

Our Family News Letter

Issue 41

Greendale, Wisconsin

June, 2003



The picture above is believed to be of Robert Steven Heck at left in white, owner of the saloon at the Colonial Hotel in Racine, Wisconsin. The picture was probably taken in 1914.

and was released immediately on \$300 bail. Mayor Goodland had suspended Heck's license and he will be obliged to await action of the Council before he can open the saloon which he conducted in connection with the Colonial Hotel."

That article was published in the Burlington Standard Democrat on June 12, 1914. As a result of the article I launched a search through the Racine newspapers starting with the June 12, 1914, issue and working my way back in time, trying to find the start of the incident. I also needed to confirm that this "Robert Heck" was my grandfather.

Robert Heck Appeals Case

Imagine my surprise when one of the members of my computer genealogy club brought me a 1914, article from the Burlington Standard Democrat, a Burlington, Wisconsin newspaper, with that headline.

Robert Steven Heck, was my grandfather who was born on December 14, 1879, and who died at an early age from an aneurysm of the stomach on May 16, 1923. My understanding was that he always worked as a bartender in Racine, Wisconsin.

The article in the Burlington newspaper stated,

"Robert Heck, the Racine saloonkeeper who was sentenced in Municipal Court to sixty days in jail for permitting a 14 year old to loiter about his place, has appealed the case to the Circuit Court

In the June 3, 1914, issue of the Racine Daily Times I found the following bold headline on the front page of the newspaper. **"Saloon Is Closed And Owner Sent To Jail By Court". "Robert Heck Found Guilty Of Permitting Young Girl To Loiter Around Barroom."**

The article went on to say,

This News Letter is written and published by **Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129**

The News Letter is published quarterly and is distributed without charge. Contributions to help cover the costs are appreciated. Our home page address is:

<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/heck.html>
my e-Mail Address is: **bheck@execpc.com**

"Sixty days at hard labor was the sentence handed out this morning by Judge Smieding to Robert Heck, proprietor of a saloon at 201 Main Street, who was arrested Monday afternoon as a result of sensational disclosures made to the police by the thirteen-year-old girl. This sentence is the limit allowed by law, and Heck is allowed no alternative of paying a fine."

"Heck was charged with allowing the thirteen-year-old girl to loiter about the place. Fred Eassmus, arrested charged with taking improper liberties with a minor girl, was one of the witnesses against Heck. He testified that he had gone into a wine room in the rear of the place shortly after 11 o'clock with the girl and they remained there about fifteen minutes. Charles Foster, also arrested in connection with the case, was also with them for a time, Eassmus testified."

Did Not Ask Her Age

"Heck himself served the drinks, bringing in three or four rounds. Eassmus drank beer, while Foster drank whiskey. Eassmus said he was half intoxicated. The girl refused to drink, because she felt dizzy, according to Eassmus, and also that she had all she wanted to drink."

"The girl said that Heck served the drinks, and she told him that she was sick and did not desire any. Heck did not ask her age, according to the girl, nor did he order her out of the place."

"When Heck got on the stand he offered the defense that he had been suffering from a pain in his side that night, and had also been drinking and therefore he was kind of stupid. He said that he did not know the girl, nor could not say whether she had ever been in his place. He did not remember Eassmus being in his place that night. He said he was unable to remember two or three days back. He remembered, however that Eassmus had been in his saloon at different times with girls."

"The bartender corroborated Heck's testimony that he had a pain in his side that day. He remembered drinks being served in the wine room, however."

"In meting out the sentence, the court simply reminded Heck of the seriousness of the crime and the wrong done to the small girl."

In order to confirm that the Robert Heck in the articles was my grandfather, Robert Steven Heck, I looked up his name in the 1914 Racine City Directory. It showed that Robert S. Heck was a saloon operator at 201 Main Street and that his home was at 1110 Marquette Street. What was interesting was that his father, Henry Heck, was shown as living with him at 1110 Marquette Street.

It is also interesting to note that my grandfather had pains in his side for some time but refused to see a doctor about it. I have post cards from 1918 in which his pain in the side was mentioned. The pains were most likely caused by the aneurysm which eventually burst and killed him nine years later.

A second Racine newspaper, The Racine Journal News, also ran a front page article on June 3, 1914. The headline in this case stated,
"Girl In Saloon; Gets Long Term. Robert Heck Punished For Allowing Girl to Loiter in His Liquor Hall. TERM THE MAXIMUM. Judge Smieding Gives the Offender the Longest Term Possible."

"Robert Heck, charged with permitting a girl under 14 years of age to loiter about a place where liquor is sold, was arraigned in the municipal court this morning. Heck conducts a sample room in connection with the Colonial hotel, corner of Main and Second Streets."

"The girl took the witness stand and testified that she entered the sample room, or a room in connection, with Fred Esmus, that they were both a little dizzy; that drinks were served by Heck, but that she did not drink anything, although whiskey and beer was brought in. Fred Esmus testified to about the same thing."

Has No Recollection

"Heck pleaded that he had no recollection of such an occurrence and did not believe that he was guilty. Judge Smieding found that he was guilty and sentenced him to the county jail for a term of sixty days, hard labor, the maximum punishment under the statutes."

The following day, Thursday, June 4, 1914, another article appeared in the Racine Journal on page one.

**"HECK TAKES APPEAL,
Saloon Man Sentenced For Allowing Girl In Place
Appeals To Circuit Court."**

"Through his attorney, Robert Heck, proprietor of the sample room in connection with the Colonial Hotel, who was found guilty of allowing a girl 14 years of age to loiter around his place of business, and was sentenced to sixty days in the county jail, hard labor, by Judge William Smieding of Municipal Court, took an appeal to the Circuit Court this morning. He at once furnished bail in the sum of \$300 and was released from custody. The appeal is taken on the ground that he was not guilty and wants another trial."

"Mr. Heck, who is in bad shape, will leave the city for a short time, but will be here when his case is called in the higher court."

On the same day, June 4, 1914, the Racine Daily Times ran their story on page two. The headline read,

**"Bob Heck Appeals To Circuit Court.
Proprietor of Colonial Hotel Buffet Claims Sentence is Unjust."**

"Heck's bail was fixed at \$300, which was furnished by a brother and Ernest Klinkert, and he was given his freedom. The argument advanced by Heck is that the decision was unjust and too severe. He has already engaged attorneys and intends to make a determined fight to keep out of jail."

"The appeal will have no bearing, however, on Heck's saloon which is still closed by order of Mayor W. S. Goodland. The matter will be brought before the Aldermen and they will render a decision as to whether the saloon license shall be revoked or not."

On Friday, June 5, 1914, the Racine Daily Times had an article about the City Council's special meeting to be held that evening to consider revocation of the license. The headline stated, **"Special Meeting Tonight To Decide Business Standing Of Robert Heck."**

Also on June 5, 1914, the Racine Journal Times ran a story on page one. The article stated, **"MAY REVOKE LICENSE, Council To Act In Case Of Robert Heck, Main Street Saloon Keeper."**

"Yesterday Chief Baker filed complaint with the city clerk charging that Robert Heck, a licensed saloon keeper at 201 Main Street, maintains and keeps at said place a disorderly and improper house and prays that said license be revoked in accordance with the provision of section 1558, revised statutes of Wisconsin."

"Heck was found guilty of allowing a girl under 14 years old to loiter about his place, sent to jail for sixty days, took an appeal and was released on \$300 bail. The Mayor ordered the saloon closed immediately after and it has been closed since. Papers in an appeal taken by Heck were filed in the Circuit Court today."

On Saturday, June 6, 1914, the Racine Daily Times ran a front page article which stated **"Three Saloons Quite Business. Proprietors On The Carpet Surrender Licenses To The City Mayor."** The article stated that all three saloon owners, including Robert Heck, were charged with having violated the ordinances by selling liquor to minors and allowing them to loiter around a saloon.

I tried to trace the progress of this case by searching the Racine newspapers for a one year period

after the start of the case. So far I found two references to the case.

On November 9, 1914, the Racine Journal Times listed cases to be heard by the Circuit Court. The article stated, "State of Wisconsin vs. Robert Heck selling liquor to a minor."

A note in the same paper of November 16, 1914, stated, "The case of the State against Robert Heck, charged with violation of the city ordinances, will be tried."

The Racine Daily News ran an article on the Circuit Court case load on November 16, 1914, and in it they stated, "The other three cases which will be submitted to the court without trial are those against Robert Heck, charged with selling liquor to a minor; Larry Richtman and Willis Beller, both charged with unlawful use of dynamite."

I checked with the Racine Circuit Court but found out that they only keep records for fifty years. After that they are either destroyed or turned over to the Regional State Archives at Parkside University, in Kenosha County. I contacted the Archives and they could find no record of the case in their 1914, index. They said that I'll have to visit them in order to check the 1915, records.

At this point in time we don't know the outcome of the case. We don't know if Robert Steven Heck served time at hard labor. In June, 1914, the children of Robert Steven Heck were Clarence, age 9 years, Robert Gerald, age 5 years and Alvin, age 3 years. The two younger children were probably unaware of the case and neither of them ever mentioned it in later years. Clarence probably knew about the case since he was probably in the second or third grade at that time. He probably took some heat from his classmates.

Stay tuned for more news on the case.

Did you know that Judi and Dave Heck are expecting their first child in June? This will also be the first grandchild for Gloria and Bob Heck.

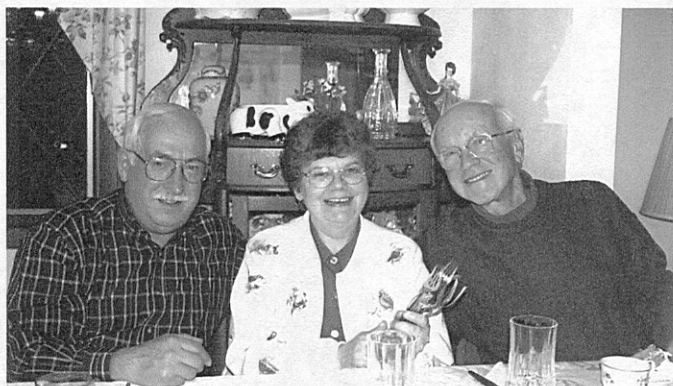
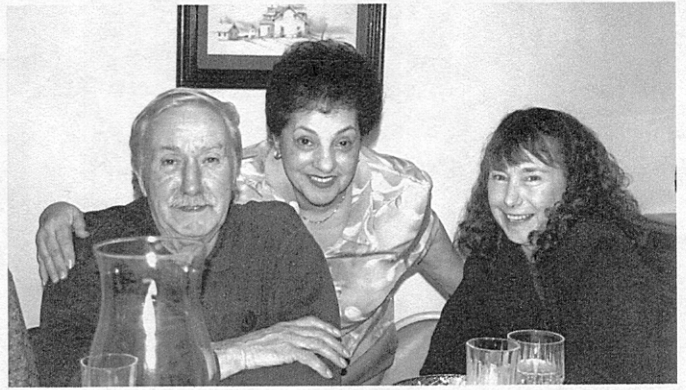
Dick Heck Turns 75

Dick Heck, son of Clarence Heck and Frances Pier, turned 75 on March 22, 2003. Friends and family were at his home in Racine, Wisconsin to help celebrate the occasion. Dick's wife, Cel, with help from the family, put on a fantastic dinner party with all the trimmings. Everyone had a great time churning over the old memories from years gone by.



The picture above is of Dick and Cel at their Post Prom party in 1953. I think everyone will agree with me when I say that neither of them have hardly changed a bit. Well..... Maybe just a little.

On the next page are a few pictures from the dinner party. Clockwise from upper left: (1) Cheryl and Dick, (2) Larry, Cel and Donna (3) Donna, Cel and Mary (4) Bernie, Delores, Dick, Donna and Shirley (5) Bob, Gloria and Bernie (6) Donna, Mary Gene, Carol and Shirley.





Meet your cousins...

While I was paging through the April, 2003, issue of Reminiscence Extra, I almost fell out of my chair when I turned to page 57. There at the bottom of the page was a picture of my Heck cousins as young boys sitting on a bear skin rug. The amazing thing is that I had a copy of the newspaper clipping from 1947, that had been sent to me by Howard Heck from Minneapolis.

The article was submitted by Annette Heck from Aitkin, Minnesota and reads as follows:

Minnesota Milk Men

"My husband, Philip Heck, is the oldest of seven brothers. This 1947 photo (at left) was taken for an advertisement for Ewald Brothers Dairy in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

His mom must have gone through a lot of milk with seven boys in a row; two girls came later.

The brothers are shown in a 2001 photo (at right) in the same order, oldest to youngest: Philip, Francis, Richard, Garry, William, Eugene and Robert. They still live in Minnesota, although some go south for the winter."

After I read the article I did a little internet research and found the address of Philip and Annette. After sending them a letter, I received a phone call from down south from Philip. His mail had been

forwarded to him while he was enjoying winter in warmer climates. We had a very good conversation and Philip promised that he would send me some information on his branch of the family. After I get it I'll post some of it in this newsletter.

The seven brothers and two sisters, Mary and Katherine, were the children of Frank J. Heck and Lucile J. Burns. Their grandparents were Philip Heck and Elizabeth Huss who visited with the Heck family in Racine, Wisconsin in about 1920 and in about 1943. Their great grandparents were Peter Heck and Margaret Zeren. Peter Heck was the brother of my great grandfather, Henry Heck. Peter and Henry Heck were the sons of Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer from Alendorf, Germany and Swan Lake, Minnesota.

The seven brothers and two sisters are my third cousins. Our common ancestors are Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer. If you would like to write to Philip and Annette, their address is:

Philip and Annette Heck
21927 US Highway 169
Aitkin, MN 56431

Did you know that....

....20% of the Internet is dedicated to genealogy and family history?

....Gary Heck has a Heck family home page with lots of pictures on the Internet?

Click on Photo Albums to see more pictures at:
<http://home.bellsouth.net/personalpages/PWP-heck>

Meet some of our Canadian Cousins...

Not only do we have Canadian Cousins on the Heck side of the family (Sharon and Victor Oliver from Alder Flats, Alberta, Canada. See "Our Family News Letter" Issue 29, June, 2000.) but I also have Canadian Cousins from my mother's side of the family.

While conducting a search on the internet for the Holosh family I found an entry from one of my cousins, Evelyn Ruth Stepanuik Stark from Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada.

Evelyn Ruth STEPANUIK and Robert John HECK are 2nd cousins. Their common ancestors are Josef PASTYRIK and Anna KAPUSTOVA.

I remember Evelyn from when she visited us with her grandmother, Mary Pastyrik Holosh, in Racine, Wisconsin in 1955. Mary Pastyrik Holosh was a sister of my grandmother Anna Pastyrik Mikel. Mary Pastyrik Holosh was also a sister to Vincencia Pastyrik Vanek and Otilia Pastyrik Kriva. All three of Mary's sisters lived in Racine while Mary lived in Noral, Alberta, Canada. Evelyn filled me in on some of the history of her branch of the family, and it makes for an interesting story.

The Pastyrik family lived in the small rural village of Rudimov, Czechoslovakia. John and Anna Mikel were living in the nearby city of Uhersky Brod and were the first to immigrate to Wisconsin. John immigrated in 1912 and Anna came with her two children in 1914. Henry Vanek immigrated in 1920 and his wife, Vincencia, followed in 1923. Otilia Pastyrik arrived in America with her sister, Vincencia, in 1923. Otilia married John Kriva in Racine in 1926.

Mary Pastyrik and Josef Holosh were married in Europe in 1919. Josef tried to immigrate to the United States and to Racine, Wisconsin in 1927, but because the quota was filled, immigrated to Canada instead. Mary Holosh was the last of the family to immigrate, arriving in Canada in 1932. The story of her life was very tragic.

Mary and Josef Holosh had three children in Rudimov before Josef immigrated. Ludmila, known as Lucy, was the oldest and was born in 1921. Josef Junior was born in 1924 and the youngest, Alois, known as Alex, was born in 1926.

In a note from Evelyn Stark: "When Mary and her three children were about to come to Canada everyone was approved in Czechoslovakia. However, when they got to the German border, the authorities decided that Joseph Junior was not eligible because of being an epileptic. Mary did not protest too vigorously as she was concerned that her daughter, Ludmila (Lucy), had poor eyesight and maybe she wouldn't be allowed to immigrate either. She left the two children, Lucy (11) & Alois (6) at the immigration center, and took son Joseph back to Rudimov to her brother, Lojaz (Alois) Pastyrik. Joseph Junior never left Czechoslovakia and Mary never saw her son again. Joseph Junior never married and lived with Uncle Alois. His last few years were very difficult and painful because of his epilepsy. He died at Rudimov approximately in 1960, as far as we know."

Josef Holosh Senior arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1927 and after a short time there, he and several friends decided that there were more opportunities in the Andrew area of Alberta. He worked for farmers around Andrew, for about five years before Mary and the two children came over. Approximately two years after Mary arrived they moved on to Noral, Alberta, where there was homestead land available.

Josef died on November 24, 1939, when he fell into a well that he was digging for the Northern Alberta Railroads. He suffered a broken neck and died as a result of the injury. Information from his death certificate Alberta #50999, Record #39-08-404001.

Mary stayed on the homestead until about 1950. She died at Edmonton, Alberta, following surgery for a brain tumor. She is buried at Grande Prairie Cemetery.

Lucy Holosh was married to Ladik (Walter) Stepanuk on January 1, 1937. They had two children, Evelyn Ruth born December 9, 1937, and Walter Jerome born December 3, 1941.

Tragedy again struck the family when on April 1, 1942, Walter was killed in a saw mill accident on the farm at Castan. He was sawing wood on the farm when the shaft of the circular saw rotated, broke and was sent flying. The saw blade struck him in the head. He was decapitated. Walter's brother-in-law, Alex, was supposed to be operating the saw that day but had a little too much fun the night before and slept in. Death information from death certificate Record #857 of 1942, Alberta. Walter's parents were Ivan (John) Stepanuk and Antonia (Barbara) Mumchur.

Lucy married Peter Korchewski on October 5, 1942, and were blessed with two children, Ilona (Lonnie) born July 31, 1943, and Larry Peter born December 9, 1944. Peter died January 17, 1974, at Edmonton, Alberta.

Lucy married Terence John O'Loughlin on April 4, 1986. There were no children from that union. Terence died on December 2, 1990 at Edmonton.



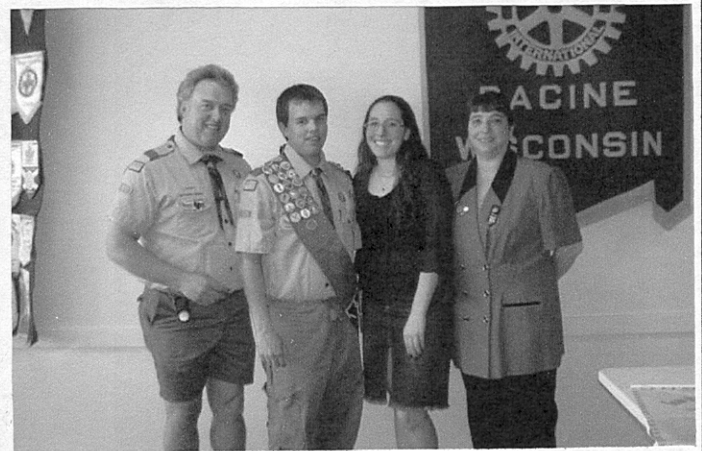
Lucy on her 80th birthday, July 31, 2001.

Shown below is a family group picture. Back row left to right: Donna Tate, Joan Stark, Douglas Stark, Robert Haugseth, and Trent Stark. Middle row left to right: Lucy O'Loughlin, Evelyn Stark, Tracy Haugseth, Jackie Stark and Katelyn Stark. Front row left to right: Brandon Tate, Lindsay Tate, Devon Haugseth, and Andrew Haugseth.



Two Family Members Receive Awards

Congratulations are in order for Angela Maynard and Tom Pfeiffer for being recognized at the Rotary Recognition Luncheon held in Racine, Wisconsin. Angela received the Gold Star award and is shown in the picture below with her mother, Barbara (Heck) Schneider. Tom Pfeiffer received his Eagle Scout pin, and is shown with his father, Steve Pfeiffer.



A special thanks goes out to Don & Sharon Heck, Richard & Gladys LaBerge, Kathy Lerud, Ellen R. Stiner, Shirley Heck, Donna & Al Benedict, and Cel & Dick Heck for their financial donation to this newsletter.