy to look up events and find them in the newspaper. Last week I spent an hour at the library and found about 15 events in the newspapers. Before the web site was created one would be lucky to find two events in an hour.

Give the site a try but don't forget alternate spellings of those last names.

Mystery Resolved

My grandfather's sister, Mary Ann Heck Grosstueck, has been a mystery to me for many years. I knew that she died in Milwaukee on 21 July 1943 at the age of 72 years. I knew that she was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Burlington, Wisconsin. I didn't know why her husband, Gustav Grosstueck, was not buried next to her.

Thanks to the Burlington Historical Society web page I was able to resolve the mystery. Gustav, known as August Grosstueck, and Mary were divorced on 25 May 1917. The newspaper article in the Standard Democrat of 1 June 1917 stated:

"Mrs. Mary Grosstueck was last Friday granted a divorce from her husband, August Grosstueck, in the municipal court in Racine. She charged cruel and inhuman treatment."

On 11 October 1920, August Grosstueck remarried as was reported in the 15 October 1920 issue of the Burlington Standard Democrat.

"A. Grosstueck Married Monday"

"August Grosstueck and Mrs. M. (Mamie Burmeister) Flemming, both of Milwaukee, were married at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Stone in this city at 8:30 o'clock Monday evening, Judge F. X. Klein performing the ceremony. Mr. Grosstueck is a former well known painter of this city. The newly married couple will make their home in Milwaukee."

August and Mary adopted a daughter, Mildred, who was the daughter of August's younger brother, Walter, from Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Mildred was born on 6 December 1902.

The baptismal record for Mildred Grosstueck, found at Immaculate Conception BMV Catholic church (St. Mary's) Burlington, WI, states that she

was the daughter of Walthero Grosstueck and Blanca Grosstueck, both from Manitowoc, Wisconsin. An added note in the record states that she was adopted by August Grosstueck. God parents were Henry Heck and Mary Ann McNulty Heck. Date of the baptism was 20 June 1905.

Again using the Burlington Historical Society web page I found the obituary for August Grosstueck in the 29 August 1941 issue of the Burlington Standard Democrat. August Grosstueck died on 24 August 1941.

"August Grosstueck, aged 69, a painting contractor in Burlington for more than 40 years, died at Memorial hospital Sunday morning (24 Aug 1941) after a long illness. Funeral services were held at the McCarthy funeral home Wednesday afternoon, Rev. Carl Stackman officiating and his remains laid to rest in the Burlington (public) cemetery."

"Mr. Grosstueck was born at Manitowoc, March 7, 1872, and grew to manhood there, learning the painter's trade. He came to Burlington about 1900 and had since followed his trade here, being the painting contractor on many of the painting jobs in this vicinity. He had been a member of the Moose lodge in Milwaukee over twenty-five years."

"On September 11, 1920, he was united in marriage with Minnie Burmeister, who with the following six children now survive: Mrs. John Green Jr., of Schenectady, N.Y.; Arthur Flemming and Mrs. Anthony Mutchler of Milwaukee; Harvey Flemming, Herman Flemming and Leslie Flemming of Burlington. He is also survived by two sisters, Miss Josephine Grosstueck and Mrs. Laura Hankins of Hollywood, Calif., and six grandchildren."

Minnie Burmeister was married to a Flemming prior to her marriage to August Grosstueck, and five of her children were listed above.

August Grosstueck is buried in the public cemetery at Burlington, Wisconsin next to his second wife. Mary Grosstueck is buried in the Catholic cemetery next to her sister, Eva Heck.

Margaret Heck Receives Aid

Robert Steven Heck died on 16 May 1923 leaving his wife Margaret Henningfeld Heck with five children ranging in age from 18 years to 3 years. The surviving children were Clarence, Robert Gerald, Alvin, Edward, and Bernice. The three older boys helped support the family by working at odd jobs, selling tooth brushes, soap and shaving cream door-to-door. The family needed help and it came for a short period of time through a new law passed by the Wisconsin Legislature.

The following article appeared in the 23 November 1928 issue of the Burlington Standard Democrat:

"The State Legislature of Wisconsin passed the legislation of 1915 making it obligatory upon county boards to make a sufficient appropriation to cover all allowances made by the court in the county having jurisdiction to aid dependent children. By dependent children is meant children under 14 years of age, whose father is dead, or has abandoned his family, or who is permanently incapacitated for labor. This work falls to the juvenile court for Racine County. The aid is granted to them for a period of one year, and the mother of the families receives monthly allowances for these children."

Margaret Heck was listed as having three children receiving aid. The total amount that Margaret received was \$20 per month for a total of \$240 for a full year. That amounts to \$6.67 per child per month or \$1.54 per week per child. In 1929, a woman's wages for a needle trade were \$8.37 per week for a 55 hour week.

Search for Sylvester Henningfeld

After many years of searching I finally found some information on the death of Sylvester Henningfeld, brother of Margaret F. Henningfeld Heck. Sylvester had a twin brother, Carlos Henningfeld. While I had information on Carlos, I didn't know where Sylvester lived, went to church, died or was buried. Several attempts to get information from his

surviving son, Donald Henning, were fruitless. Note that Sylvester spelled his name "Henningfield" and his son shortened his own name to "Henning".

Sylvester's obituary was found in the Burlington Free Press dated 13 February 1947.

"Sylvester Henningfield Dies of Heart Attack at Home in Milwaukee"

"Sylvester W. Henningfield, 70, died at his home in Milwaukee Wednesday, February 5, as the result of a heart attack. Mr. Henningfield was born in Waterford and went to Milwaukee in 1899 to work for the Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Co., now the Transport Co. He remained with the company until last May when he retired. At the time of his retirement he was superintendent of the company's green bus line division in Milwaukee."

"Funeral services were held in Milwaukee Saturday afternoon from the Fass funeral home and from All Saints Cathedral. Burial was in Forest Home cemetery."

"Mr. Henningfield was a member of All Saints Cathedral; Henry L. Palmer Lodge, F.&A.M.; Golden Rule chapter, O.E.S., of which he was also a past patron; and Cream City Royal League."

"Surviving are his wife, Alice E.; a son Donald S.; three brothers, Carlos of Milwaukee, a twin brother; Fred of Lyons and George of Racine; and three sisters, Mrs. Mary Brott, Seattle, Wash., Mrs. Margaret Heck of Racine, and Mrs. Mollie Heinrichs, Wausau, Wis."

Mildred Grosstueck marries in 1922

The marriage announcement of Mildred Grosstueck, daughter of Mary Heck and August Grosstueck, appeared in the Friday, 6 October 1922 issue of The Burlington Standard Democrat.

Grosstueck - Greene

"Miss Mildred Grosstueck last Saturday announced her marriage to Jack Greene, of

Schenectady, N.Y. They have gone to New York where the groom is employed as foreman by the General Locomotive works and will go to house-keeping there. The bride is the only daughter of August Grosstueck and is well known in this city. Her many friends extend congratulations and good wishes."

Our Family News Letter on CD

Several readers of this newsletter have asked if past copies were available. I'm happy to report that I completed a project in which I scanned every page of issues 1 through 37 and created an Acrobat Reader copy on CD. There are about 296 pages in all. Acrobat Reader comes with every version of Windows but just in case a copy of it is included on the CD. The CD is self starting so it is really easy to use. You can print each and every issue of the newsletter directly from Acrobat Reader in case you are missing any past issues. The newsletter has been published continuously from 1993 to 2002.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the CD, the cost is \$10. The money from the CD sales is used to help pay for publishing and mailing this newsletter. Please make your check payable to "**Robert J. Heck**" and mail it to me at:

Bob Heck
4910 Steeple Drive
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At The Asylum 51 Years

Kenosha County Charge Dies at Gatliff, Past 80 Years; Had Neither Friend Nor Kin

"Kenosha, Wis., Tuesday, March 9, 1915. Fifty-one years a charge on the taxpayers of Kenosha County, Peter McNulty, supposed to be about 80 years of age, died at the Racine County Asylum for the insane on Monday. McNulty was arrested in Kenosha in 1864, and since then has been a public charge. It is claimed that the cost of caring for this man to the taxpayers is nearly \$8,000, of which the county pays one-half and the state the balance." The previous article appeared on the front page of the March 9, 1915, issue of the Racine Journal Times. The Peter McNulty in the article was the son of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess and the brother of Mary Ann McNulty, wife of Henry Heck.

The court records for 1867 stated that Peter McNulty Jr. was about 19 years of age (in 1867) and that his parents were poor and indigent persons and had no means of supporting said Peter Jr. The record went on to say that Peter Jr. was insane and had been for many years, and that it is unsafe that he should be at large. The record further stated that public safety demands the close confinement of Peter Jr. because of his insanity and other reasons.

One of the reasons stated was, "That about four years ago, as these affiants are informed and believe, the said Peter McNulty Jr. struck his sister, aged about four years, a blow upon the head which caused her death in about a week thereafter."

According to the Catholic church records at Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin, at St. Francis Xavier Church, the date of death of Julia McNulty was recorded as 21 August 1864. Julia was born on 8 July 1859 at Brighton and thus she was five years, one month and 13 days old at the time of her death.

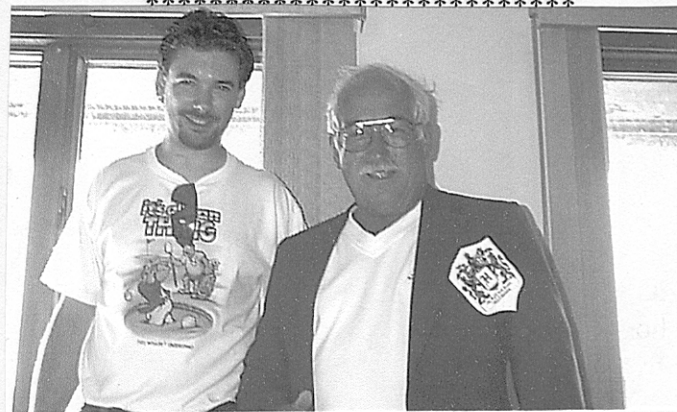
Share your family with others. Send Bob Heck a photo of your family. Please identify everyone.

Bob Heck Wins Golf Award at Heck Picnic

The Heck family picnic was a smashing success this year despite temperatures near 100 degrees. After a great breakfast about 24 golfers began competition at Shoop's Park golf course. By the 7th hole most golfers were ready to drop over from heat exhaustion but we all dragged on to finish the nine holes. When we totaled up the score cards we found that there was a three way tie for first place. Don Heck suggested that the three play another nine holes to determine the champion. He was promptly told to stuff it where the sun don't shine. Instead we had a one shot putt out on the practice green. The person closest to the hole from 40 feet away would be the winner. The three finalists were Lee Heck, Bill Merritt, and Bob Heck. Don Heck was required to remain with the massive and cheering audience and was not allowed on the green because of his playoff suggestion. Bob Heck putted first and put the ball within three inches of the cup. It turned out to be his only decent putt of the day. Lee Heck putted next and was close but just outside of Bob. Bill Merritt was last and he was within walking distance of the hole after his putt.

After careful measurements by the team of judges, Bob Heck was declared the official 2002 winner. Bob later was presented the coveted red jacket and a trophy for his win. Bob thanked everyone and then promptly turned the smelly jacket and trophy over to Marv Pfeiffer, coordinator for the 2003 golf competition.

All of the golfers would like to thank Bill and Dave Heck for doing a great job in organizing this years golf outing.



From the Photo Album...

The picture at lower left shows Bill Heck presenting the "Coveted Red Jacket" to his dad, Bob Heck, at the 2002 Heck Family Picnic. Below are pictures from the Heck Family Picnic held in July, 2002, at Racine, Wisconsin..



On the following page are a few pictures taken from my parent's photo album. Starting from left to right in row one is David Heck in 1969, David Heck in 1970, Geraldine and Rosemary Heinrichs. Row two from left is Bill Heck in 1971, Bill Heck in 1972, and Marv and Joanne Pfeiffer. Row three from left is Cel and Dick Heck, Bernice and Robert G. Heck, and Nancy and Larry Heck.

