

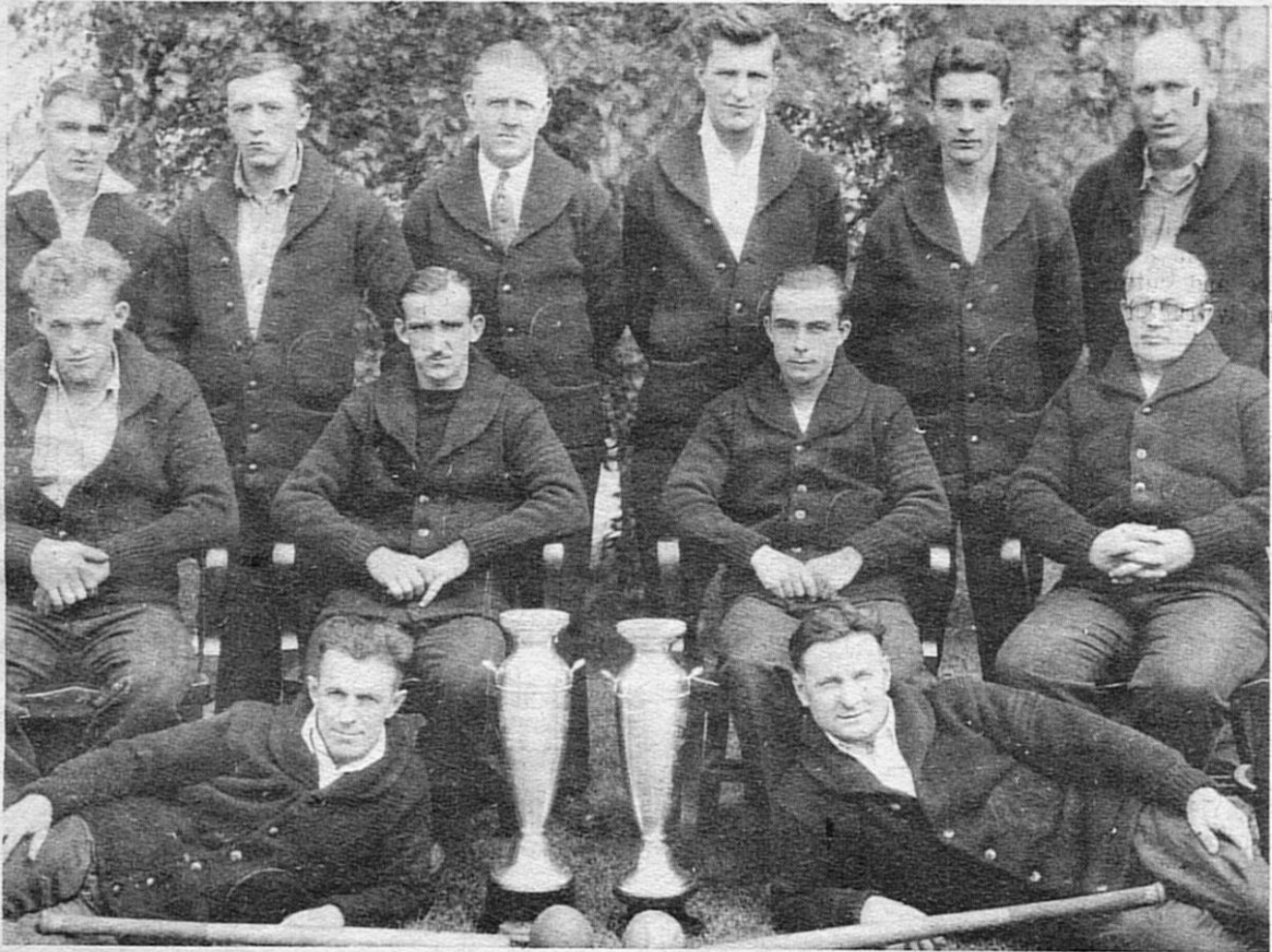
Our Family News Letter

Issue 54

Greendale, Wisconsin

September, 2006

OUT OF THE PAST



1928 SOFTBALL CHAMPS --- The above team was crowned the 1928 Racine Industrial League softball champions, representing Walker Manufacturing Company. Members included, on the ground, Walter McGraw at left and Rudy Kaplan; second row, Walter Pusch, Frank Supko, Clarence Heck and Bill Kennedy; back row, from left, William Pecnik, Louis Szondi, Mel Ward, Norm Goebel, John Julian, and Ray Radke.

Clarence Heck in 1928...

The softball team picture above appeared in an issue of the Racine Journal Times. It was found

in my dad's scrapbook. Clarence Heck is shown seated at center right.

In Search Of Laurence P. Heck...

The youngest son of Henry Heck and Mary Ann McNulty was Laurence P. Heck. Very little was known about him up until just recently.

Laurence P. Heck was born on 3 November 1886, at Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.



Laurence Heck is shown second from right with his brothers Matt, Robert and James and his father at far right, Henry Heck, about 1915.

By 1900, Laurence Heck was 13 years old and was found living with his parents in Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin. He was attending school at that time. Also living in the household were Henry and Mary Ann McNulty Heck and Elizabeth 22, Eva 16, and Robert 20.

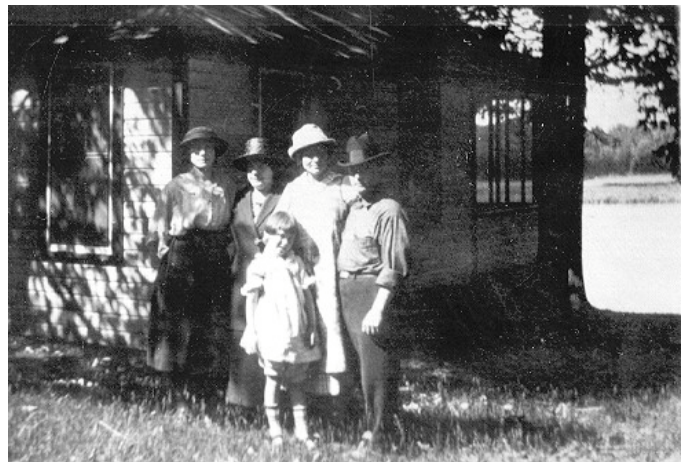
In the 1910 census we find Laurence Heck living as a boarder with his sister-in-law, Alvina Heck on East Water Street in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Laurence was 23 years old at the time and was a waiter at a restaurant in Milwaukee. It is believed that the restaurant was at the Boston Store. Alvina Heck was running a boarding house. Alvina, often shown as Alwina, was listed as married for 6 years and having no children. Mathias

Heck, husband of Alwina, was listed as living in Racine, Wisconsin with his brother's family (Robert S. Heck) and he was listed as single.

Elvia Hart, age 11, was found in the 1900 census for Cadillac Ward 3, Wexford County, Michigan living with her parents, Arthur B. Hart and Ada B. Young. Elvia and her family immigrated to the United States in 1893. By 1910 the Arthur B. Hart family had moved from Michigan to Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin. Elvia Hart was not living with her parents in 1910 and was probably working in the Milwaukee area. She would have been 21 years old at that time.

On 16 April 1913, Laurence, age 26, often shown as Lawrence, married Elvia Hart, age 24 in Milwaukee. Laurence was living at 618 East Water Street in Milwaukee at the time. His occupation was listed as restaurant worker. Elvia Hart did not have an occupation listed but her birthplace was listed as Australia. She was living at 598 Jefferson Street in Milwaukee.

By 1920 we find the Laurence P. Heck family living on Milwaukee Street in the city of Milwaukee. Laurence was 33, and was listed as the manager of a lunch room. Elvia S. Heck was 31, and a daughter, Dorothy M. Heck was listed as 3-6/12 or three and a half years of age.



L-R: A sister of Elvia Hart, Eva Heck, Dorothy M. Heck, Elvia S. Hart Heck, and Laurence P. Heck at Burlington, Wisconsin.



Laurence P. Heck is shown standing at right in about 1910. His father, Henry Heck, is standing at left and his mother, Mary Ann McNulty is seated at center. Others in the picture include Lizzie Heck Plucker, Mary Heck Grosstuck, Rose Aspland, and Eva Heck. The child is Gwen Plucker.

Between 1920 and 1930, the Laurence Heck family started to split up. In 1930, Laurence P. Heck was living as a divorced boarder on Van Buren Street in Milwaukee. Laurence was 44 years old and was listed as a manager of a restaurant. Dorothy M. Heck, his daughter, was found on Downer Avenue in Milwaukee at the age of 13, as a "Lodger Guest" of the Jesse E. Titus family. Elvia S. Heck could not be found in the census records. His occupation in 1932 was "Manager of Boston Lunch" in Milwaukee according to a city directory.

On 20 April 1940, Dorothy M. Heck, age 23, married Ralph Ihlenfeld, age 22, in the city of Milwaukee. Dorothy was living at 1213 North Jefferson Street in Milwaukee and her occupation was listed as sales. Her marriage record document number 1469, year 1940, listed her parents as Lawrence Heck and Elvira Hart. The marriage was performed by Pastor W. F. Sauer, 270 East Juneau Avenue, in Milwaukee.

Elvia S. Hart Heck remarried some time after 1920 to a Mr. Phipps. The first name of her husband is unknown. Elvia died in Milwaukee at the age of 88 on 7 April 1977. She was living at the Sage Nursing Home in Milwaukee at the time of her death. Her parent's names were shown as Arthur B. Hart and Ada B. Young. Elvia was listed as a widow. The informant on her death certificate was her daughter, Dorothy M. Heck, Mrs. Ralph Ihlenfeld of 6057 West Lincoln Creek Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53218.

Laurence P. Heck died of throat cancer. His death certificate number is 6202 for the year 1960. He was divorced at the time of his death. He lived in the City of Milwaukee. He is buried in an unmarked grave at St. Thomas Cemetery in Waterford, Wisconsin next to his sister, Elizabeth Heck Plucker.

A copy of the death certificate shows his name as Lawrence Heck, born 3 Oct 1886, age at death as 73, occupation at time of death as Manager for Boston Lunch, residence as 931 N. Van Buren Street in Milwaukee. Place of burial is shown as St. Thomas Cemetery, Waterford, WI. Date of burial is shown as 16 Jul 1960. Social Security number is shown as 389-09-8367. The cause of death was "Possible pulmonary embolism" with secondary cause "Possible esophageal carcinoma." The Mealy Funeral Home in Waterford handled the funeral. The informant was Mrs. Elizabeth Plucker, sister of Lawrence Heck. An obituary for Laurence P. Heck was never found.

On 17 April 2000, Dorothy M. Heck Ihlenfeld died in Milwaukee at the age of 83 years.

Her obituary From the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel April 18, 2000: **IHLENFELD, DOROTHY M. (Nee Heck) The Lord called her to her Eternal Home on April 17, 2000, age 83 years. Beloved wife of the late Ralph R. Ihlenfeld. Dearest mother of Susan (Robert) Stumpner and Richard (Linda) Ihlenfeld. Beloved grandmother of Stacy Tuescher,**

Laurie Traver, Jerrad, Keri and Craig. Further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Funeral Services Wed., April 19th, 7 PM at Risen Savior Ev. Lutheran Church, 9550 W. Brown Deer Rd. Visitation on Wed. at the church from 4 PM until the time of Service. Entombment at Wisconsin Memorial Park. Memorials to Mt. Lebanon Ev. Lutheran Church or Risen Savior Ev. Lutheran Church would be appreciated. Harder Funeral Home, Brookfield 262-781-8350.

I found that Dorothy's children still live in Wisconsin. Richard Ihlenfeld lives at 15890 West Cynthia Drive in New Berlin, Wisconsin. Susan Ihlenfeld Stumpner lives at N4978 Butternut Trail, Juneau, Wisconsin, 53039. I hope that we are able to exchange data and photos.

The following article is a translation from German into English by the author of the book, "Von der Eifel nach America" or "From the Eifel to America". It is a story about our ancestors and their life in Brighton, Wisconsin and in Minnesota. Johann Heck, the first Heck from our family to arrive in America, is mentioned in the article.

“Von der Eifel nach Amerika”

Christoph Bungartz
Translation from “Von der Eifel nach Amerika” Brighton, Wisconsin
p.199

For many of our emigrants Brighton became the first place to stay (the first shelter) after their passage across the ocean. It became the starting point for their life in the New World. For some, this town became a second home, for others it was a mere stopover on their way further west. In our list at the end of the book Brighton is the number one “Zielort” (i.e: place where someone

is aiming at or heading towards), being mentioned 75 times. The small community is located in the extreme Southwest of the State of Wisconsin, about 20 kilometers from the city of Kenosha, which used to be a place of quite some attraction for German immigrants in the 19th century. Heading north, it takes 50 km to Milwaukee, towards the South about 80 km to Chicago. A map from 1887 shows a church surrounded by a school and some nine buildings, one of which being the Post office. Today there is a Post office no more, but a restaurant. With the territory being rather wide (extended), Brighton, of course, had more than these nine houses; but what might be called a center of town had just a few buildings. This goes to show that the village structures here were radically different from the ones in the **Eifel**. Without a cart or a wagon you can hardly make it from one end of the village to another.

p.200

Brighton's first church, a mere loghouse, was erected in 1845 by some farmers who had purchased their lots in the area. The first to come here were Irish and Germans. After a devastating tornado the church was re-erected in 1883. Until today it carries the name of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. The parish / community is among the three oldest in the State of Wisconsin, the baptism account (register of baptized children) dates back to 1848. In the Catholic school, erected in 1857, morning lessons were held in German, afternoon lessons in English.

In the small town of Brighton we can observe like through a magnifying glass how emigrants always looked at other emigrants as role models. If one first pioneer of the family, a relative or a peer had already settled in one place, the other family members would follow more likely and more easily.

In 1842, 18 year old Mathias Daniels from Freilingen is something like the vanguard of the Blankenheim area emigrants. Two years later, his brothers and sisters follow: Jacob, Margare-

tha and Nicolaus with his family. Another two years down the road we see Nikolaus Ehlen with his wife Anna, born Hess, and two daughters arrive from Ripsdorf. Along with them comes father-in-law Friedrich Hess from Blankenheimerdorf with his whole family, consisting of 4 sons and one daughter.

For **Alendorf's** Lenz family we also see one of the sons, 17 year old Peter, taking the pioneer's part in 1847. In 1851 there is a record of him being searched by the regional authorities of the Oberahr because he has not shown up for military service. In that very year his brother Thomas is already on his way to follow him across the ocean. And in the autumn of 1852 father Johann Joseph Lenz comes over, at that time a senior of 56, accompanied by his wife Anna Maria Barbara, born Molitor, and another six children. The Lenz family had crossed the sea aboard the "Antarctic" together with a number of families from the Oberahr. Anna Lenz also brought along her father, 80 year old Thomas Molitor, one of whose sons had also already made his way to the US: Laurentius Molitor. Laurentius had provided the first place to stay for

p.201

Young Peter Lenz. Laurentius Molitor had left Germany in 1845 together with his sister Maria and her husband Johann Stockart; in 1851 their sister Anna Gertrud Molitor had followed with her husband; and finally sister Anna Magdalena came with her husband Valentin Meyer.

The network of familiar relations is obviously rather dense in Brighton those days. In April of 1852 **Ripsdorf** based Thomas Vogelsberg comes to Wisconsin with his wife Catherina, born Trappen. Arriving from **Dollendorf** that same year we see Joseph Klinkhammer with wife Margarethe, b. Mahlberg, and five children. Followed three years later, in 1855, by Klinkhammer's cousin Peter Braden. Next from **Alendorf**, home of the Lenz family, is the family of **Johann Heck**. From **Waldorf**, in 1854, Johann Bove, the year after that his father Christian and

mother Anna Catherina, b. Kutsch, his brother Michael and sister Catharina. In 1868, Lambert Dorn from Ahrdorf and his family are the last Brighton immigrants from the Oberahr region.

We do know quite a lot about the big Lenz (Lentz) family. Their American descendants have collected a lot of data and information in the last years in order to reconstruct the history of their "clan" – "The Lenz Story". After their arrival in 1852, Johann Joseph and Anna Barbara Maria Lenz would stay in Brighton for the rest of their lives. Five of their children, some of which had been family pioneers before, soon made their way further west. In 1860/61 the sons Nicolaus, Thomas, Valentin, Matthias and Johann Joseph jr. purchased land in southern Minnesota; the spot somewhere in the prairie, where they settled together with other **Eifel** immigrants, still carries the name of **Union Hill**. After a few years, Matthias and his wife went back to Wisconsin, to run the farm of his parents-in-law Rosenplanter in Wheatland Township. Johann Joseph jr. went to Adrian, MN in 1883. The other brothers established their family homes in Union Hill for good.

Peter, the first emigrant of the family, and his sisters Catharine and Gertrud did as their parents did, and stayed in Wisconsin. It is also typical for the generation of immigrants that they usually would look for and find partners that came from their own home region. In Brighton, in 1858, Thomas Lenz marries Elisabeth

p. 202

Hotz from Birresborn; one year after that, Catharina marries (2nd marriage) Elisabeth's brother Matthias Hotz. In Union Hill, by 1863, Johann Joseph jr. weds Anna Maria Klinkhammer from **Ripsdorf**. Valentin marries Susanne Mares from Fliessem (Bitburg region) in about 1863. Only about Friedrich Wilhelm Thomas, the Benjamin son, nothing is known: according to the passenger list the 11 year old boy arrived with parents in 1852, but from there on any trace is missing.

The Lenz children lived as farmers. Johann Joseph jr., having become the wealthiest, joined the Minnesota parliament in 1883. His picture still can be found in Saint Paul's State Capitol. Johann Joseph and his wife Anna Maria had 13 children, and the other brothers and sisters had lots of descendants, too. Only one generation after the immigration the family network was widely spread – reaching from Saskatchewan, Canada to the Westcoast of the USA. The religious death notice (Totenzettel, not the obituary...) for Thomas Lenz, who died 89 years old on June 9th, 1920 is still written in German and it marks proudly but plainly: “Mourning on the edge of his grave stood 4 children, 53 grandchildren and 20 great-grand-children.”

Quite a number of the Lenz descendants became priests or monks/nuns. The “Lenz Story” notes 44 women and men, most of which joined the Franciscan Order, other chose Saint Benedict's Order or some smaller charity-oriented conventions. For Catholic immigrants from **Eifel** this seems to be a very normal career – and it was chosen in America even more often than way back in Germany.

Other examples from our group of Oberahr emigrants are Michael Baltes from Uedelhoven, Gertrud Goebel from Reilinge (chapter 4.2.6.) and Hubert Bove with three sisters from Ahrhuetten (chapter 4.2.7.).

During the 1980s Hermann Bungartz made several journeys to the Midwest and discovered quite a number of traces of Oberahr immigrants. The cemetery of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Brighton today still has the appeal of an old Eifel cemetery. Vogelsberg, Daniels, Ehlen, Hotz, Koch, Wagner – all these names can still be found on partly even well conserved stones and crosses, for in the US it is not common to re-use

p. 203

the graves after 15-20 years (as it is in Germany). The grave of the Lenz couple, decorated

with a bright iron cross, is still here after more than 100 years. The German inscription on the grave reads as follows: “Here rest the honorable spouses (*I don't know if this is correct English...*) Johan and Barbara Lenz”. The Ehlen gravestone is already in English, remembering “Father Nicklaus and Mother Mary Anna Ehlen”.

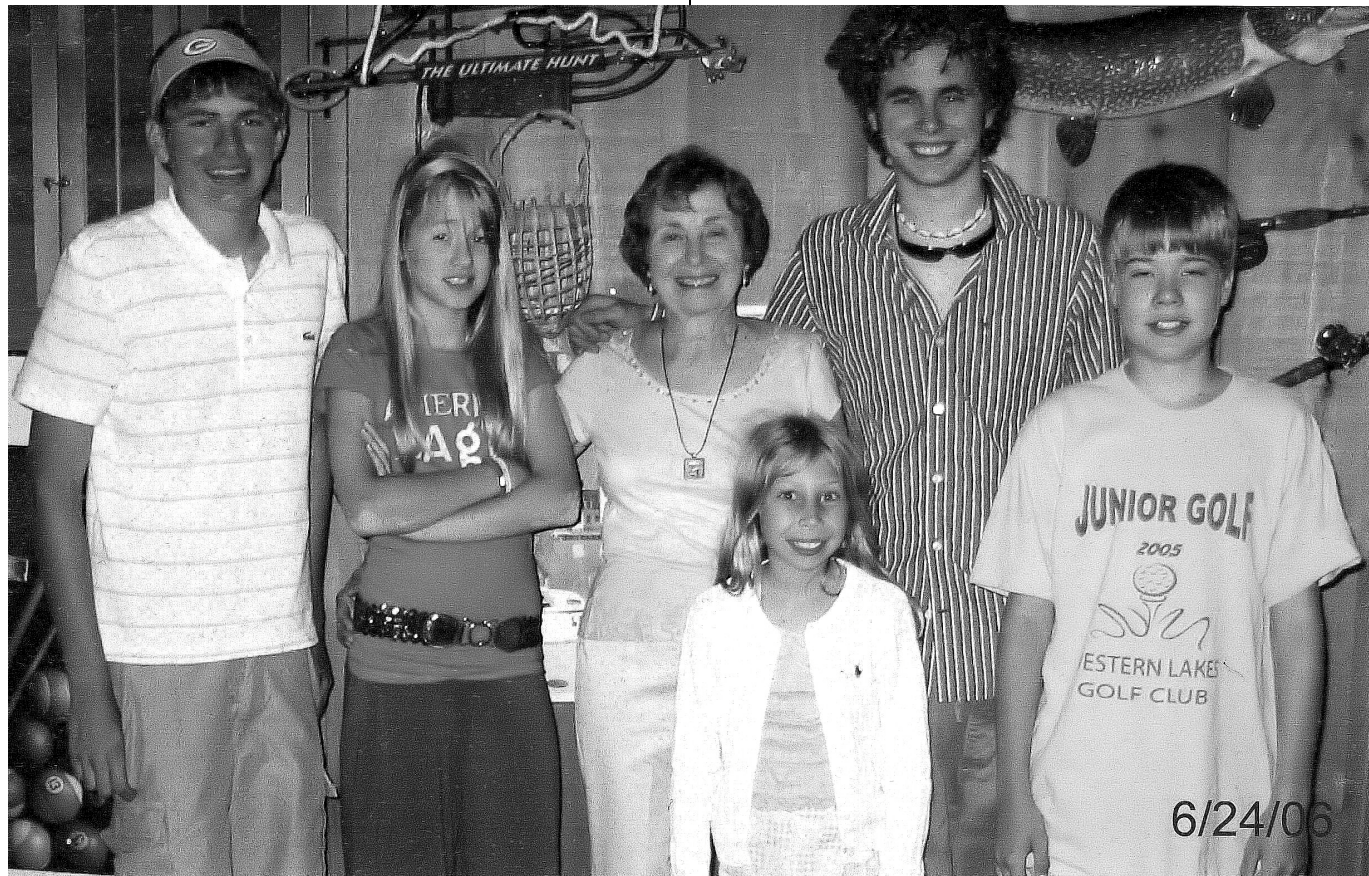
The Community of Brighton today has a population of 1,450, being 95.9% white, 44.8% indicating to have German ancestors; income and real estate prices are above and unemployment is under Wisconsin average.

Thank You...

I would like to send a very special Thank You to those of you who have contributed over the past few months to keeping this newsletter alive and well. Your kind words and generous donations tell me that you do appreciate getting, reading and sharing Our Family News Letter. This issue is the 54th consecutive newsletter that I've sent out. Some months it is really easy to find things to write about. Some months it is a little tougher.

If you would like to share a memory or a story about the Heck, Henningfeld, Schaefer, Richter, McNulty, Burgess, Brunner, Mikel, Pastyrik, Stratman, Chase, Matteson, or any other branch of the family, please feel free to contact me. I'll even help with the editing. My e-mail address is **bheck@execpc.com**

A special thank you to: Tom & Pam Kebis, Mary Kay & Dave Hansen, Marjorie Ayo, Laila & John Suter, Lorraine & Bob Heck, Howard & Ann Heck, Marjorie & Don Johnson, Sue & Jeff Miller, Kathy Lerud, Don & Sharon Heck, Cel & Dick Heck, Shirley Heck, and Delores & Bernie Kunka.. You people are GREAT!!!!

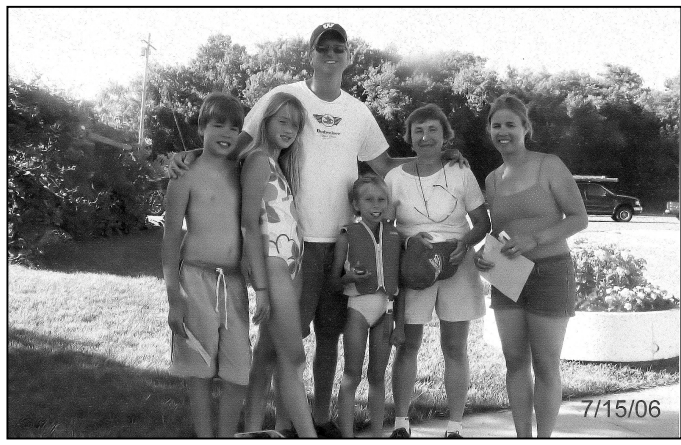


Meet Your Cousins...

Delores Heck Gibson Kunka sent in these great pictures of her family. In the photo above from Left to Right are: Patrick Martin 18, Sara Christensen 12, Grandma Dee, Rachael 8, Matthew Martin 22, and Sam Christensen 12. Sam and Sara are twins.

The picture at lower left was taken at the twin's 12th birthday party. From Left to Right: Sam, and Sara Christensen (twins), Kevin Christensen, Rachel Gibson, Grandma Dee Kunka, and Beckie Christensen (Dee's daughter).

Guess who? See the next page for answer.



The picture on the previous page shown at lower right was taken in December 1967. The picture was in my parent's photo album. From Left to Right: John R. Gibson, James T. Gibson, Rebecca Lynn Gibson and Kathleen Anne Gibson. They are the children of Dee Heck and Jack Gibson.

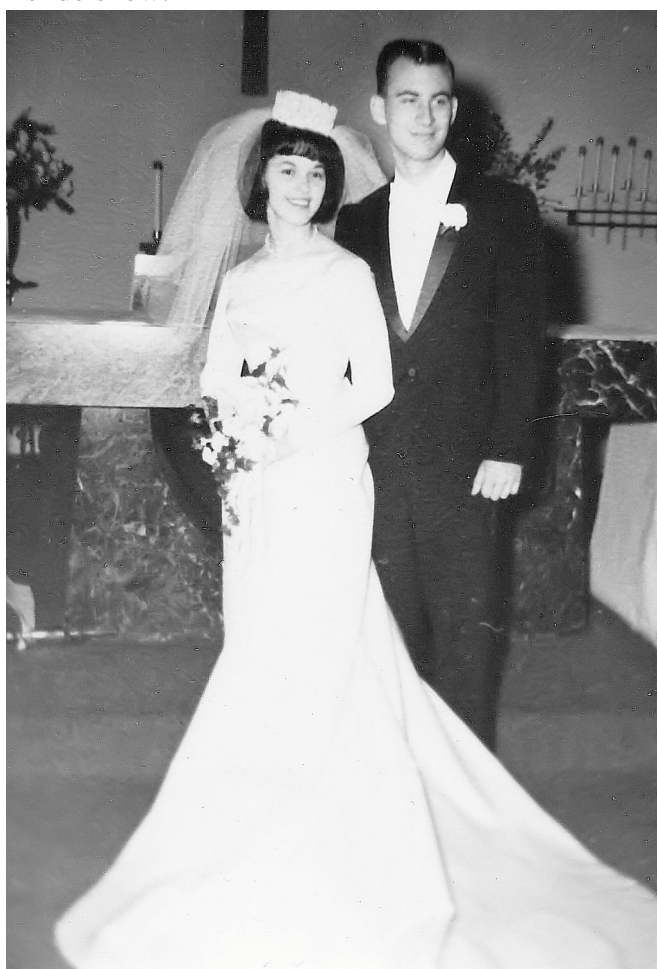
We want to thank Dee for sharing these pictures with us. If you would like to see your family in the newsletter please send me a photo or a scanned image to bheck@execpc.com or mail to Bob Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129.

Don Heck Throws Surprise Birthday Party for Sharon

On July 22, 2006, my brother, Don Heck, threw a huge surprise birthday party for his wife, Sharon. There were between 80 and 90 people at the outdoor party, which featured a three-piece band, a bar serving mixed tropical drinks, Tiki style umbrella covered tables, and enough food to feed an army. To make things a special occasion for Sharon, her son and daughter, Steve and Amy, were there along with all of Sharon's brothers and sisters.



Don had put together a DVD of photographs from when Sharon was a little girl up to the present time. The slideshow was playing most of the day and everyone was impressed with it. I think Sharon watched it at least three times. There were 99 photographs that Don had collected over several months from anyone who had a camera. The slideshow had background music that started out with an original version of **Zippadee-Do-Da**. I know that Sharon's mother was in tears as she watched her children "grow up" in a 25 minute slide show.



Don and Sharon Heck on 17 September 1966.

At the party, Sharon announced that she was retiring from work. All of us want to wish Sharon a great retirement and a very Happy Birthday.