

*Preserving the Past
Enlightening the Present
Living Vision to the Future*

Villisca Historical Society, Inc Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2, Nov
2011

Today is tomorrow's history!



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- ✓ Pioneer Obituary, Mrs. Rebecca Overman



The Blue Jay and Chile Connection



If you have had the occasion to tour the great southwest and in particular the drive down Interstate 25 that goes south towards Las Cruces New Mexico from Albuquerque then you may have noticed the little town just west of the meandering Rio Grande, between Truth or Consequences and Las Cruces New Mexico. A bustling little village as they are called in that neck of the woods, sets about a mile or two off of the interstate. Perhaps you were short on time and your trip needed to take you on out to Arizona or California on Interstate 10. If that was the case then you probably took the "Deming Cut Off" or NM 28 which by passes the major city of Las Cruces and gives you a shortcut to Deming and points further west. That little village is called Hatch and it has a strong connection to Villisca and in particular an alumnus of the class of 58. The presiding Mayor is Judd Nordyke, oldest son of Max and Lenore Nordyke. Max used to be the voice of the Bluejays at the Friday Night Football games as they were then announced over the radio station. Lenore was a mainstay in the annual celebrations held in Villisca, namely Jubillisca and the Cooking School fetes each year. They have both passed in recent years, Max first and then more recently Lenore. Yes, that is right, the Village of Hatch, the World Chile Capitol, also as seen on the Food Channel where the famous Hatch Chile Festival is covered and attended by thousands each year the first week in September. Judd has been the mayor of Hatch since 2002, elected to his first term then and reelected again in 2006 and 2010.

Judd's journey began in Villisca and today continues in the Village of Hatch New Mexico. It is a journey not unlike a thousand other stories but one that bears telling. It is in fact a portrait in self determination. There are literally thousands of VHS alumni that have made that journey, similar to his, to have successful careers at places distant from their roots in Southwestern Iowa. Judd's dedication to achieve higher education and to become a career teacher and high school principal as well as serving his community in an elected office and more recent participation in the New Mexico Space Port Authority through the Virgin Galactic Space Port initiative at nearby Upham New Mexico are all noteworthy and interesting.

Judd and I were high school run around pals, mainly because we worked together at the Town and Country grocery store owned and operated by Ed and Tillie Weiner. Judd had a pretty cool 1947 Black Ford Coupe, so we often double dated in his car. Judd liked to drive anytime he got the chance. When Ed and Tillie received a new panel truck for their delivery van Judd quickly grabbed the wheel to make those Saturday runs around town. He was two grades ahead of me but we both dated girls from my class. My days of driving the delivery van would come later after Judd's graduation from High School. When it was my time to assume that role I knew where everyone lived that called those delivery orders into Tillie or one of the lady check out clerks.

Continued on page 2.

THE KICK EM OUT TRAIN.

There once was a west bound freight train that came through Villisca every day. After it departed Villisca bound for Stanton it slowed due to the grade it would transit. The train slowing provided the opportunity for the authorities to board the train and to eject those travelers that were not ticketed. They would get back on the next train and continue their trip.

In the fall of 1958 Judd dipped his toe into the higher education pool for a year at Northwest Missouri in Maryville, but found the water was too cold! He wasn't really ready for that step. In the summer of 1960 he heeded the wisdom of Horace Greely and headed west. Gaining employment posed a problem in California and he soon found himself at the Navy Recruiting office, enlisting in the summer of 1960. After Basic training at San Diego he received training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center as a Machinist Mate. Eventual assignments allowed him to live the recruiting poster theme, "See the World" and he did from the deck of the U.S.S. Hamner (DD-718), a Destroyer Escort that was assigned to the 6th Fleet in the Pacific. In Judd's case his 4 year stint on active duty allowed him to set his rudder for life's journey.

Released from active duty and transferred to the US Naval Reserves in 1964 he headed home to Villisca and picked up where he had left off with the pursuit of his education, enrolling in Southwest Community College in nearby Clarinda. Judd received an Associate of Arts degree in 1967 at Clarinda and transferred to New Mexico State University at Las Cruces NM that same year. Judd met and married Marcia Crystal from Clovis New Mexico in 1968 while attending NMSU and continuing his education. During this time he also maintained his enlistment in the US Naval Reserves until 1976. Judd completed his student teaching at Hatch Valley Community schools and received his BS degree in Elementary Education in 1970 from NMSU. He landed a job at Hatch Valley Community schools teaching NM History and Social Studies at the Junior and Senior High School levels.

Judd and Marcia's roots went deep in that little village of Hatch, first with Judd's teaching career and with their daughter, Crista's birth in 1971. Their involvement in their community expanded exponentially over the years with a variety of activities, volunteering time and time again in Hatch and the surrounding area. Judd received a Master's of Arts in Educational Management and Development degree from NMSU in 1976. Along the way Judd received an appointment as the Hatch Municipal Judge on a part time basis in 1972 and then was elected to that position in 1974, 1980, 1984, 1988 and resigned in 2002 to run for the position of Mayor for the Village of Hatch. During this time both Judd and Marcia contributed to their community in many different ways, Lion's club, VFW, Eagles, American Legion, Chamber of Commerce, Hatch Chile Festival, Order of the Eastern Star, executive board of South Central Council of Governments and, South Central Regional Planning Organization among many others. Marcia's participation and civic minded support in addition to those mentioned has also seen her leadership as the chair lead for the past 5 years of the Annual Hatch Chili Festival, an attraction that receives thousands of visitors during the first weekend in September. Additionally, Marcia is serving on the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Council, Chair of the Northern Dona Ana County Economic Council and Chair of the Hatch Area Recovery Team organized in response to the 2006 flood. Judd wrapped up his career as a professional educator in 1998 after teaching for 18 years, a Junior High Principal for 2 years, a Middle School Principal for 4 years and ending his career as an Associate Superintendent for 4 years in the Hatch Valley Community School system. After a brief interlude with an educational contractor Judd opted to pursue the Mayoral election in Hatch, as previously mentioned he was elected in 2002 and has been re-elected twice 2006 and again in 2010.

I won't provide much information here about the Hatch Chili Festival other than this Universal Resource Location (URL) link on the web. <http://www.hatchchilefest.com/> There is plenty of information at the web site and from that you can imagine the work and volunteer support that is required to conduct an activity of this magnitude. For those that conduct or attend the Villisca Heritage you will have an appreciation for an event such as the world famous,



Interestingly Judd and Marcia along with the Village of Hatch as well as Federal, State and Regional governing groups and planning committees are knee deep in the next regional project, Spaceport America! On October 22, 2010 Spaceport America runway and facility was dedicated at nearby Upham New Mexico. This is a commercially driven initiative in cooperation with NASA and New Mexico authorities. Sir Richard Branson, the Virgin Airlines guy is the force behind this project which has already brought an economic boom to Southern New Mexico. The enterprise is organized under the Virgin Galactic Company, a part of Branson's international conglomerate. Judd and Marcia along with a wide range of organizations and personnel participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Attending dignitaries included Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Former NM Governor Bill Richardson, and NASA Deputy Administrator Lori Garver. The landing strip, named the Governor Bill Richardson Spaceway, is 42 inches thick and nearly two miles long, impressive in itself with 24 inches of prepared sub grade, 4 inches of asphalt and finished with 14 inches of concrete. From the web site "It is the world's first purpose-built, commercial spaceport". The recent changes at the Federal level in funding of future manned space flight and the termination of America's space shuttle program has created a need to shift and expand space exploration into a commercial enterprise. Virgin Galactic is poised to enter this new niche that has been created by the New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA). An incredible amount of people have already booked future flights as the commercial space exploration initiative moves forward. The Hatch Valley has received a shot in the arm through this growing commercial space effort that was started in 2006. In the past other historical and significant projects have seen their materialization in the area, some 125 miles north located on White Sands Missile Range is Trinity site, where the first atomic bomb was dropped in 1945. To the East across the San Andreas Mountain range lies the alternate landing site for the NASA Space Shuttle program. This site was used as an alternate on at least one occasion for the shuttle to land. It was later placed piggy back on the specially designed 747 jet and transported to Cape Kennedy. The unique characteristics of this desert area provide the ideal environment for the new commercial space center along with the rich missile test environment offered at adjacent White Sands Missile Range where America's rocket, missile and laser guided munitions came of age.

For more information on America's Space Port go to the web link <http://www.spaceportamerica.com/> It provides much more detailed information about this important project that is bringing a boom to Southern New Mexico



Space Ship Two is in a Captured State prior to landing at the Spaceport America Seen Below



Figure 2 Judd Nordyke, Class of 58, Villisca Alum,

Judd along with his wife Marcia present portraits of self service and dedication to their community. Their volunteerism along with Judd's professional service to education are in fact a reflection in selfless civic service and pride, no doubt their roots have had a shaping influence on how they have elected to live their productive lives. If the opportunity arises for you to travel through that little village of Hatch on NM Highway 28 then be sure and take the time to stop by the Hatch Municipal Office building just before you reach the intersection and see if Judd is in his office. Stop in and say hi and maybe if you have time and you are there at lunch time he will take you to the best Green Chili Cheeseburger in the area, if it is not full of tourists or visitors from the nearby Spaceport America.

MORTONS MILLS, PART II, BY BOB PENWELL

The 1930 depression hit the little town and forced the closing of the bank in 1931. Times were very hard and by 1938 the only businesses left were the Implement and Garage Store, the Prathers grocery store and Gerald Penwell's grocery and gas station store. Still, the town maintained its population, school and pride of identity. Sadly, 1960 was the last year of school in the little two-room elementary school building and we were bused to "town school" in Villisca/Nodaway. I attended our little school from 1st through 7th grade, and to my memory, my first teacher was Wilma Bashaw, and my last teachers there were Lisa Charmichal, and Bernice Guffy. (As a side note, though the larger schools clearly had more to offer elementary students, I'd be willing to wager if you tracked the lives of the students at our little school, you be amazed at the advanced degrees and successful professional and personal lives of those "alummi") Until it was necessary to tear the school down, it was used as a "Community Center" where people for miles around would still meet, sing songs and have socials. These events were mixed emotions for locals; in addition to the migration to the Villisca schools and activities, it also began the lessening of Morton's Mill as a social community. In 1970 the last grocery store and gas station combination owned by Gerald Penwell was sold to the state to allow for the widening of Highway 71 (originally paved in 1930). In addition to "the Penwell Bro's office", this was the bus stop and local gathering spot/soda pop/ice cream, etc. for neighbors for miles around.

Penwell Trucking/ Grain Company: It could be said that the very beginning of the Penwell Trucking was in 1926, when Howard Penwell bought a grain and stock truck at the age of 17 and began hauling for the farmers. With the railroad no longer in use there was a great need for trucks. In the late 1940's Howard's trucking business got too busy so he was joined by his two younger brothers, Mac and Maurice, who had returned from the war efforts and became "Penwell Brothers" Trucking. For many years the Penwell Trucking was done in what was called Straight Trucks. They could haul stock with the side racks up, or cleaned and haul grain with the side racks down. Additionally, the Penwell's had highway rock (roads and driveways) and lime spreading (fields) trucks, and, of course, there was my Dad (Mac) and the cornsheller. Corn was stored in cribs until the modern picker/sheller's and in addition to the heavy lifting to get the "drags" in place, a full crew of men/boys was needed to scoop and load corn into the sheller, haul cobs, shucks in addition to the shelled corn. Corn shellers were scarce and thus shelling took place in the 3 surrounding counties. All of this amounted to a constant business but also had to change with the markets and technology of the agriculture business. For example, rock and lime hauling became a specialized business, and was not compatible with livestock and grain hauling. Trucking hard work. Generally, the Penwell worked 6 days a week, and frequently half days for stock loads to Omaha, St Joe or the evening, as well as performing maintenance trucks (tires were a constant problem). was common, eventually aided by portable subsequently by augers, but always physical done. In a family owned business, everything. But, Howard ("Hardy") was the Maurice ("Mo or Genk") was the rock/lime hauler and later the "head mechanic" and the cornsheller guy. Normally one or two were employed and additional local part helped in the driving and maintenance. In Trucking purchased its first semitrailer and This was a big event and allowed larger multiple customer hauls in a single truck. We marveled at it's size – obviously now dwarfed by modern trucking rigs (note the single axle)



was always Brother's days on Sun-Kansas City in nance of the Scooping grain elevators and work to be body does eve-"head trucker", and short my dad, Mac, full time drivers time farmers 1952, Penwell it seemed huge! loads, and mul-

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In the late 1950s livestock became less of a mainstay and grain production became more predominant. Though the straight trucks were still used for hauling both (drop the racks, scoop out the hog waste, and wash again and again) grain trucks and semitrailers were purchased and eventually in the early 60's the Penwell Brother's purchased and refurbished the old grain elevator in Morton's Mill (owned by Fletch Gourley) put in truck scales, moved the old office from near the highway and began erecting grain storage bins. The side load shoot was actually the location of the old railroad track and the inside dump was rebuilt to handle the larger dumps than had been used there. Penwell Brothers Trucking evolved to Penwell Grain Company and though the business of hauling still existed, the nature of it and focus of the company changed enormously.



The Quonset bin (pictured) was the first large grain storage bin built, with a storage capacity of 65,000 bushells! Note the old town "bank building" on the right used for livestock feed storage. The old elevator originally held only 3500 bushels but was modified for more storage and grain "handling" to accommodate receiving and loading. Live stock hauling evolved primarily into large loads for Penwell Trucking as farmers began to have small load capability themselves. This turned out to be an advantageous event to both Penwell Trucking and to the farmers as well (picture of 1967)



The Penwell Grain Company continued to grow through the 1960s and was sold to younger Penwell family relatives, Lynn & Sandy (Penwell) Taylor and Warren & Donna (Penwell) Chapman, and David Penwell in 1973 (I opted to continue my military pilot career). The live stock hauling was ended in 1972 and the transition to grain business accompanied the transition of ownership (no "rookies" involved though as Lynn, Warren and David had all been working there for sometime) . Dave Penwell departed in 1977 and in 1987 Donna and Warren departed and Lynn & Sandy became sole owners/operators. As the grain business continued to grow, in addition to the size of the grain trucks, a new office, scales and storage bins were built across from the church on the east end of the town. The land had been purchased in 1977 and more grain bins were built over the years. In Dec of 2000, a new office was built and became the operating facility of Penwell Grain.

Today the grain company continues provide grain hauling and dealership services to the surrounding counties, and states. The initial start of the two trucks and a corn sheller, now consists of a fleet of grain trucks, grain elevators and grain storage of just under 600,000 bushels. While the fleet of grain trucks exceeded 400,000 miles per year, new ethanol markets have reduced that by half, and during the harvest a 3 loading and 3 hauling around the clock meets the need. Ownership and operation of the company is expected to be passed to the third generation from the Penwell Brothers and the “extended Penwell family” remains very proud of the history and service provided by Penwell Brother’s trucking, and grain. If there was a single reason the Penwell Trucking/Grain was successful through the years, though my opinion is admittedly biased, I’d say it was because they considered themselves a “part of the community”, not a “business in the community”. To the best of my knowledge no request for service was ever turned down, even when it was known that repayment may be difficult or unlikely. Partnering was a way of life in this community long before it became “vogue” in large business.

The size of the town is now very small compared to the once bustling population of 75 or more but its people past and present are still spirited and proud to lived in the town of Morton’s Mill.



Morton Mills School Days!

left to right 1st row

Gerald Norcross, Loren Stuvick,
Duane Nippert

2nd row

Matt Young, Mary Jo Bashaw, David Penwell

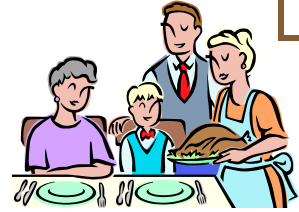
3rd row

Phyllis Burkhead, John Focht,
Joanne King, Me(Freda Vander-
shule),

4th row

Eugene Burkhead, Donald Stuvick,
John Burkhead, Shirley Anderson,
Herb Bashaw,





Big Bird by Judith Ann Moriarty from “Saddle Shoes”

It's almost that time to gather folks around us for the annual feast with the Big Bird. I'm sure father didn't shoot a gobbler somewhere in the wilds of the Nodaway Valley, but however we obtained our turkey, it seemed positively gigantic. Not just through the filter of my memories which tends to “enlarge” things ... our bird was somewhere in the 20 - 30 lb. range. My mother spent what seemed like days preparing for the feast to end all feasts, and when she lugged the turkey to the oak table in our dining room, everyone present said, “Ahhhhhhhh.” The trimmings were abundant: potatoes mashed and rippling with smooth-as silk gravy, green beans snapped, peas shelled, (and likely corn shucked and swimming in cream), and more potatoes of the sweet kind topped with melting marshmallows. After WW Two we had real butter instead of Oleo, but that said, I admit to having retained a certain fondness for memories of squeezing Oleo and mixing it in with a little bag of orange coloring designed to make you think you were dealing with “real” butter. It was fun squeezing the bag, but that's where the fun ended. Oleo on toast just didn't cut it.

Pies. With crusts made of pork lard, crisscross crusts in lattice shapes. Real whipped cream for lavishing homemade mincemeat, pumpkin fillings, and, if we'd gathered and prepared enough black walnuts, perhaps we'd have a taste of dad's famous black walnut divinity. Not that we needed it, but it was his specialty. In the basement of our home were shelves filled with things mom had canned and preserved. I never did quite understand the “pickled watermelon rind,” but during Thanksgiving I took a crispy crunchy slice anyway.

Dad's other specialty was carving The Big Bird. This always involved a certain amount of ceremony, and yes, brought on a certain amount of table side tension, for the carving was extremely personal in nature. Who wanted a leg? A thigh? A slice of breast? Lord help us, if the knife was dull. I think keeping it sharp was dad's department, as was the making of the stuffin, oyster being his favorite. The house was filled with heavenly odors and The Big Bird held center stage.

Our Villisca Thanksgiving table usually featured something mother had crafted. Turkey place-setting cards made from pinecones and pipe cleaners come to mind. They stood proudly on a lace tablecloth, their construction paper “feathers” unfurled. The tablecloth had almost as much importance as The Big Bird, for it was brought forth on special occasions only, and after those occasions it was promptly hand-washed and then dried on an odd looking “stretcher” contraption in our basement.

It took great effort to remove stains, and woe-be-to he or she who dribbled gravy, slopped cranberry relish, or toppled a glass of farm fresh milk onto its pristine surface. On Big Bird day we sported our Sunday best ... father in his best tie and vest (probably his only vest!) and our lovely mother? Well, she seemed to always be clad in an apron. Her demeanor was one of pure triumph, for she had wrestled The Big Bird into buttery submission.

A few years ago, my sister and I made pinecone place-cards for my grand kids. We also deep-fried a turkey, but frankly, you can have that trendy method, for the smell of bubbling fat in no way measures up to

the scent of a turkey roasting slowly in a real oven. One year when my son visited Wisconsin with his wife and two small boys, we ordered complete turkey dinners from a deli. What were we thinking? It was so *impersonal*. Everything came cooked, sliced and diced, and maybe worst of all, there was no wishbone to wish upon.

In preparing these memories, I went online to FOXNews.com, and learned that in 2006, our troops in Iraq (at least the ones at Camp Fallujah) celebrated their Thanksgiving, amidst “cardboard turkeys, pumpkins and pilgrims in belt-buckle hats.” Their menu was an expansive array of roast turkey with all the trimmings and four varieties of pie, plus of course, the traditional pumpkin pie. Maybe the wildest birds in the mess hall were the 3-foot-tall turkey sculptures fashioned out of butter!

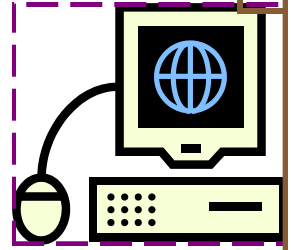
Go ahead and laugh if you will, but recently I unearthed an online company that sells “Green Chile” bread sculptures shaped like turkeys. Perfect for your “contemporary” holiday table maybe, but not for the one where I sat with my family so many years ago. Nothing less than mother's homemade Parker House rolls would do on that day.

Memories consist of many moments (some good, some not so good), stitched together over many years. I give thanks for mine.

Editor. My mind rolled back to those golden days of the holidays in the heartland as I read Judith's recollections which are so aptly put. My thanks to her for giving me free access to “Saddle Shoes” and to reprint.

Technology Aids History Preservation

I wanted to bring attention to several initiatives that were completed this past year that will contribute significantly to Villisca's history preservation. I also want to mention a project that has been on my mind but has not been launched at this time. Digitizing information is a tremendous step in preservation and improving accessibility not only for the current generations but also for those in the future. In particular it is an information boon for family researchers and historians. Genealogy research is the second highest use of the internet. I want to tell you what earns the distinction of number one!!



Kudos to Linda Artlip and Barbara Kemery for all the work it took to put the Volcano issues on line and thus allowing access for anyone that is able to get on the web! Terrific effort and a tremendous step forward in preservation of this vital information. Not to be out done, Linda's brother and class of 60 classmate Jim, took the time to digitize the oft used and standing reference of the Class Listings for VHS. Jim should be applauded for this effort and we will never know how many marriages or friendships were preserved with his initiative. I know in my house the paper copies we have are worn and dog eared as they have been used frequently when discussing who was in what class. Here are the web addresses for these two projects.

VHS Grads: <http://www.vhsgrads.com/>

Volcanos: <http://www.villiscavolcano.com/>

The hard working and tireless efforts of Roxanne Seiber in Villisca will again bear fruit when she completes her "Villisca Guided Tour" that can be downloaded to your smart cell phone. When launched it will give you a guide around the town and mention several of the long standing stories that have been passed down through time. There is more in this Newsletter regarding this project.

If you have been involved in doing any research at the Villisca library then you know that there is a wealth of information contained in the microfiche records of the Villisca Review that are stored at the library. I did some brief work there a year or two ago when assembling some background for a couple of the articles in the Newsletter. I was overwhelmed with the volume of data that is available and improving the access to include on-line would enhance research work in the future. It seems that this project is a likely candidate for a shared responsibility between the Historical society and the Villisca Alumni Association. I would like to see the idea moved forward and I have been discussing the possibility with Ruth Narancic who provided information for the Civil War issue of 2010 regarding her ancestor, John Gregg Stewart. Dave Williams of Villisca also advises me that Stewart was his maternal grandfather. Ruth is a long standing member of the Santa Clara California Historical and Genealogy Society and will do some initial investigation into digitizing records. I think this is a prime candidate for technology insertion and would have a wide impact. I am sure grant funds would be available to aid us in completing this project.

A SELF GUIDED TOUR Villisca has gone mobile with a self-guided Villisca History Tour that can be accessed by mobile devices (cell phones and pads) at www.m.villisca.com. Villisca has a rich history and it has long been a goal to share some of that history with visitors to Villisca. Trying to get it into a brochure just didn't work. Having it on the Villisca website did not make it accessible to travelers who did not carry a laptop with them. More than a year ago, Roxanna Sieber, Villisca Economic Development Director, set out to create a History Tour that could be accessed on mobile devices. Statistics show that the number of adults with cell phones that can access the Internet is increasing daily. In November 2011 the first version of mobile tour will roll out. It is without a doubt that it will be ever changing for some time. The Tour includes some of our serious history mixed with some of our more unique stories. Mobile devices come with a variety of platforms so designing a website has been a challenge. Sieber decided to design the simplest of sites to allow it to be accessed by even the low-end devices. It is not flashy but it tells the story. As time passes, she hopes to modify the initial site with a little more glitz to provide a more refined site for devices like the iPhone and iPad. Another goal is to have a guided tour via video.



Get the free mobile app at
<http://gettag.mobi>

Side Note: Mary Hansen advises that Villisca was impacted severely by the August storm and that shingles are stacked all over the town in yards and the repair is a daily routine.

A LONG LIFE CLOSED

----- Mrs. Rebecca Overman, One of the Earliest Settlers of this Community, is Gone -----

After an illness covering a period of several months, though for only the last few weeks considered serious, Mrs. Rebecca Overman died at her home at the corner of Second avenue and Fourth street at 6:30 o'clock last Thursday evening, December 28, 1905, at the age of 87 years 10 months, and 5 days. She was one of the early settlers in this community, having come here many years in advance of the railroad and when the country was one vast prairie.

In her last sickness she was surrounded by her children and all that could be was done for her comfort, and every endeavor made to prolong the life of her who for scores of years has been "mother," though the children themselves are now grandparents of many who are grown.

The title of "Grandma" Overman has not all been pleasure. Going on the frontier means trials and hardships. This she endured until civilization followed the path that had been blazed by others like herself and husband. She has seen the present city of "Villisca" changed from a prairie into its present state, and the country bursting on the town undergo as great a change.

In pioneer days services of all denominations represented here at that time were held in the Overman home, there being no churches here then. The sermons were usually preached by Uncle "Billy" Reed who lived near Milford, and Thos. Brown, now of Nodaway. After these services the little congregation would be invited to dinner which had been prepared for them by Mrs. Overman.

Rebecca Spargur born in Highland county, Ohio, February 28, 1818, and was married to Elijah Overman, April 2, 1834. In 1861 the family moved to this community, settling on a farm which is now a part of Villisca. Mr. Overman was the first postmaster of the city, receiving his appointment in 1863. To them were born thirteen children, seven of whom have preceded the mother in death. One son, Elijah Jr., lost his life while serving his country. Being a member of the First Ohio cavalry he was engaged in the battle of Stone River and received a wound that resulted in his death. He was buried at Chattanooga, Tenn. Those who are living are, Mrs. David Stipe near Braddyville; A. W. Overman, A. R. Overman, Mrs. C. H. Hall, Borter Overman and Thomas Overman, of this city. With these are left to mourn forty grandchildren, sixty-five great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

After the death of her husband which occurred in 1875, for many years she made her home with her son, A. W. Overman, but for the past twelve years has been keeping up a home of her own, and up to the time of her last sickness was able to do her own work.

For more than sixty years she has been a member of the Universalist church and a firm believer in the bible. In her religion she has found much comfort and died with the assurance that all was well with her.

The funeral was held in the M. E. church Sunday, conducted by Rev. W. W. Merritt, of Red Oak, and assisted by Rev. Newland of this city.

Card of Thanks --- We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our many friends for their kindness and sympathy during the sickness and death of our beloved mother.

The Children.

From Montgomery County Genealogy Records. Our thanks to Dave Stein of Villisca.

Villisca Historical Society, Inc Newsletter

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We're on the Web!

Mailing Labels Placed Here

REMEMBERING BILL ANDERSON AND MARY ANN DUNKIN We lost two fine people this past summer and fall. **Mary Ann Dunkin** passed away in Colorado from a prolonged bout with cancer that finally took its toll. I don't know how many of you knew Mary Ann, but she was a dedicated genealogist and family historian. She reveled in helping families complete searches and provide those missing links that were needed to complete the generational lines of a particular family. Mary was related to both myself and Jeanette with deep roots in the Norwegian communities of Strand and Sciola. She contributed some fine articles on Family research during the initial issues of the Villisca Historical Society Newsletter. Some pictures of her and her first teaching assignment at Bakers Cut school are included.

Bill Anderson was a long time contributor to the Villisca Review and Stanton Viking as well as this newsletter. Bill spent his career in the east coast Washington DC area working as a lobbyist and a businessman. I am not sure what year he graduated but he was a victim of that 50's outbreak of polio which impaired him for the remainder of his life. I did not know Bill long but I always read his articles in the paper although I might have at time to time disagreed with his political persuasions. Bill was a local historian that could recall lots of interesting things from the 40's and 50's. When his daughter Desiree broadcast his passing over a blanket email address system which Bill had on his computer it was sent to a wide ranging variety of Bills friends, family and associates. Many replies to the notice were forthcoming over the next few days and I read them with increasing interest. He certainly touched the lives of many people with many diverse backgrounds. This too then is a fitting testament to Bill's life. Caring about others and doing right were their hall marks.

Mary Ann and Bill's lives can be characterized as remarkable in my estimate and by those of their friends. Our sincere and deepest sympathy to their families at this time.

BAKER CUT SCHOOL
EAST TOWNSHIP #9



TEACHER - MISS MARY ANN HENDRICKSON



BELOW - FALL, 1947
MARLIN WILLIAMS, AMELIA
WILLIAMS, SARA LEE, ILENE
LINDBERG, DUANE WILLIAMS,
EVERETTE LEE, MABEL
WILLIAMS and MARY LEE



ABOVE - SPRING 1948
RUBY & CAROLYN WIRTH,
SARA LEE, MARLIN WILLIAMS,
DUANE WILLIAMS, ILENE
LINDBERG, AMELIA WILLIAMS,
EVERETTE LEE, MARY LEE
and MABEL WILLIAMS

