

Our Family News Letter

Issue 69

Greendale, Wisconsin

June, 2010

Items Found in Wisconsin Newspapers

The Racine Journal Times: 14 Nov 1962

Cynthia Heck

The first child of Mr. And Mrs. Gary Heck, 1212-1/2 Hagerer St., born Aug. 9 to the former Joan Marie Auterman, has been named Cynthia Susan, affectionately shortened by her family to "Cindy Sue." Grandparents are Mr. And Mrs. Robert G. Heck and Mr. And Mrs. Louis T. Auterman. Mr. And Mrs. John Mikel and Mrs. Margaret Heck are great-grandparents. Cindy Sue's godparents are Jeanne Vanek and Robert J. Heck.

The Racine Journal Times: 25 Jan 1943

4 Persons Hurt On Icy Walks Woman, 55 Breaks Her Arm; Another Suffers Leg Fracture.

Four persons suffered injuries as the result of falling on slippery sidewalks in the city over the weekend.

Mrs. John Mikel, 55, of 1212 Hagerer Street, broke her arm in three places when she fell in the 1400 block on Douglas Avenue. She was taken to St. Mary's hospital.

(Editor's Note: Mrs. John Mikel was my maternal grandmother.)

The Racine Journal Times: 18 July 1941

Gary Heck a three-time winner.

An article appeared in the July 18, 1941 issue of the Racine Journal Times listing the winners of the annual Playground Pet Show.

Gary Heck, my much older brother, won three awards for having the smartest dog, the smallest dog, and the dog with the longest hair.

According to the article, Gary was in competition with other kids who brought a variety of pets to their local playground including dogs, turtles, goldfish, crabs, snails, white rats, roosters, love birds and rabbits.

Nice going Gary.

One nice thing about newspaper articles is that often they would list the people present at showers and weddings. Here is one from the wedding shower of my Aunt Lydia Mikel.

The Racine Journal Times: 23 Sep 1943

Three Entertain For Bride-Elect

Mrs. Henry Vanek, Mrs. John Kriva and Mrs. Robert Heck entertained at a pre-nuptial party for Lydia Mikel, who is to become the bride of Harvey M. Nelson Sept. 25.

Card and bunco games were played, and the bride-elect was presented a gift.

Those present were Misses Mildred Vanek, Lydia Vanek, Otillia Mikel, Isabelle Peterson, Emily Hrubos, Ann Zak, Bernice Heck, Doris Toslek, Ann Jarosik: Mmes. John Mikel, Rudolf Kindl, Charles Zak, Jr., Frank Zak, Sr., Charles Zak. Sr., Simon Polansky, Charles Benedict, Sr., Anthony Kriva, Vince Struhelka, Frank Swoboda, Steve Chahoj, Joseph Dzurick, Anton Obal, Frank Obal, Frank Lapour, John Vanhara, Charles Stefka, C. Peterson, Roy Skow, Elmer Kuchenback, Mary Nelson, Arnold Nelson, Louie Nelson, William Hettrick, Harry Anderson, Joseph Jarosik, Charles Hrubosk, Valerie

Peterson, Margaret Heck, Joseph Visek, Leo Bell, Don Benson, Walter Bola, Barney Stenitus, Steve Saltus, John Varejcka, Frank Pavelcik, Katherine Vraga, Anthony Huilicka, Mathew Danek, C. Wisby, J. Prybyl, Henry Vanek, John Kriva and Robert Heck.

The problem with a list such as this is that only single and widowed women were shown with their first name. All married women were shown with their husband's name. It makes for tough research but it can connect families together.

The Racine Journal Times: 30 Oct 1944

After not having seen her sister for 31 years, Mrs. John Mikel, 1212 Hagerer Street, is entertaining Mrs. Mary Holosh and son (Alex) of Edmonton, Alberta Canada, at her home.

Mrs. Holosh is visiting two other sisters, Mrs. Henry Vanek and Mrs. John Kriva for the first time in 21 years.



Left to Right: Anna Mikel, Mary Holosh, Otilia Kriva, and Vincencia Vanek at the 1944 Reunion in Racine, Wisconsin.

(Editor's note: Anna Pastyrik Mikel left Czechoslovakia in June 1914. Her two sisters, Otilia Pastyrik Kriva and Vincencia Pastyrik Vanek left Czechoslovakia in July 1923. Mary Pastyrik Holosh left Czechoslovakia in June 1932. We have home movies of that family reunion from 1944. The photo above was found in my mother's photo album.)

Photos from the past....

The following photos were "captured" from a DVD of old home movies from my Uncle Alvin Heck. Uncle Al's daughter, Joanne Pfeiffer, had some of the old 8mm movies converted to DVD recently and she let me copy them.

When you consider that the image on an 8mm movie film is smaller than a dime, you will appreciate how well those images came out when I captured them. I used a program called "Video Show Expressions" by ArcSoft to import the DVD movie into my computer and the same program to capture an individual frame. I used Paint Shop Pro X2 to enhance the image and to convert it to a grayscale JPG file.



Alvin and Stella Heck.



Bernice (Heck) Bark, Margaret (Henningfeld) Heck and Robert Gerald Heck.



Margaret (Henningfeld) Heck. This picture was taken at the wedding of Delores Heck and Jack Gibson on 17 September 1955.



Robert G. Heck with his mother, Margaret (Henningfeld) Heck.



Pat (Heck) Merritt, daughter of Alvin and Stella Heck. Probably taken in 1957.



Sister Mary Clare (Shirley Heck) with Don Johnson and her sister, Marjorie (Heck) Johnson.

All four of the pictures on this page and two on the previous page were captured from a DVD copy of the original 8mm home movies from Alvin Heck. Thanks to Joanne (Heck) Pfeiffer for sharing them with us.

Burial Site of Peter McNulty Refined???

Peter McNulty was my great-great grandfather and the source of my Irish heritage. Peter was born in Northern Ireland in 1807, according to his naturalization papers filed in Wisconsin on 22 November 1842. Peter McNulty departed Warren Point, Northern Ireland on 10 April 1834 at the age of 27. He arrived at St. John, New Brunswick, Canada and then in Boston, on 8 June 1834. This information was from Peter McNulty's Petition for Naturalization.

Peter married Patience Burgess sometime between 1836 and 1840.

In December, 1835, the father and step mother of Patience Burgess sold land at Hannibal, Oswego County, New York. The Burgess family then moved to Kenosha County, Wisconsin in the Spring of 1836.

We were unable to locate Peter McNulty in the 1840 census in Wisconsin. However, there was a Peter McNulty listed in the 1840 census for Shawneetown, Gallatin County, Illinois. Gallatin County is located in the southeast section of Illinois. There was one male age 30-40 and one female age 15-20 listed in the household. Those ages match the ages of Peter McNulty, age 33, and Patience Burgess McNulty, age 17. By the 1850 census there was no McNulty family living in Gallatin County.

On 10 Dec 1840, Peter McNulty purchased land from the Federal Government in Kenosha County, Wisconsin. His wife, Patience, was listed on the document.

Peter McNulty was found in the 1842 census at Pleasant Prairie, Racine County, Wisconsin. Two adults and one male child were in the family. By the 1850 census the family had five children and were living in the town of Pike, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. By 1860 the family had six children and was living in Brighton, Kenosha Co. The 1870 census shows the family with ten children and living in Dover, Racine County, Wisconsin. In 1880 the family was still living in Dover, with their son Henry and daughter Loretta. Henry was listed as idiotic and insane. Peter was listed as age 79 and indigent with palsy. The family could not be found in the 1885 state census for Wisconsin in either Racine or Kenosha Counties. This probably means that Peter McNulty died between 1 June 1880 and 20 June 1885.

Peter is buried in an unmarked grave identified as Block 2, Lot 10, Grave 4 (Also shown as SE 2, PL 10, GR 4) of the Tom Morrow Lot at St. Mary's Church in Dover, Racine County, Wisconsin. This information was found in the church records but no recording of the date of death was listed.

Recently, I visited the cemetery at Dover and found that Peter's burial site was not where I first thought. Originally I thought that he was buried to the right of the single grave shown on the photo to the right of the large tree. That tomb



stone was for Thomas Morrow born in 1873, however the two tombstones to the left of the large tree are marked Thomas Morrow, born 1830, and his wife, Catharine Morrow, born 1849. Since the elder Thomas Morrow would have been the one who owned the family plot, Peter McNulty is either buried to the left of the two tombstones, or right under the large tree.

Since Peter McNulty's burial place does not have a tombstone visible today, it will take a visit to the cemetery sexton to ultimately find his burial place.



Photo From The 50's...

Pictured in the above photo are Alvin Heck and Marvin Pfeiffer. The picture was captured from an 8mm movie film taken by Alvin's father, Alvin Heck Senior.



From The Photo Album...

The collage above shows 89 pictures of my dad, Robert Gerald Heck. The pictures were scanned and copied from the many old photo albums that our family had plus from some loose photos that I had. The earliest photo shows Robert at about the age of four years. There are photos of him when he was eleven or twelve and even a few as a teenager. There is even a picture of him at his eight-grade graduation.

Some of the shots were taken while vacationing and camping during the depression years of 1929-1932.

Some photos were taken when he started dating a young Mary Ann Mikel in 1932. One or more of the pictures were taken at the wedding of Robert

and Mary in June 1935. Several of the photos were taken during the war years of 1941-1945.

Baseball was a favorite sport of Robert and you should be able to pick out pictures in his uniform. Incidentally, he played one of his last baseball games at the age of 70.

Dad was an Alderman in the City of Racine, Wisconsin and many of the photos were taken for his campaign posters or while attending some public event. One of the photos shows him beaming with pride when the City of Racine dedicated the Robert G. Heck Park in his honor. I still remember his talk on that cold day when he questioned whether his hat would fit.

Robert Gerald Heck was born on May 9, 1909 and he would have been 101 years old this year.

Just in case you were wondering how I created that collage, I used a free program called "PICASA", which is available on Google.com. The program is a nice one for keeping track of your many photos on your computer hard drive. After you enter Google.com, click on MORE and then click on EVEN MORE. You will find Picasa on the right side of the page. If you click on Picasa you will then begin a download of this great program.

Note that Picasa also does a nice job on fixing damaged or faded photos.

Looking for Aunt Stella in the 1920 and 1930 US Census...

My cousin, Joanne Heck Pfeiffer, was having trouble finding her mother in the US Census records of 1920 and 1930. The 1920 census wasn't too bad but the 1930 census presented a challenge.

Stella's parents were Leonard Louis Celmerowski and Elizabeth Wasiewska. He was born in Matawa, Poland and she in Sziedieunia, Poland. They were married on 24 November 1904 in Schudevna, Poland and he arrived in the United States on 21 October 1907. She followed on 28 September 1908. They lived in Glen Falls, New York initially and migrated to Racine, Wisconsin in 1910.

Stella was born on 19 September 1914 at Racine, Wisconsin. Before Stella married Alvin James Heck on 11 May 1935 at Racine, she had started using the name Selman as her maiden name.

Usually one starts with the most recent released census, which was the 1930 US Census. It took me quite a while to find Stella in Racine in 1930. Every search for a Stella Celmerowski in Racine went without success. The way that I finally found her was by conducting a search for every person named Stella in the City of Racine in 1930. Stella is not a very common name but I was still surprised when I found that there were

125 females with that name in Racine. I finally found her listed as Stella Pelmerouski. The family was headed by Louis and Elizabeth Pelmerouski and included eight children, one of which was Stella, age 16.

Next it was time to search the 1920 US Census for Racine. There I found a five year old Stella Celmarowski listed with her family.



L-R: Pat, Alvin, Ronnie, Stella, Joanne, and Alvin Heck .

The Immigration and Naturalization Service listed the spelling of the family name as Celmerowski, while the 1920 census had it as Celmarowski, and the 1930 census had it as Pelmerowski. No wonder Aunt Stella decided to use the name Selman. It made life a lot easier for her.

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

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Stranger Than Strange

One of our readers sent me a letter recently with some questions about Almon B. and Ada Burgess. She stated that Almon and Ada had a daughter in 1913, which Ada supposedly poisoned. She said that it was in the Mason City newspapers. Almon was the son of Jonathan Burgess & Adelia Priest, and grandson of George Burgess & Mary Matteson, and great grandson of Benajah Burgess & Zilpha Matteson.

Armed with that starting information I researched the case and copied the newspaper articles.

Waterloo Evening Courier, Waterloo, Iowa, Friday, 3 Oct 1913 Pg 1

Three Compelled to Take Morphine, Little Child Dies.

Mason City, IA., Oct 3, The police of this city are unable to solve the mystery surrounding the murder of the three-months-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Burgess of this city and the attempt on the life of the latter. Both were forcibly given morphine by a masked man last evening. Mrs. Burgess is in the hospital and may not recover. Burgess is a meat cutter. One arrest has been made.

Muscatine Journal, Muscatine, Iowa, Friday 3 Oct 1913 Pg 1

Murderous Attack Iowa Town Mystery

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Waterloo Times-Tribune, Waterloo, Iowa, Sunday, 5 Oct 1913 Pg 2

Murder Charged Against Mother

Mother of Young Babe is Said to Have Killed it Because of the Threats Against Her Life Made By a Wealthy Greek.

Mason City, IA., Oct 4, Murder is the charge lodged against Mrs. Ada Holcomb Burgess after the coroner's jury had made a pretty thorough examination into all the circumstances connected with the case. Her confession was that she poisoned the child but was compelled to do so by threats on her life by Louis Chirikos. The child-mother who is now to appear on this charge is only 19 years of age, while her husband Almond B. Burgess is fifty-four.

He was a veterinary surgeon at Amboy, Minnesota. He had been married twice. He was infatuated with Miss Holcomb and prior to their marriage he brought her to Rockwell where she stayed with his mother.

In September 1912, Burgess moved on a farm then tenanted by Louis Chirikos, and worked the farm. In a short time he took Miss Holcomb on the farm and they lived together as man and wife. Finally they decided to get married and on March 31st the wedding ceremony was performed. In July following a child was born.

It was yesterday afternoon about five o'clock according to the story told by the woman that she gave her three morphine pills and then she stated she took one. Her husband was away from home at the time and he arrived about 6:30 finding the wife much excited. She told him the story that a man had appeared at the door with a flour sack over his head with holes cut for vision, and demanded that she put some poison that he had with him into Louis Chirikos' food. She refused to do it and the man grabbed the baby and said if she did not he would make the baby swallow it. She rushed back to protect the baby and he grappled with her and put some in her mouth, which she spit out.

Officers at once took up the examination and finally secured a full confession from her. Her story is now that she was compelled to give the drug to the child because Louis Chirikos threatened to kill her unless she did. She claims that he is the father of the child and she was afraid that if she did not kill the little one that he or some of his Greek friends would kill her. It is stated that

Chirikos has admitted that he had had illicit relations with her. Chirikos is a man of considerable wealth. He has two brothers in the city of good standing among his people. As yet only the woman is under arrest but Chirikos and his brother are being held pending further examination. It appears that Burgess had the utmost confidence in his wife and when the report reached him that she had done the poisoning and had admitted it he would not believe the statements.

Sioux County Herald, Orange City, Iowa, Thursday, 13 Nov 1913 Pg2.

Officials Puzzled Over Removal Of Baby's Body.

Mason City, IA, November 5. A peculiar aftermath of the Burgess baby poisoning case has come to light in the discovery that the baby's body has been moved from the original place of interment. When it was discovered yesterday that the body was gone officials assumed that it had been stolen. Late last night, however, the body was found where it had been reburied, under a clump of bushes.

There is no apparent motive for concealing the body, so far as officials can figure, as Mrs. Burgess admitted poisoning it. She implicated her Greek paramour, and it is considered possible that his attorney may be planning to deny that the baby was poisoned.

As a direct result of the disclosures in the Burgess case six Greeks were arrested here and are held subject to deportation.

Waterloo Times-Tribune, Waterloo, Iowa, Tuesday, 16 Dec 1913 Pg 2

On Trial For Murder Of Child

Mason City, IA., Dec 15. - The question of admitting testimony of an accomplice will be thoroughly fought out in the murder trial, which was called before Judge Clark in the district court this morning. Without the evidence of Mrs. Ada Holcomb Burgess there is no probability of convicting Louis Chirikos of the murder of the three-months old daughter of Mrs. Burgess; with her testimony it would be probable, for there is some corroborating evidence.

Sioux County Index, Hull, Iowa, Friday, 19 Dec 1913 Pg 4.

... **Mrs. Burgess admitted poisoning the child.** She says that Chirikos wanted to marry her and they would then go to Chicago and run a bawdy house.

Cedar Rapids Republican, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sunday, 21 Dec 1913 Pg 3.

Louis Chirikos Found Guilty. The Mason City Greek who forced Mrs. Burgess to kill baby found guilty.

Waterloo Times-Tribune, Waterloo, Iowa, Wednesday, 7 Jan 1914 Pg 9.

Chirikos sentenced to life imprisonment.

Correctionville News, Correctionville, Iowa, Thursday, 12 Feb 1914, Pg 2.

Mrs. Burgess Not Guilty of Poisoning Her Baby.

Attorney Michael Coughlin came more strongly into prominence last week, when he succeeded in procuring the acquittal of Mrs. Ada Burgess, who was charged with poisoning her three months old baby.

Editor's Note: Ada Burgess remained with her husband, Almon in Mason City, Iowa until his death in 1924. They had three more children, one each in 1915, 1919, and 1923. Ida married Howard Morse after 1924 and had at least one child with him in 1929. Ada Holcomb Burgess is pictured below.

