

# KRESHA KRONICLE

Volume 14 No. 1 2503-8-St., Columbus, NE 68601

January-May, 1988

Dec., 1987

Christmas, 1987

Dear Friends and Relatives,

I'm still at the stand here in Nevada, Iowa, and still rocking along about the same as a year ago. The newspaper business has also rocked along about the same, but I'm getting ready to start computerizing in the next few months and have mixed feelings about that — relishing the time they're supposed to save but having reservations about the learning I'm going to have to do to cope with them.

The year has been more eventful for some of my kids than it has been for me.

Joe changed place of residence in Denver but otherwise things are about the same for him.

Terri made the biggest move — from Main to California yet. She spent most of the summer here with Gloria and me, helping on the paper during the time she was here and we also managed to see a few of the sights of the Midwest.

Karen made a pretty big move, too, in fact a couple of them. She went to Seattle in February, was there a short time and decided to go to Denver and set up her vintage clothing business. She ran it for a few months then decided it really wasn't for her, so went back to Seattle in October. She is working at Penney's now and I don't know if she will stay in Seattle or not.

Gloria is still working with me here on the paper and looking forward to learning the computers, but not planning to stay here permanently. She is considering various school and work possibilities.

Things are about the same for my parents, with my dad still living in the VA Hospital Nursing Home at Grand Junction and doing pretty well, and my mother still living at their place on Orchard Mesa. I made a couple of quick trips out to see them during the year — can't ever get away from here for more than a few days as long as I'm the only one in the place who can run the press.

Joe is planning to come here for Christmas with Gloria and me. Terri is planning to go from San Francisco up the Seattle and spend the holiday with Karen.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

*Dore Thomas*

EVA KRESHA  
December 12, 1987  
95 years old  
Mory's Haven,  
Columbus, Nebraska

Dear Family,

May the Spirit of Christmas  
bring you joy throughout the Year.

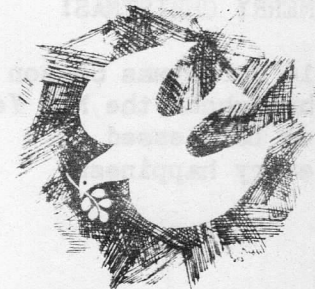
Love,  
ANN HENSEL

12-1987

Dear Kreshas,

Thinking of you  
and wishing you happiness  
at Christmas  
and throughout the New Year.

DIANE, DON, MARIE AND MARK  
CHAISSON



PEACE ON EARTH



December 8, 1987

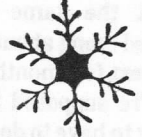
May God's  
PEACE  
reign in your heart during  
this Holy Season and always.

Dear Kreshas,

This past October I went with my oldest sister on a Caribbean Cruise for my vacation (the first in several years). The "high point" was Transiting the Panama Canal. What a marvelous engineering feat the Panama Canal is!

I hope to see the Kresha History when it is published. It should provide some interesting additions and parallels to the Olbrich/Scholz history.

FATHER MATT BURGER



Christmas, 1987

Dear Family,

MERRY CHRISTMAS! I'm settled into Seattle, for the most part. My job at J.C. Penney's was originally temporary, but now it looks like it will be permanent. I need the income, but the job is sure boring. I'm hoping to eventually find a job as a veterinary assistant--Veterinary school is out of my financial reach.

One of my roommates is an avid skier (all of them are, actually). She's going to teach me to ski sometime, if I can ever afford the cost of a ski-lift. None of us have a TV, so we read a lot. The only time I really miss the TV is when an important thing happens politically, like the Reagan-Gorbachev thing.

There's a lake a few blocks from our house, so I go for walks around it pretty often, and take the dog with me.

I'd better get this in the mail or it'll be New Year's Day by the time you get it.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

At this Christmas Season  
and throughout the New Year  
May you be blessed  
with every happiness.

Love you all ver' much!

KAREN THOMAS

March 3, 1988

Dear Kreshas,

All is well here in Arizona. We built a house on a 2-acre "mini-farm" and are really enjoying being out of the city.

Everyone is in great health--hope you are, too.

Our new address is:

7316 N. Ave.  
Waddell, AZ 85355

Take Care,

ANDY, VICKIE, VINCE, AND CARMEN KRESHA



March 8, 1988

Dear Family,

Our lives have been busy and hectic since our Christmas letter. It all started with me spraining my ankle about a week before Christmas. We got through the Holidays pretty good. Then on January 5th my brother-in-law Ken (Audrey's husband) fell and broke his hip. They had to replace the whole hip. He did really well, but it was really hard on Audrey. We tried to help out as much as possible.

Then around the first part of February, Pam got really sick. After a lot of tests, an ultra sound and a thyroid cat-scan, they found she has Grave's Disease. That is a mal-function of the thyroid. She is on two kinds of medication now and doing really well. She is like a new person. During all of this, I started taking Danny to an Ear, Nose, and Throat specialist. We found that he has chronic sinusitis. He is on medication for that too, which seems to be working real well.

I'm hoping real soon things will straighten out.

Andy and Becky are still living with us at home. They are looking for an apartment near Louisville. Hope they find something soon. Our baby should be here in about two weeks.

We are all planning on attending the reunion. Hope it works so we can. It should be a lot of fun.

Well, I'm going to make this short. It's late and I feel like I'm coming down with a cold. So I want to get plenty of rest.

Happy Easter to all!

All our love and prayers,

PAT KRESHA AND FAMILY

1987



MR. AND MRS.  
THOMAS JARECKE  
**Mitchell-Jarecke**

Married Friday, Nov. 27, at St. Isiore's Catholic Church in Columbus, were Joanna Mitchell and Thomas Jarecke, both of Columbus. Father Floyd Wessling officiated at the 4 p.m. ceremony.

Their parents are Delmar and Sue Ann Mitchell of Genoa and Jerome and Florence Jarecke of Columbus.

The bride appeared in a floor length gown created entirely of luster lace over taffeta. Venise lace trimmed the high neckline collar and edged the three-quarter length sleeves. Shirring wrapped the entire torso with a dropped waistline that released a full skirt. The hemline was finished with venise lace. Her bridal hat was lace covered with a side cluster of silk flowers and pearl loops. It held a back pouf and fingertip veil of illusion.

Lisa Kneifel of Bellwood was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Diana Johnson of Tulave, S.D.; Mary Zoucha of Schuyler; Stacey Podraza of Omaha; Pam Willms of Columbus and Lori Jarecke of Grand Island. They wore tea length royal blue satin dresses.

Best man for his brother was Jerry Jarecke of Columbus.

Groomsmen were David Jarecke of Omaha, Greg Jarecke of Kearney, Rey Jarecki and Pat Novicki of Columbus and Mitch Mitchell of Genoa. Ushers were Mike Novicki, Dave Ebner and Eric Jensen, all of Columbus.

Stephanie Mitchell was flower girl and ring bearer was Matthew Kresha. Tammy Johnson and Cindy Schindel were the bride's personal attendants. Donna Lusche was soloist.

A reception was held at St. Anthony's Social Hall for 300 guests. Helping with the reception were Joyce Lange, Pat Johnson, Carolyn Kresha, Helen Kwaitkowski, Michele Johnson, Lori Sprunk and Christine Humlicek.

Following a wedding trip to Breckenridge, Colo., the couple will make their home in Columbus where the bride is employed by the Elks Country Club and the groom is employed by Sand Fiberglass.



3-27-88

Dear Family,

The word was passed on to me that Elaine was about to put out a Kronicle, so I thought I would write a short note to announce the news of our new Granddaughter.

Jerome and Rosa Kresha have a baby daughter born April 5, weighing 8 lbs. They named her Ruth Diane. She is a beautiful and good baby. Rosa and baby stayed here 8 days while Rosa regained her strength. Jerome was very busy that week, also, shipping his trees to farming companies for planting. It is lots of work to move 9,000 trees and in 3 weeks to move another 2-3,000. The small rootstock (between 2-3' tall) are loaded into large wood boxes or bins--50 to a bin. They are then transported by semi-trailers.

For several months spring was definitely in the air and the past week some good storms were going through. We had 1/2" hailstones and a tornado east of us. California and the west coast is very dry. In fact, the fire season was opened early this year as precaution. George's tomato plants are about 3' tall with some blossoms. We had a fairly good fruit set on trees except the apricots.

Jerome has been a very busy man for several months, now. He and his painter helper have been finishing the oak furnishings--large desks, bookcases, etc. for our new central library, a 127,000 sq.ft. building. A Mediterranean-style 2 story library surrounds a 4,000 sq. ft. courtyard with landscaped fountain area. An Atrium is in the center of the library. You can read or enjoy entertainment out there. The library auditorium features 300 padded theater seats that fold down onto a platform and can be retracted into the wall. The room, a multipurpose, is on the 2nd floor. The library sets on 3.8 acres of land with 200 parking spaces. (Thank God for parking space.) The library interior is teal blue, accented by the oak cabinetry. A glass elevator is accessible by the stairwell. The building was designed to house 500,000 books, fine art collection, 1,500 videos, 800 audio cassettes, and many books on tapes. It was designed for the future at a cost of \$11 million. The formal opening is tonight. For the next 11 days there will be tours for the public. Much of the money was donated. Jerome said someday he will take his children in there and tell them that he finished the furnishings.

Gerhart is feeling and looking much improved. He is able to drive and get out a part of each day.

We are looking forward to meeting you all at the reunion on June 12, God willing. Until then, Much love to you all.



GEORGE AND MARGARET KRESHA

3-27-88

Dear Kinfolk,

Lillian says preparations for the Kresha celebration are falling into place. Thanks, Lillian, and to your crew. If YOU haven't cooperated with your information for the book or volunteered yourself for a job, do so!! Many hands make light work!

We have had more than our share of winter. Our last storm on 3-10 and 3-11 left about 12" of snow with 40 MPH winds. Most snow was in 12' drifts in the yard. We lost 8 baby calves. Our neighbor lost 100, 75 lb. pigs. Weather man is sending us another storm tonight. The barometer is down to 29.

On March 18, Dave was in a pickup roll-over accident. He had cuts, bruises, and a lower back injury. He is improving, but still in the hospital.

Marty is living and working in York, NE for Sahling Kenworth Trucks, doing the same shop work he did in Lincoln.

Josh and Chris are settled at Atwood, KS. Chris has a job tele-marketing a chemical for grain fumigation.

See you in June.

Love,

MARY LUKASSEN



# Congratulations .

Daughter, JENNA born to:  
Mike and Michelle (Kresha) Berlin  
February 19, 1988



Daughter, RUTH DIANE, born to:  
Jerome and Rosa Kresha  
April 5, 1988  
8 lb, 1 oz---20 " long

## BIRTHS

Son, TODD MICHAEL, born to:  
Glenn and Julie (Kresha) Preister  
April 19, 1988  
9 lb, 10 oz.



**STAR LOVELESS  
KENNETH KRESHA  
Loveless-Kresha**

Star Loveless of Rising City and Kenneth Kresha of St. Edward will be united in marriage Saturday, April 16.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Howard Loveless of Rising City and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kresha of Columbus.

The bride-to-be is a 1985 graduate of Rising City High School and is employed by David City Manufacturing.

Her fiance is a 1982 graduate of Osceola High School and a 1983 graduate of Southeast Community College, Milford. He is employed by Mahoney Sales and Service, St. Edward.

Columbus, NE  
March 24, 1988

Dear Kresha Kronicle,

Greetings from our house to yours! March is waning and spring is near. The winter storms missed our area for which we are thankful. Our sympathy goes out to our Western Nebr. relatives who have been hit hard by adverse winter conditions.

I am acting as Housing Coordinator for the placement of relatives coming to the Kresha family reunion in June. Anyone desiring to stay with those relatives having room(s), please contact me at the following address:

C.R. KRESHA  
6168 Country Club Drive  
Columbus, NE 68601

Phone (402)-563-4104

The best time to contact me would be after 6 PM, CDT. For those preferring to stay at a motel, there is a SUPER 8 MOTEL here. Phone 1-800-843-1991. If this motel has no vacancy, they can place you with another motel here in town.

Lucille and I extend our best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Easter and good health to you all.

Until we hear from you, take care and may God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,  
CHARLES AND LUCILLE KRESHA

# Important Notice

READ CHARLES KRESHA'S LETTER ABOVE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT HOUSING DURING YOUR STAY IN COLUMBUS, NE , DURING THE KRESHA REUNION IN JUNE, 1988! ! !

May 1, 1988

Dear Kreshas,

It has been a long time since we have received a Kresha Kronicle, and we would like to do so. We are enclosing a check to help you with the work you are doing.

We have been in Texas now for seven years. Ray has had a number of jobs in advertising and teaching. At the present he is teaching Journalism and English at Abilene High School, where he is also the faculty advisor to the student newspaper, The Battery.

Mary continues her work at Humana Hospital Abilene, where she is a staff pharmacist. In contrast to Ray, she has been there all seven years. Matthew is almost 11 and is finishing the fifth grade. He is active in Cub Scouts and Tae Kwon Do, having achieved an orange belt so far. Jonathan is 8 and just finishing second grade. He is also a cub scout.

We have traveled a lot during our time here including all of the states in the western half of the United States except North Dakota. We have been to Nebraska almost a dozen times since 1981, but not a single Kresha has yet visited us in Texas!!

We have been active in foster care in Texas as we were in Nebraska. Grand total of 30 teenagers over 8 years, most of them girls who had been abused or abandoned, or both. We were even the presidents of the local Foster Parent's Association for two years.

Ray has also been active in the founding of a new Unity Church in Abilene, and is presently the President of the Board of Directors and registered agent. Our minister has been with us now for about a year. Unity, by the way, teaches Practical Christianity and is considered a "New Age" church.

Sincerely,

Ray, Mary, Matthew, & Jonathan Kresha  
2302 Edgemont Dr.  
Abilene, TX 79605



### Alfred A. Bernt

SHELBY — Alfred A. Bernt, 80, of Shelby died Saturday morning at Annie Jeffrey Memorial Hospital, Osceola.

Services are at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Shelby, with Fr. Stanley Schieffer officiating. Burial is in St. Andrew Cemetery, rural Osceola.

Visitation is after 2 p.m. Monday at McKown Funeral Home, Columbus. A rosary will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Bernt was born Sept. 5, 1907, in Polk County, the son of Frank and Bertha (Kropatsch) Bernt. He attended Polk County Schools. He married Josephine Tomasevicz August 12, 1930, at St. Andrew Church, rural Osceola. He lived all of his life in Polk County. He retired from farming and moved to Shelby in 1984.

He was a member of the Holy Name Society and the church board at St. Andrew Church, and was a former member of the District 68 school board. He also was a member of Sacred Heart Church, Shelby.

Surviving are his wife, Josephine, of Shelby; one daughter, Maxine (Mrs. Leroy) Iwanski of Columbus; one son, Myron of Stromsburg; three sisters, Agnes Dworak of Modesto, Calif., Helen Gabriel of Osceola and Virginia (Mrs. John) Tomasevicz of Shelby; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and one brother. 2-13-88



## OBITUARIES

### Pauline Kresha

Pauline L. Kresha, daughter of Peter and Kathryn (Duracinski) Liss, was born Dec. 20, 1902 in Duncan, Nebraska. She passed away March 13, 1988 at Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Hospital at the age of 85.

She married Leo A. Kresha Nov. 22, 1922 in Silver Creek and they farmed in rural Polk County.

Pauline was a member of St. Andrew's Church and Altar Society.

She is survived by three sons, Glenn and Allan of Osceola and Paul of Omaha; one daughter, Phyllis Green of Blair; one sister, Frances Jareske of Silver Creek; 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leo, in 1984, five sisters and three brothers.

Services were Wednesday, March 16, at St. Vincent Catholic Church with Father E. O'Leary officiating and burial was in St. Andrew's parish cemetery. Pallbearers were David, Donald, Gregory, Anthony and Raymond Kresha and Patrick Gabel.

Pauline was a gentle, loving person who was devoted to her family. She truly walked in the way of the Lord and leaves many cherished memories.

### Laura Karges

Laura Fickel Karges, 80, of Portland, Ore., died Thursday in Portland.

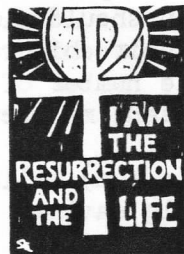
Funeral services are 11 a.m. Wednesday at Gass-Haney Chapel with Rev. Roland Jank officiating. Burial will be in the Columbus Cemetery.

Visitation will be Wednesday morning at the funeral home.

Mrs. Karges was born Oct. 14, 1907 in Polk County, the daughter of August and Mary (Roebuck) Fickel. She attended Polk County District 11, Columbus High School and Beauty College in Omaha. She married Martin Karges Sept. 8, 1932 in Nebraska City. Mrs. Karges has lived in Portland since 1937. She was a beautician and a member of the hospital auxiliary and a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church, all in Portland. Mrs. Karges was baptised and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran in Columbus.

Surviving are one sister, Clara Tonniges of Stromsburg, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, three sisters and two brothers. 2-25-88



# Announcing . . .

## CENTENNIAL REPORT

Committee: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Witulski  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Kresha  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hilger  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kresha

Date: June 12, 1988  
12 Noon

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall  
3115-6-St.  
Columbus, NE 68601

### Appointments:

- Publicity - - - - - - - - - -Elaine Kresha
- Receptionist- - - - - - - - -Dolores Nyffeler
- Decorating- - - - - - - - -Jolene, Colleen and Lois Kresha
- Antique Display - - - - - - - -Martin Kresha
- Photography - - - - - - - - -Larry Kosch
- Housing Coordinators- - - - -Lucille and Charles Kresha
- Centennial Banner - - - - - -Mary Lukassen and Pat Kresha
- Reception Table - - - - - - -Lou Kresha, Sue Hilger and Carolyn Kresha

The 2" centennial badges have been ordered. They will cost 75¢ each. Red combs, 6" long with the centennial lettering have been ordered. They cost 30¢ each. These are the souvenirs for June 12.

People in the program are asked to be at the Knights of Columbus Hall by 11 AM to practice (on June 12.)

GRANDDAUGHTERS AND GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTERS need to practice, "Grandpa, Tell me about the Good Old Days". (See music elsewhere in this issue of the Kronicle).

GRANDSONS AND GREAT-GRANDSONS are asked to sing, "God Bless the USA". (See music elsewhere in this issue of the Kronicle).

Both need to be at the 11 AM practice at the Hall.

A covered dish dinner will be enjoyed at 12 Noon. Each local family is asked to bring 1 meat dish, 1 vegetable or salad, and 1 dessert. Orange drink, coffee and/or tea will be furnished. No liquor can be brought into the Hall, but a cash bar will be available for those wishing drinks.

An open house and reception will be held from 3 to 4:30 PM for relatives, friends, and neighbors of the Kresha Family. Centennial cake, punch, mints and nuts will be served.

### KRESHA BOOK REPORT

The Kresha book is more than half finished as of today, March 15. Some research is still being done on Anna and Martin Karges.

This book is a very interesting story and history of each one of us and a beginning of your own story. You should plan to extend this history into your family, your grandchildren and their children.

The restriction has been lifted on the number of pages each child of Adolf Kresha can have in the Kresha Book. Please send me pictures of your children, their spouses, and their children, too.

Donald Kresha (Paul and Theresa's son) sells printing presses and he will print the picture pages. This will be a big saving. Tony Kresha (Glenn and Ila's son) will print the word pages.

Another Kresha Book probably won't be printed for another 100 years, so we are going to do the best that we can in 1988.

PLEASE HURRY !! Send me all the pictures with names, and the name of the owner, as well. All pictures will be returned.

Love to all my family,  
LILLIAN (KRESHA) WITULSKI  
Rt. 2, Box 181  
Beatrice, NE 68310





Left to right: Back Row: Harold Witulski, Gene Thomas, Bill Kresha, Charles Kresha  
Middle Row: Irene Kresha, Ursula Kresha, Rose Hilger, Rita Kresha, Lillian Witulski, Mary Lukassen,  
Adolph Kresha and Lucille Kresha  
Front Row: Sophia Kresha

KRESHA FAMILY REUNION, June, 1987 Photo courtesy of Gene Thomas

If you haven't reserved a copy of the Kresha Centennial Book, please clip the order blank below and send it to Lillian Witulski. Thank YOU!

KRESHA CENTENNIAL BOOK ORDER FORM

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Centennial Book(s)

for \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

The exact price is not known at this time. A deposit is not required, but would be appreciated.

Send this order form as soon as possible to:

Lillian Witulski  
Rt. 2 Box 181  
Beatrice, NE 68310

MERRY  
Christmas

# Kresha Kronicle

Volume 14

No. 2

2503-8-St., Columbus, NE 68601

October-December, 1988

October 29, 1988

Dear Kresha Relatives,

With the first real killing frost this week, makes one realize how fast the holidays are approaching. Despite all the stress the crops went through this past summer, the yields were better than any of us thought. So our constant irrigating paid off. I love the fall of the year for the beauty of the season and the satisfaction one gets seeing the results of your time and effort put into your crops. This year at Thanksgiving I think we all have special reasons to be thankful.

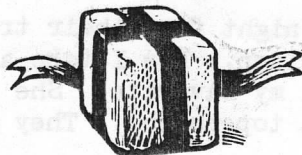
By the time you read this, I will have changed my name and address. At 5 o'clock on November 3rd, at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Duncan, Nebr., Melvin Wetgen and I have chosen this day to be our first day of a New Life together. Father Jim Gaughan and we both agree a second marriage should be small and private. So PLEASE don't any one feel hurt that you weren't invited, as I love you all and it was hard to draw the line, but we hope we can make it up to you on January 15, 1989 from 6:30 to 10:30 at Wishbones west of Columbus, NE. We will have a reception and dance. No invitations will be sent. THIS IS YOUR INVITATION! No gifts, please. Just remember us with your presence and prayers. It's a small world to think that Melvin and I should get together. His wife Vernetta died two weeks before Dick did. Melvin was in every class in High School with Dick and they were the best of friends. He is a retired farmer, but still helps his son Wayne when he needs help on the farm. For the time being, I will continue to manage the farms that I have always rented, plus being the "go-for-it" during planting, handle the irrigation and help during harvest. We will live on Melvin's farm east of Platte College. The third house south of Lake Babcock which is north on 33rd Avenue. We will be a mile east of Lucy and Charles Kresha. Our address is Route 3, Box 269, Columbus, NE 68601. Phone 402-563-2625. We will be gone for 2 weeks to Hawaii on our honeymoon.

For those of you who missed the Kresha Reunion in June--you missed a very memorable occasion. There is no way one could begin to thank Lillian Witulski and all her workers for the wonderful party. A special thanks goes to all who attended, as each one coming helped to make the affair a success. Since we are a large family we need to get together so we know our "kissin' cousins."

In closing, at this time, I wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

All my love,  
Your kissin' cousin,

DOLores NYFFELER WETGEN



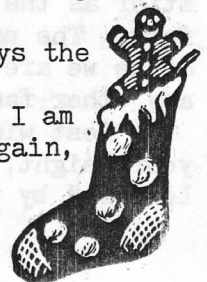
December 7, 1988

May the Holy Family--Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless you at Christmas and bring Peace, Happiness and Good Health in the New Year.

A special thank you to all of you who remembered me in so many ways the past month while I have been ill.

As of now, I am feeling quite well and am thankful for each day. I am remembering you in my prayers. Please remember me in your prayers. Again, "thank-you" for your concern and love.

Love,  
ROSE HILGER



November 19, 1988

Dear Kresha Family,

Seasons greetings! May the newborn Christ Child brighten your life and give you graces to last all through 1989.

This has been a memorable year for all of our family. Celebrating our Centennial has made us a closer knit family and it has given a good example to the next generation to carry on our family traditions. We are so thankful that everyone cooperated and helped make it a success.

Already, we hear that the Leo and Pauline Kresha families had a family reunion in Omaha. That is great. Please let the Kresha Kronicle know and tell us all about it.

The Kresha book is taking longer than I expected. Tony Kresha has programmed all the stories and information into the computer. It is taking longer to have the pictures silk screened by Don Kresha than was originally thought. Tony and Don both have full time jobs which keep them very busy. I pray that the book will be ready soon.

Our crops were surprisingly good this summer despite the heat waves and drought. We are very thankful for all the grain and hay we raised. Since we have no livestock, the neighbors spoke for all the hay. People with horses asked for milo stover.

In August, we vacationed in the Wisconsin area. That dairy state really experienced a drought. We saw truckloads of hay coming from all over the south to help the dairy farmers. Their corn dried up at a 3 foot height.

We saw a cheese factory and purchased many kinds of it as snacks as we continued our trip. Our favorite was Chocolate Cheese that tasted like fudge. It was made from cream cheese.

The Wisconsin Dells are a sandstone formation along the Wisconsin River. We took a boat ride on it and the water was so low that several times, the boat nearly got stuck on a sandbar. There were rides and concessions along the way, too, which didn't interest us.

The highlight of our trip was House on the Rocks, which is located in the Southwest part of the state. It is a wonderful museum which takes 5 hours to see. When we visited a Swiss Village at New Galarus, the temperature was 96°. Now that winter is here, the heat wave is forgotten.

We also saw a boot factory at Chippawa Falls, the Jacques Seed Headquarters at Prescott, and stayed with old friends at St. Croix Falls overnight. If you are wondering how we could "get away" for a vacation, it rained on a Friday night, and we left on Sunday morning!

Last week we took a mini-vacation down south into Kansas, visiting all the machinery dealers, museums, Indian Mission School, another cheese factory, a Dutch windmill that still works, Madonna of the Trail (Santa Fe) and the site of the first US Martyr who was killed by the Osage Indians. Harold visited with his cousin at Russel KS, who he hadn't seen in 40 years. I called Terrance Messing in Hutchinson. I hadn't seen nor talked with him in 45 years. So, we got all our family news discussed. His father, Edward, still lives there. He had been in the construction business, but now deals in Real Estate. Since the oil industry has been depleted, there are 300 vacant houses in this city. The Messings had lived 1 1/2 miles from the Kresha home place and they also attended St. Andrew's Catholic Church.

My 10 exotic chickens have been caught every night from their tree roost and placed in their coop until they learned where to sleep. Now I take a broom outdoors to chase them into the pen. Polish Polly is still my favorite. She is beige colored and has long feathers on her head. (It is called a top-notch). They are not "egg layers". They only lay eggs from April until September.

Over a year ago my children decided to publish their own newspaper, with Marcie Etter as the Editor. We write our letter so that it can be photocopied in its original form. The name of the paper is The Lily Herald. It comes out nearly every month. Since we are all living so far away, this is a neat way to keep in touch. Are there any other families doing this?

Best wishes for a very happy New Year. Don't eat any cholesterol or chemicals, watch your weight, be safe, don't worry, be happy and exercise. Does that cover everything? Love God by praying and keeping His Holy Word.

Love,  
HAROLD AND LILLIAN WITULSKI

December 1988

Dear Family,

A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR to all who are so dear to me today and all year.

Jesus' arms to hold you,  
 Jesus' feet to lead you,  
 Jesus' voice to call you,  
 Jesus' heart to love you,  
 Jesus' hand to bless you,  
 Jesus' grace to keep you,  
 Jesus' Mother to comfort you,  
 Jesus' Foster Father to protect you,  
 May all these blessings be granted you!

Father Polorny

Catholic Quote, Issue 12-1-1988, Valparaiso, NE



Worry is like a rocking chair: It will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere.

Love,  
 SOPHIA KRESHA

December 14, 1988

Dear Family,

I am late as usual in sending Christmas greetings to the Kresha family, so I mustn't delay any longer. The Kresha Kronicle Centennial Edition was truly a masterpiece, and if the celebration at the reunion centennial was as great as the program indicated, it must have been worth a hundred years. Congratulations and best wishes to all.

We are related to each other through our mothers. Eva Karges Kresha is a Second cousin to my deceased mother. Eva's grandmother, Anna Olbrich Scholz, was a sister of my mother's father, John Olbrich. I still hope I can meet you all some day.

You will be remembered as I celebrate Mass on Christmas Day. May the Lord's Peace dwell in your home and in your heart.

FATHER MATT BURGER



Dear Family:

Congratulations to all those who made the Kresha Centennial a success. Mark's fifth grade teacher has a unit on family history soon and we are proud to share the Kronicle Centennial Edition with his classmates.

Thank you for your prayers for Don's parents. His mother continues to take weekly treatments without missing work. She will join us in Bakersfield for Christmas.

Diane, Marie and Mark are adjusting to three new schools this fall. Diane's involved in a two year elementary credential program, with hours working in a classroom already. The Australian owners have Don's company up for sale, so the year ahead may have some surprises.

God bless you all this Christmas.

Diane, Don, Marie and Mark Chaisson



December 7, 1988

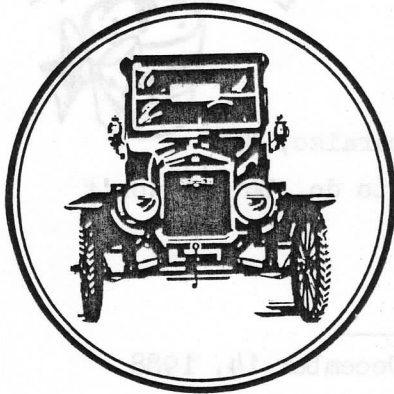
Dear Folks,

I'm thinking of you today and tomorrow. I wish you happiness. My thoughts and wishes will be with you always. Whatever joy comes to you will make me glad. Through the year I wish you the spirit of Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Love,  
ANN HENSEL



December 6, 1988



## OUR 55th CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

Christmas wouldn't be the same  
If we couldn't get in touch  
With all the friends and family  
Who mean so very much.

Each Christmas we have shared  
With friends both far and near  
Has made our years together  
So memorable and dear.

JOHN AND INES KRESHA

December 7, 1988

Dear Relatives,

We're having our first measurable snow of the season. This wet snow is most welcomed.

This year the mild fall weather was very unusual and made fall harvest a pleasure. The extended growing season for the garden really filled the shelves in the fruit cellar.

We are feeding about 400 head of cattle. About 175 head belong to a partnership, and we are custom feeding them.

This fall I worked again at Carol's Nut List. (A local candy and nut outlet) We package case lot merchandise into 1-2 and 5 lb. packages; also package tins for the holidays. Usually 12 women are employed for two months to prepare for the Christmas orders. This company delivers orders to 3 states.

We are enjoying good health. Dave was sick about half a dozen times this year after his pickup accident in March. After much doctoring and antibiotics, I think his problem is licked.

This year all the children and grandchildren are planning to be home for Christmas (weather permitting). We are looking forward to a grand time!

May the Blessings of the Christ Child be yours during this holy season and throughout 1989.



Love to you all,  
MARY LUKASSEN

May the blessings  
of the Christ Child  
be with you now  
and throughout the New Year

DAN AND BECKY KRESHA  
BRANDON RAY, BRITTANY KAY

Christmas, 1988

Wishing every one of you, the nicest holidays and good health in the coming year. It was a pleasure to meet so many of our relatives at the Centennial party this summer. Only sorry we couldn't have a longer visit, but one can't have everything. It was a lovely party and we were happy to have been a part of it.

Love to all,  
ANN (KARGES) SERIO  
MARIE (KARGES) BAARS

3301 Sheridan Blvd  
Lincoln, NE 68506

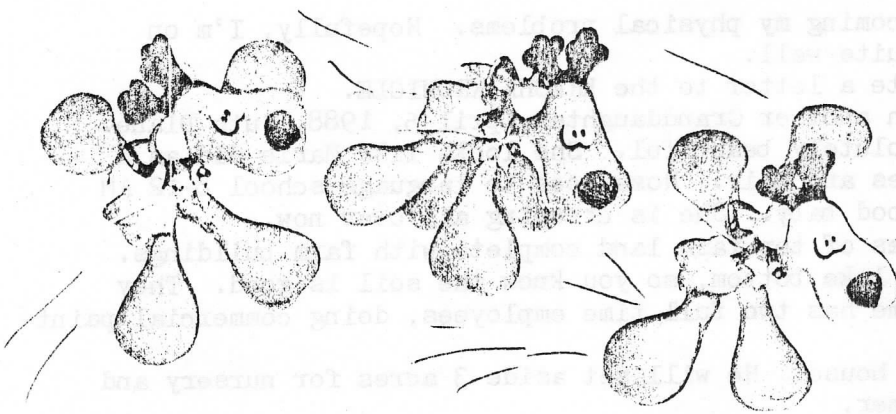
GREETINGS FROM BONACUM HOUSE! We are all very happy learning the art of retirement. This is a lovely home. The Bishop and priests of the city visit and help pass the time, and we are called to do substitute parish work on week-ends. I have been around to see some of the Lincoln attractions, and so, all in all, this new life is interesting.

Thank you for the KRESHA KRONICLE Centennial Edition. It makes interesting reading. A lot of people did much work to bring about its production. A big hello, and kindest personal regards. Be sure and visit here when you can--right across the street from the Cathedral.

May the blessings of the Christ Child shine on you.

A very blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year.

FATHER JOHN HOWE



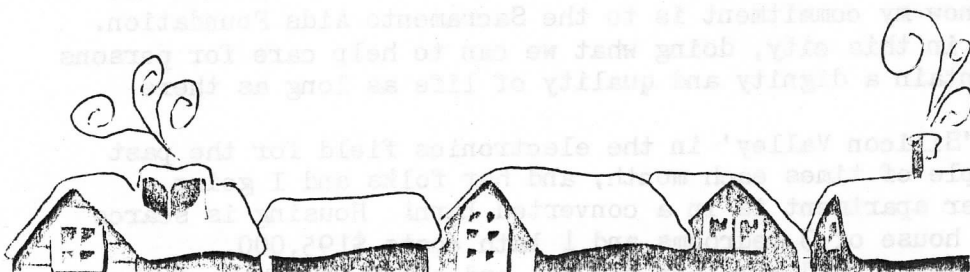
Whatever else is lost  
with the years  
whatever else changes  
Christmas remains  
a time of happy  
recollections--a time  
for remembering  
treasured friends and relatives

Wishing you Peace, Love, and  
Happiness at Christmas and  
God's blessing in the New Year

The Hilgers

Dan, Mary Jané, Michelle, and Marcus

After delivering his very first sermon, the newly ordained priest asked his superior how he had done. "not bad," said the Monsignor, "but you seemed nervous and a bit scared. Next time, put some vodka in the glass of water in the pulpit. It'll relax you and loosen you up." The following Sunday the young priest did as instructed and talked up a storm. Again he asked his boss to comment on his performance. "You were more relaxed," the Monsignor said, "but there are a few mistakes we should straighten out: "1) There are Ten Commandments, not Twelve; 2) There are twelve apostles, not ten; 3) You must not, ever again, describe Jesus Christ as the late J.C.; 4) David simply slew Goliath, he did not kick the hell out of him; and, finally, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are not to be referred to as Big Daddy, Junior and The Spook."



December 2, 1988

Dear Family:

'Tis the season to send our warmest thoughts and wishes and hopes that this Christmas will be especially nice for you.

In California here, Christmas will be at our house, with families, Donald's mother and Fr. Anthony Trausch.

As you read in Fr. ATT's letter, he is spending the month of December as substitute Pastor at Sacred Heart, Greenfield, Californig, about 6 miles south of our home. The Pastor, Monsignor Mike O'Conner, has a priest brother in Minden, Nebr. (Fr. Jim O'Conner) so Fr. Jim talked Fr. ATT into coming out and subbing and at the same time he can visit with us. It's a nice arrangement. Very nice plant. They have a Greek lady who comes in and prepares many nice Greek dishes for lunch and dinner. Meanwhile, we will enjoy Father's visit.

George and I are feeling well at this writing and going about our chores. George still does our two lawns and two more, I think to prove he is still Macho at 78 years. . .

I had several months of overcoming my physical problems. Hopefully, I'm on the right track now and feeling quite well.

As for our family--Diane wrote a letter to the KRESHA KRONICLE.

Jerome and Rosa presented us with another Granddaughter April 5, 1988, Ruth Diane. Like all Kresha babies she is absolutely beautiful. She looks like Marie did as a baby except her sparkling dark eyes and hair. Rosa goes to language school 8-12 AM and I care for baby four days. Good baby. She is creeping all over now.

JK and Rosa purchased 20 Acres of top farm land complete with farm buildings.

Many years ago it used to be the lake bottom, so you know the soil is good. They moved out there in October. Jerome has two full time employees, doing commercial painting. They are VERY busy.

The farm is 9 miles from our house. He will set aside 3 acres for nursery and the rest he rents to a cotton farmer.

We still haven't had a killing frost, but last night the temp. was 33°. We have had lots of fog since our small rain storm.

I'm enclosing some money for Kronicle expense. Again our Thanks to Elaine for the great job she does putting out the Kronicle. It has to be a big sacrifice for her to spend all that time putting it out.

It was nice to see and visit with all of you at the family gathering. George and I enjoyed our visit.

Our Christmas wish is that the blessings of the Christ Child and His loving Mother be with you at Christmas and always.

Love,

GEORGE AND MARGARET KRESHA

December, 1988



Dear Folks,

With the first 4 months of this year taken up with a total knee replacement surgery/rehabilitation, the rest of the year has gone by fast. That event was a significant point in my life, in that it gave me time to ponder and reflect on many things and to prepare for the future. I set up a personal Trust. I arranged for an insurance legacy to the Church. I began a journey that will be my second career; I took up volunteer hospice work again. I had done 6 mos. of volunteer work for the Cancer Society last year, but now my commitment is to the Sacramento Aids Foundation. There are 700 of us volunteers in this city, doing what we can to help care for persons with Aids and to help them maintain a dignity and quality of life as long as there is life.

Karen has worked in the 'Silicon Valley' in the electronics field for the past 1 1/2 years, coming home a couple of times each month, and her folks and I going there every once in awhile. Her apartment is in a converted barn! Housing is scarce and very expensive. A simple house of 3 bedrooms and 1 bath costs \$195,000.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

WARM REGARDS AND LOVE. . . RITA KRESHA



MY TRIP TO MEDUGORJE

By Marcie Etter, Lafayette, Colorado.

Medugorje is pronounced "Med-you-gor-ee", & sometimes spelled "Medjugorje". On Aug. 1-8, 1988, I was privileged to go on a pilgrimage tour to Medugorje, which is a remote village in southern Yugoslavia. Ever since June 24, 1981, our Blessed Mother, Mary, has been appearing there daily as the "Queen of Peace" to some local young people. (6)

Mary brings motherly messages of love for all of us, and urgent prophetic messages for mankind, especially warning of a catastrophe overhanging the world as punishment for our neglect of God and disregard for His commandments. Just as at Fatima in 1917, Medugorje stresses the gospel of St. John the Baptist: God's importance as our Creator, the need for repentance, penance, and prayer in our lives. Thus it is significant that she first appeared on St. John's feastday, and many believe she is the herald of Christ's second coming. Mary has promised a miraculous sign on the hill of her apparitions in Yugoslavia which will be visible, can be photographed, and will cause many unbelievers to be converted. Local authorities in this Communistic country were at first interfering, but now have realized the advantage of all the foreign currency coming in, from 10 million pilgrims, so far. The Catholic Church authorities are still studying this occurrence before it can be "officially" approved. However, Pope John Paul II has said twice publicly to bishops to "let the people go to Medugorje, if they go to pray, fast and convert to God."

For me, the trip was wonderful, yet difficult. The Yugoslav (JAT) airlines were unpredictable, and the differences in languages, currency, and 7 time zones were hard on me mentally and physically. It took me 3 days, 5 separate plane flights, and a 3-hr. bus ride to get there. Going home was easier with only 2 days and 3 flights.

The climate in Yugoslavia was hot and humid, so we were thirsty a lot. Buildings were mostly made of red tile roofs and stone, brick, or cement walls. It looked like pictures I've seen of Italy.

We landed at Dubrovnik, a pretty resort city on the Adriatic Sea. We toured the ancient castle-like "Walled City" and our group had mass there at the old Cathedral. (2 priests were with us from Colo.) We saw a "treasury room" there with paintings, bone relics from many saints, a piece of wood from Christ's cross, and the shredded old "swaddling cloth" from Baby Jesus. It made me realize how young the U.S. is.

The village of Medugorje (pop. 400 families) had narrow winding streets, simple buildings with no TV's and "pull the chain" (up high) type toilets. (In 1984 the average income there was about \$3,000) They mostly raise tobacco and grapes for wine. The only cars were old and small, used for cabs.

The Yugoslav people and tourists were mostly friendly, but many did not speak English, so my sign language was sometimes helpful. They used to keep people in their homes for free, but now the government makes them charge, and keeps 60%. They fast every Weds. & Fri. on heavy bread and water, and attend church every day for about 3 hours! There was a great sense there of community, trust, and "world family", although I knew people were from many different countries. The rosary was led in the local Croatian language, but I heard it being said in many other languages around me, all of us together. People were not ashamed to be seen praying, crying, and there were lines for confession outdoors in a choice of at least 6 languages.

(2)

St. James Church seated 1,700 people, and also people stood filling all the aisles for each service. The overflow people outside listened on loudspeakers and sat or knelt on the ground. We attended an English mass each morning, then the Croatian rosary (all 3 mysteries), mass, songs, and blessing began daily about 5 PM. (We ate supper at 8:30) Our Blessed Mother appeared nightly about 6:40 in the choir loft as we prayed the rosary. We could not see her, of course, and when the priest blessed us and the holy articles we brought, she had said that she also blessed them and us.

Only 3 of the original 6 visionaries were in town then, so we got to meet Vicka, Ivan, and Jakov, and ask them questions through an interpreter. We also heard a talk by Father Jozo, in a nearby town, who was the pastor of Medugorje in the beginning. He explained how he had doubted the children at first, until he heard a voice in church tell him to go out and protect the children, who were running away from local police trying to repeatedly question them.

We climbed the 2 big hills there: Mt. Krezevac, which has carved rock stations of the cross going up, and some of us slept up there one cold windy night, near the 30-ft. cement cross built 50 yrs. ago. Also, Podbrdo Hill ("Apparition Hill") where Mary originally, and sometimes still, appears. The hill with low thorny shrubs is covered with several large and small crosses marking spots where she stood. There is a cozy sense of peace and love up there that make you hate to leave.

We went to bed exhausted on Aug. 4, hopefully anticipating some special occurrence on Aug. 5, which Mary says is her true birthday.. Well, she appeared up on the hill to Ivan just after midnight, with a joyful birthday message and blessed the 100 or so people there. So we were very disappointed that we had not heard the rumor of a vision later.

There are several different unusual things that happen there and also many silver rosary chains change to gold color. My roommate's did when she got back to Colo. The night before we left, we were up late packing and it was the Feast of the Transfiguration. About 11:30 we saw out our window that there was a huge fire up on Apparition Hill, jumping on the trees. We wondered if it had started from a votive candle, and how they would put it out as it was very windy with only a rocky path going up. In the morning we heard that at night, or in the morning, no one up there had seen any fire, smelled any smoke or seen anything burned! Finally, one evening at 7pm about 10 of us looked at the sun for about 15 minutes. It did not hurt our eyes because it looked like there was a thin "round host" in front. It was spinning around the edges with colors of red, purple and orange.

Before this trip I sometimes felt like I was praying "to air" and I tried to imagine Jesus and Mary as real people before me. On my flight home I realized that I now sense God's presence and Mary's love "within me". Mary has said, "I am always with you. I am but a prayer away." I am now trying to share Mary's message of warning, and love with all my family and friends, and live my faith as I should.



*We wish you all HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS and many  
blessings in 1989!*

*Love - Murl & Marcie Etter  
Jennie & Zachary*

Nov. 21, 1988

## GREETINGS:

I am leaving Nov. 25 to Bakersfield, Calif for a month's leave. This letter is written early in readiness for later send-off. Many with whom I correspond are unaware of my present address since my retirement from St. Joseph's, Friend, and St. Wenceslaus, Milligan, last June 15 to Roseland--after 51 years of active parochial duties in 8 parishes with 5 attached missions. Or again, my reply to your Christmas greetings may not be forthcoming during my absence until I return January 2.

I retired to my home-town surroundings among brothers, nephews, and cousins. My 5 room home is a block from Sacred Heart Church and down-town main street post-office, grocery store and bank.

Retirement from parish duties is essentially a change of pace. Until I get most things unpacked and arranged to set up an altar in my private chapel of my home, I offer Mass in church after Fr. David Bourek, pastor, has 7:00 a.m. parish mass. Fifty-one years of accumulation requires time to sort out between need and desire. Needless to say, a periodic bonfire is not used for toasting marshmallows! I did plant a late small garden after I moved, which did quite well with watering despite this summer's prolonged extreme heat-drought. I have substituted on occasion for pastors wanting to go on vacation; this serves to keep me in touch with the wayward ways of the world. And to avoid becoming a 'cast away', retirement gives a priest more time for reflective prayer and spiritual advancement.

The strain of moving from Friend during the extreme heat nearly exhausted my energies and accelerated my prostrate condition. So July 29 I had prostrate surgery at Mary Lanning Hospital, Hastings. Recovery was gradual and normal without any set-backs. From Sept. 12 through Oct. 7, I substituted for Fr. Jim O'Connor in St. John's parish, Minden and its mission, Heartwell, while Fr. O'Connor made a home visit to Ireland. The demands during my residency in Minden were not excessive, since Lillian Kobza, the housekeeper, took care of the parish chores. Her excellent culinary art added five pounds to my waistline, despite my 3 mile walk after supper. I also served several week-ends in other parishes.

In union with the Christ Child "Let us remember each other with one heart and mind. Let us pray for each other always and lighten our burdens and anxieties by our mutual love."--St. Cyprian

FATHER ANTHONY TRAUSCH

P.O. Box 155 Roseland, NE 68973

During December I am substituting for Msgr. Michael O'Connor of this parish in Greenfield; it has a Bakersfield mailing address. Monsignor recently had prostate surgery, and so far is recovering o.k. I will spend Christmas with my sister Margaret and her husband George Kresha, 711 Loch Lommond Dr., Bakersfield, which is about 6 miles north of Greenfield.

Their son Jerome, wife Rosa, and infant daughter Ruth, live in this Greenfield parish, 2½ miles S.E. Jerome bought a 20 acre tract with farm buildings and house to establish his nursery facilities. This past season on a rented plot west of Bakersfield he raised some 35,000 pistachio nut trees started with nut seed in his greenhouse before transplanting the seedlings into larger pots for continued outdoor growth. When the trees reach about 3 feet, they are ready for field planting. He has developed his own variety for seed stock purposes.

This parish plant is well kept up, established by Portuguese and Italian farmers; it is still a semi-rural parish in this village. The church is a traditional Spanish type architecture with good liturgical and prayerful atmosphere. The parish complex: Church, rectory, new CCD/Hall, plus ample parking and recreational area cover ab. 20 acres. Monsignor follows the books in the liturgy --none of this "out-in-left-field" antics while presiding with a twist of Irish brogue. He will officially retire Dec. 31st, and give his "swan song" of departure on Christmas. Monsignor is an older brother of Fr. James O'Connor of Minden, Nebraska.

*Father Anthony Trausch*

## People of Faith

# Sophia Kresha fills many roles

By Marilyn Zastrow

**MITCHELL**—Organist, catechist, thrift shop manager, bulletin publisher, Legion of Mary member, altar society member, evangelist—all of these titles make Sophia Kresha a legend in her own time from her home town of Osceola to her adopted home in Mitchell.

And at age 91, Sophia continues to add to the legend with daily Mass attendance and a helping hand wherever one is needed.

**SOPHIA**, the oldest of eight children, attended St. Andrew's Church in Osceola where she organized a Harmony Club of choir members. The club served a dual purpose—a social outlet for young Catholics of the area and a ministry of music to shut-ins of the parish.

At age 20, with only an eighth-grade education, Sophia convinced the administrator of the Van Sant School of Business in Omaha to let her enroll. After graduation, her business career began at Boy's Town as a secretary for Father Flannigan, founder of Boy's Town. Sophia is a charter member of that organization.

Sophia returned to her home town of Osceola and worked in various county offices until 1942 when she passed the civil service exam. She worked for the Farmer Security Administration (later renamed the Farmers Home Administration) for the next 25 years.

**AFTER POSITIONS** in Osceola and Valentine, Sophia transferred to the FHA office in Mitchell in 1949 where the "legend of St. Theresa's" began.

Sophia retired from the FHA office in Scottsbluff in 1967 at the age of 70 and returned to Mitchell to continue her service to the Lord and the community.

In 1972, when ecumenism was in its infancy, Mitchell's Episcopal pastor nominated Sophia for an Ak-Sar-Ben "Good Neighbor Award," which she received July 31, 1972. That same year Father Robert Wiest, pastor of St. Theresa's, brought Sophia a plaque for "Outstanding Work Done" from the pope.

**SOPHIA** managed St. Theresa's Thrift Shop for 20 years, which included mending and cleaning the donated clothing. Sophia turned over \$2,400 to Father James Schmitt, present St. Theresa's pastor, in 1987.

Sophia's love of music dates back to 10 piano lessons in her teens. Having deemed the organ at St. Theresa's "worn out," Sophia donated a new organ to the parish and was organist until she retired "from the organ bench" last year.



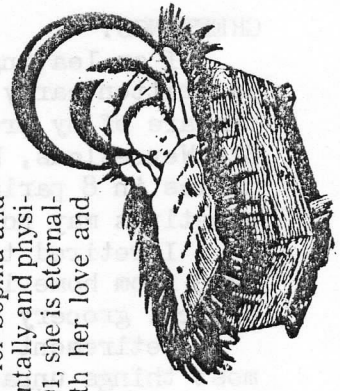
Father Schmitt and Sophia Kresha

She also served as catechist at St. Theresa's for 27 years, is a charter member of the parish Legion of Mary and started the first church bulletin over 27 years ago.

**ALTHOUGH** Sophia's list of accomplishments for her church and community is long, perhaps her greatest service is her untiring devotion and care to her neighbors, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, in Mitchell.

She is still seen daily in her shiny, black Chevrolet (she has always driven a shiny, black Chevy) on her way to visit a shut-in or to say a prayer in church.

Father Schmitt coined the title of "legend" for Sophia and said, "still mentally and physically alert at 91, she is eternally present with her love and prayers."



Before we know it Christmas will be here. Next, the new year will be rolling in too. 1988 went by relatively fast, as I am sure most of you will agree.

We have been busy lately. We celebrated our Christmas on Sunday, December 11th; Patrick was home from Nevada until December 16 - he couldn't get off any closer to Christmas, as the other person who he works with wanted to get off. The airports will be very busy also, so this will be less frustrating. His Nebraska vacation will be a total of 2 weeks. He came into Omaha on December 2. Colleen came home for the weekend from Creighton University on Friday. She went back on Sunday. Dad was her taxi. The roads were very slick. Bernard and his girlfriend were over for the 11th, as were Lois and her boyfriend. Kenneth and Star were also there, along with Dad, Mom, Patrick, and Jolene. We all enjoyed ourselves.

Kenneth and Star moved from St. Edward, NE to Genoa, NE as of December 13 and 14. They still have to unpack their boxes as many of you can attest to. They need a bigger place to live, with the baby coming in March and all.

Every week, when shopping at Hy-Vee, you can have a chance to register for keys for a 1989 Chevrolet Metro (small car). Every Friday they draw names until they get a total of 10 names. Those who register must listen to KTTT. Between 10 A.M. and 11 A.M. they draw the finalists and they must call Hy-Vee within 10 minutes. They will get a letter in the mail from KTTT. This will go for 12 weeks. These 120 people whose names were drawn will all go to Hy-Vee on December 31 at 10 A.M. (they must bring the letter with them in order to get the key). Everyone will then get a key to start the car. One key will start it. The person with the lucky key will drive off with the car - they do have to pay the taxes and license. Jolene's name was drawn one week, so she'll be down there on the 31st for sure. She thinks it will make a great birthday present, as her birthday is the 30th. If she wins it, she will trade it off for a mid-sized car. Let's hope and pray she wins it - as she desperately needs a different car.

Colleen came home December 15 for Christmas vacation. She'll be home for 4 weeks. She'll work at Gibson Pharmacy for her intern.

Hope this letter finds each and every one of you in good health. May the Christ Child be with you not only on Christmas, but every day. Have a blessed and joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Love to all,

MARTIN AND ELAINE KRESHA AND FAMILY



EDITOR'S NOTE:

I am running late--as usual. There will be another KRONICLE coming your way in a few weeks with all kinds of interesting articles, pictures, births, etc. I just did not have time to get them all in this issue. Hope your Christmas was Merry and your New Year is Blessed and Happy!



Love,

*Elaine*

# Kresha Kronicle

## *Centennial Edition*



|                                                                                                        |                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Master of Ceremony .....                                                                               | Joseph Kresha, Osceola, Nebraska                                                                         |
| Presentation of Flag .....                                                                             | Dennis Kresha, Columbus, Nebraska                                                                        |
| Flag Salute .....                                                                                      | Robert Hilger, David City, Nebraska                                                                      |
| "America" by Audience .....                                                                            | Pianist, Julie Kresha Preister, Humphrey, Nebraska                                                       |
| Invocation .....                                                                                       | Dennis Kresha, Columbus, Nebraska                                                                        |
| "Welcome" .....                                                                                        | Sophia Kresha, Mitchell, Nebraska                                                                        |
| "Serpent Fidelis", J.P. Sousa.....                                                                     | Linda Kresha Wibbels, Lincoln, Nebraska                                                                  |
| The Statue of Liberty .....                                                                            | Bethanie and Kelly O'Brien, Plattsmouth, Nebraska                                                        |
| Kresha Banner .....                                                                                    | Made by Patricia (Hoffman) Kresha and Mary Kresha Lukassen                                               |
| "God Bless the USA" .....                                                                              | By grandsons and great-grandsons of Adolf Kresha                                                         |
| "What Freedom Means to Us" .....                                                                       | Marcie Kosch Etter, Lafayette, Colorado                                                                  |
| "Sonata II" By Bach, Flute Solo.....                                                                   | Jodi Kresha, Osceola, Nebraska                                                                           |
| "My Father's Name" .....                                                                               | Daniel Kresha, Brighton, Colorado                                                                        |
| Vocal Solo .....                                                                                       | Rebecca Kresha, Osceola, Nebraska                                                                        |
| "Grandpa, Tell Me About the Good Ole Days", grand-daughters and great grand-daughters of Adolf Kresha  |                                                                                                          |
| "A Little Duo for Flute".....                                                                          | By Christine Kresha Gabel and Jodi Kresha, Osceola Nebraska                                              |
| Recognition of oldest child, Youngest child, first grandchild and youngest grand child of Adolf Kresha |                                                                                                          |
| Response from the Anna Kresha Karges Family.....                                                       | Ann Scerio, Milwaukee, Wisconsin                                                                         |
| Response from the Amelia Kresha Kuhnel Family.....                                                     | Krista Kuhnel, Osceola, Nebraska                                                                         |
| Response from the Joseph Kresha Family .....                                                           | Wilber Frye, Pacifica, California                                                                        |
| Communications .....                                                                                   | Lillian Kresha Witulski, Beatrice Nebraska                                                               |
| Introduction of each Family:                                                                           |                                                                                                          |
| Introduction of the Centennial Committee.....                                                          | Robert and Sue Hilger, Dennis and Carolyn Kresha, Joe and LuJane Kresha, and Lillian and Harold Witulski |



1888  1988

# Kresha descendants are planning centennial reunion

By STACI CORDS

Telegram Lifestyle Editor  
The Kresha family, which numbers in the 100s, is planning a centennial celebration June 12 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Columbus to commemorate 100 years since Adolf Franz Kresha came to America.

Kresha arrived in America Aug. 31, 1888 from Moravia, Austria. He traveled with the 243rd immigration ship, along with his two sisters, crossing the Atlantic Ocean in eight days and arriving in New York Harbor Sept. 8, 1888, according to his daughter, Lillian Witulski of Beatrice.

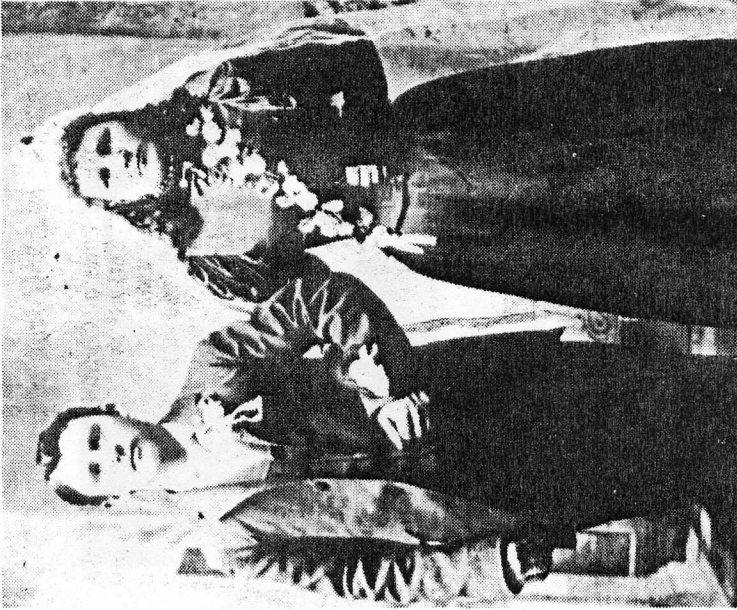
Kresha traveled to Platte County, where he had a job waiting. In 1894, Kresha married his first wife, Sophie Kro-patsch. They had 10 children, Frank, Sophia, Leo, Cecelia, John, Adolph, Ann, George, Rose and Gayhart. Sophie died in 1916. Kresha then married Eva Karges in 1919. They had 11 children. Amelia, Martin, Lillian, Walter, Arthur, Charles, Wilfred, Patricia, Mary, Adrian and Rita.

Kresha raised all 21 of his children in the Columbus area. Thirteen of the children are still living along with Kresha's second wife, 95½-year-old Eva Karges Kresha.

There are 76 grandchildren, 116 great-grandchildren and 38 great-great-grandchildren.

"The Kresha reunion began in 1958 and is celebrated every year," Witulski said. "It is the only time many of us see each other with the family in the four corners of the United States."

The only other way most of the children keep in touch is through what used to be a round robin letter.



ADOLF AND SOPHIE KRESHA

"We started a round robin letter in the late 1950s, after most of the children had left home," Witulski said. "Everyone put their letter in an envelope and sent it on to the next person. Then in 1975, the first issue of the Kresha Kronicle was printed."

The Kronicle is still published and a family book is in the works.

The 13 children still living will all be present for the centennial celebration. Sophie, 91, the oldest living of the 21 children, will give the welcome.

The youngest child, Rita, is 54-years-old.

Kresha's will be attending from Wisconsin, Washington, California, Texas, Colorado and all parts of Nebraska, Witulski said.

Witulski said she began re-



ADOLF AND EVA KRESHA

searching the family history and thought it would be a good idea to have a centennial celebration, "because it only comes once in a lifetime," she said.

"I presented the idea to the family last June at the family reunion and everyone thought it sounded like a wonderful idea, so the centennial has been in the planning for a year," she said.

The centennial will draw a lot of Kreshas.

"We are planning for 250 people for cake, mints and punch," Witulski said, "but other than that it is a potluck picnic, so everyone brings something and there is plenty of food."

Everyone has a part in the celebration, from the oldest

child of Kresha to the youngest grandchild, Daniel Kresha, a sophomore in high school.

"Daniel will present the a poem entitled 'My Father's Name', he was a little hesitate about reading the poem in front of the the entire family, but after giving it some thought about the Kresha name, he decided he would," Witulski said.

Other activities at the centennial celebration include several songs, and presentations by different family members.

Just about each of the children are represented by some type of song or presentation, she said. Whether it is one of Kresha's children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren, everyone is somehow a direct descendant of Adolf Kresha.



REUNION 1988 (CENTENNIAL) COMMITTEE

(l to r) Lu and Joe Kresha, Dennis and Carolyn Kresha, Bob and Sue Hilger, Lillian and Harold Witulski



STATUE OF LIBERTY

Kelly O'Brien



BANNER DESIGNERS

Patricia Kresha-Mary Lukassen



WELCOME

Bob Hilger, Harold Witulski, Dolores Nyffeler



The Kresha Reunion, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Adolf, Amolia and Anna Kresha coming to America, was held on Sunday, June 12, 1988, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Columbus, Nebraska. About 200 persons were in attendance. The festivities began with a covered dish dinner at noon. At 1:30, the program began, with Joe Kresha acting as Master of Ceremonies. (See program reprinted on front page of this special issue.) The afternoon was concluded with an open house for friends and neighbors.

Family and guests who registered were: (Towns are in Nebraska, unless noted otherwise.)

BEATRICE--Harold and Lillian Witulski

BELLWOOD--Hank, Bonnie, Cathy, Tom and Tony Kobza; Dan, Mary Jane, Michelle and Marcus Hilger

CENTRAL CITY--Carmen Church

COLUMBUS--Eva Kresha; Debbie Kresha; Joyce Kresha; Jolene, Colleen and Lois Kresha; Bill and Ursula Kresha; Dennis, Carolyn, Ron, Jeff, Terri and Jennifer Kresha; Art and Irene Kresha; Tony, Kathie and Autumn Kresha; Martin and Elaine Kresha; Charles and Lucy Kresha; Florence, Lisa and Kim Kresha; Dolores Nyffeler; Melvin Wetgen; Sister Dolores Smagacz; Alnetta Karges Topinka; Carrie Eller; Jerry and Florence Jarecke; Tom and Joanna Jarecke; John and Martha Stachura

DAVID CITY--Rose Hilger; Bob, Sue, Matt and Bethany Hilger

DUNCAN--Father Gerald C. Messman; Helen Karges; Don and Lucille Karges

GENOA--Meschelle Yrkoski

HUMPHREY--Glenn, Julie, Joey, Matt and Todd Preister; Mick, Nancy and Ross Bender

KEARNEY--John and Mary Ann Gabel

KIMBALL--Mary Lukassen

LINCOLN--Larry Kosch; Joe and Doris Jaworski

MADISON--Ted, Andi, Regina, Jackie and Nicole Preister; Kristi and Jim Becker

MITCHELL--Sophia Kresha

MONROE--Denise Urkoski; Dorothy and Donna Kush

OMAHA--Theresa and Paul Kresha; Donald Kresha; Doug, Mary, Angie and Abby Reid; Mark, Bobbi and Ryan Wolf

OSCEOLA--Adolph Kresha; Allan and Loretta Kresha; Rose Kresha; Steven Gabel; Pat, Chris, Brian, Tom and Mike Gabel; Bernard Kresha; Joyce and Krista Kuhnelt; Lester and Barb Anderson; Leonard Kropatsch; Martha Jaax; Gregg, Denise, Jodi, Connie and April Kresha; Valeria Smolinski; Art and Eileen Gabriel; Glenn and Ila Kresha; Joe, LuJane, Rebecca and Jim Kresha

PAPILLION--Mike, Michelle, Joel, Jenna Berlin

PIATTSMOUTH--Tom, Mary Lou, Katie, Matt, Bethany, Ben, Kelly and Andy O'Brien

RICHLAND--C. "Van" and Mary Van Valkenburg

RISING CITY--Mary Lou, Jennifer, Thomas and Julie Dunekacke

SHELBY--Ronnie, Romona and Roger Smith; Esther Kuhnelt; Max and Rosalie Gabel

SILVER CREEK--Becky Hansen; Fred and Loretta Meyer

ST. EDWARD--Kenneth and Star Kresha

COLUMBUS--Rich and Donette Jablonski, Audra, Ryan and Lauren Ann

CALIFORNIA--George and Margaret Kresha, Bakersfield, CA; Gary and Lillian Altmanhofer, Covina, CA; Will and Christopher Frye, Pacifica, CA

COLORADO--Patricia and Daniel Kresha; Pam Kresha; Andy, Becky and Aaron Kresha, Brighton, CO; Murl, Marcie and Zachary Etter, Lafayette, CO; Joe Thomas, Denver, CO

IOWA--Gene and Gloria Thomas, Nevada, IA

WASHINGTON--Leon and Sharon Kosch and Christine, Tacoma, WA

WISCONSIN--Ann M. Serio, Milwaukee, WI; Marie and Everette Baars, Milwaukee, WI

UNKNOWN TOWNS AND STATES--Fred, Rhonda, Travis and Taylor Simpson; August, Maxine, Clinton and Christopher Golez; Keith and Gay VanVelkenburg; Frances Iwan Kropatsch; Adelaid Peterson; Helen Schefczyk; Tillie and Lorie Kubecik; Valeria Triba; Alta Lisko

KRESHA CENTENNIAL INVOCATION

Given by Dennis Kresha

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Oh, Lord Jesus, we ALL give thanks to You, for giving our Kresha ancestors the grace and strength to leave their parents and their homeland and sail across the great Atlantic Ocean to the "Land of Freedom", here in America.

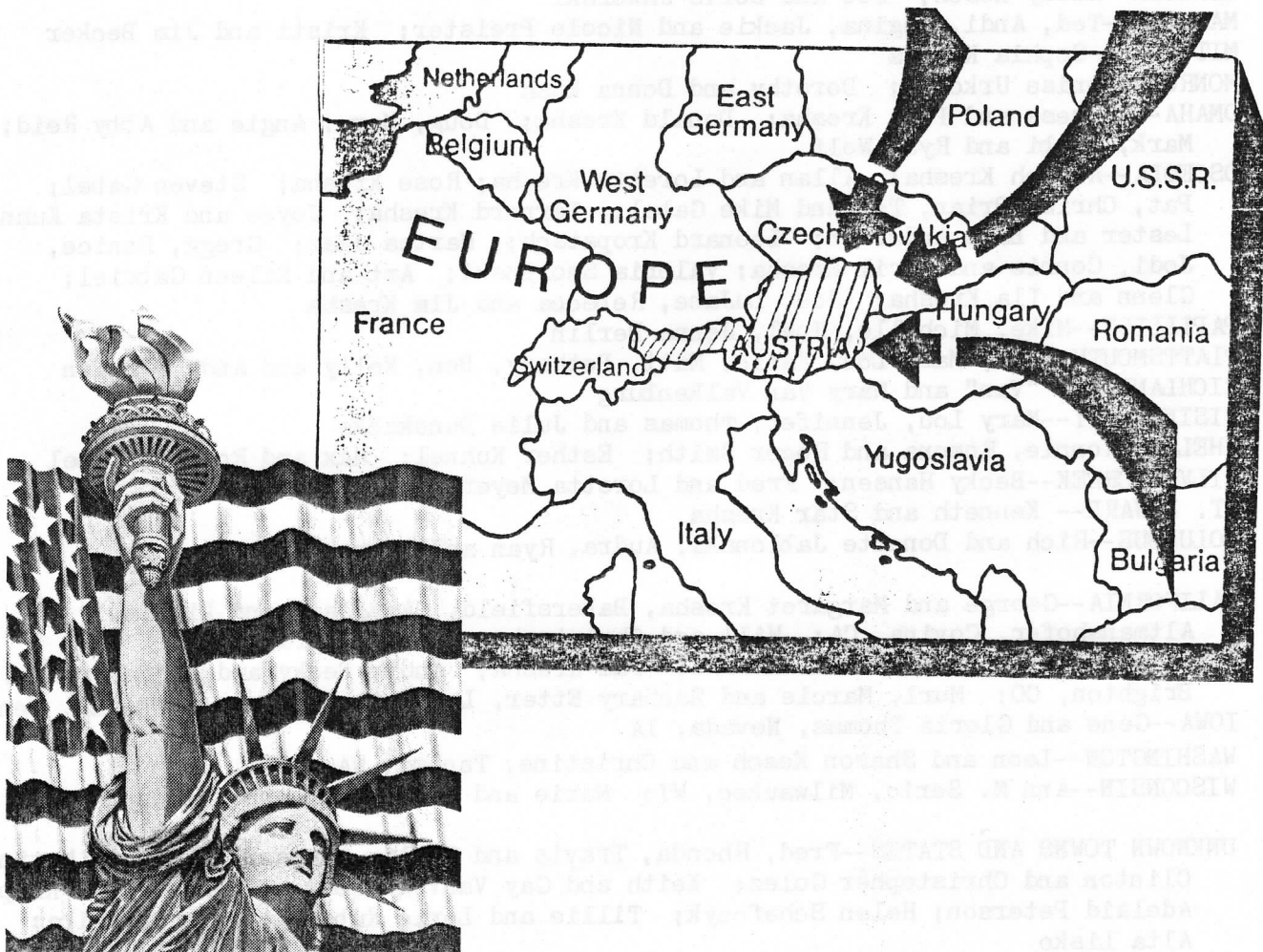
Thank you for the many blessings, which the Kresha families have received, in establishing their homes, and giving birth to normal, healthy, children.

We now ask You, O Lord, to give your special graces to all these people, here present, today. May their homes be the shrine of peace, purity, love and faith.

We beg You, O Lord Jesus, to protect and bless all of us--absent and present, living and dead--who belong to our family.

May all our relatives, who have completed their earthly journey, find eternal rest in Heaven. Amen.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



Speech given by Marcie Etter at the Kresha Reunion Celebration- June 12, 1988. Marcie is the oldest granddaughter of Adolf and Eva Kresha, and the daughter of Lillian Kresha Witulski.

### WHAT FREEDOM MEANS TO US

I believe freedom is a lot like water, clean air, or good health. It's so valuable to us, but we usually don't appreciate it unless we never had it or until we suddenly lose it.

The United States was founded by individuals who believed strongly in freedom, and we still consider it our most precious resource. Those of us who were born and raised here, are used to being able to make our own decisions in life. Some are important, such as where we will live and work, and some are as trivial as what flavor of ice cream to buy.

I know we all dream of having more than what we have, mostly material things, but if we ever really took a close look at many other countries, and even some places in the United States, we would discover people who are not so fortunate as we are. Many people in the world do not even dream of having many things we take for granted, including sometimes freedom.

100 years ago in Moravia, Austria, my grandpa Adolf's family was determined that their children would have a better life in America than in Austria. When Adolf turned 15, he would have had to sign up for military service! Any of you here who are near age 14- you know how hard it would be to move to a new home, to a new school, and maybe even to a new state. Can you imagine if you were 14, and you and your older brothers and sisters packed only a few clothes, left behind all your other relatives and friends (that you'd probably never see again) and traveled across an ocean on a ship to a new country to live? Then, imagine, also like Adolf, having to get a job, to get food, somewhere to live, and remember he spoke German and didn't know many American customs.

The area in Austria where Adolf came from has been a part of Czechoslovakia since 1918, and is today a Communist controlled country. During WWII in 1945, all the people living there in Moravia were exiled and sent to refugee camps. Documents were destroyed and the towns' names were changed from German to Czech. words. My Grandma Eva told stories of letters they got from relatives in refugee camps begging for "care packages" of necessities. When any packages were sent, the relatives very rarely received them.

Since my Kosch side of the family also came from Moravia, I like to imagine, but hate to think about, what if Adolf Kresha and John Kosch both never immigrated. What if I was still somehow born? I might be living under Communist rule today!

At Longmont High this year, I met a student named Richard. I had presumed that he was a foreign exchange student, but he told me how he and his family had escaped from Czechoslovakia across the border in a hot air balloon. He made me feel guilty that I had taken my freedom so much for granted.

(continued on next page)

(What Freedom Means to Us- page 2)

Here in America, we can go shopping and buy whatever food or goods we want, based on our needs, wants and budget. When we hear an airplane we look up in curiosity, very rarely in fear.

When we read a newspaper, we know that some editor is trying to present the truth, not what he has been ordered to print. We can belong to any clubs or unions that we wish and freely talk to our friends about any opinions we have.

We don't expect authorities to open or censor our mail or to tap our telephone lines. We don't have to register with the police, carry permission passes, or report to the police whenever we move. We can join any political party, vote for the leaders and laws we want, and even criticize our government or president without fear of prison.

And most importantly, we can follow any religious beliefs we choose. In Russia, and to some extent in most Communist countries, the churches have to be "underground" so the people meet and pray secretly under great danger. Here in America, we can pray in public and attend church daily if we wish. But how many of us are too busy with TV, sports, and 100 other things, to take the time to thank God for our many blessings?

A man named Frederick Wilson said this: "Let each and every one of us remember that FREEDOM is a gift not lightly given, that we...must first preserve for generations yet unborn, a vision of brotherhood among men, until one day all the world shall be ready to share it."

Today we honor Adolf Kresha as our ancestor, and thank him for making the gift of freedom possible for us.



Marcie Kosch Etter

Dear Family,

There were many Centennial badges and souvenir combs left after the celebration. People who would like some of each, can order them from us.

Harold and Lillian Witulski  
Route 2 Box 181  
Beatrice, NE 68310

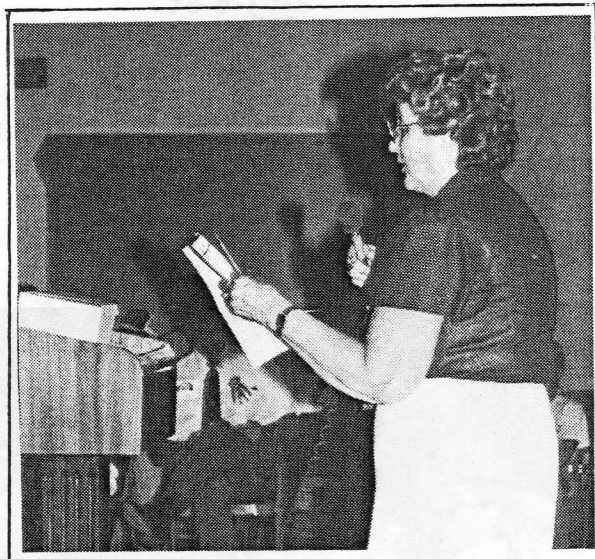
They cost 70¢ for the badges and 30¢ for the combs, which is at cost. Postage would be some extra. Quite a few Centennial programs and napkins were also left over, and they will be included in your orders.

The Committee collected an assortment of silverware, pans, etc. that were forgotten after the Centennial dinner. Please call for them at the home of Martin and Elaine Kresha--2503-8-St.--Columbus, Nebr. 68601 Phone 402-564-0305

Next year's Kresha Family Reunion will be held on June 11, 1989, at Pawnee Park, East Shelter, Columbus, NE. Allan and Loretta Kresha and Ronnie and Ramona Smith will be chairmen.

THANK YOU! --- THANK YOU! --- THANK YOU!

- to JOE KRESHA for being the Master of Ceremonies. You did a fine job.
- to DENNIS KRESHA and BOB HILGER for handling the Flag Salute.
- to FATHER GERALD MESSMAN and DENNIS KRESHA for their blessing and invocation.
- to JULIE PRIESTER for the music accompaniment.
- to BOB HILGER for help in leading the singing.
- to SOPHIA KRESHA for the heartfelt "Welcome".
- to BETH and KELLY O'BRIEN for telling us all about the Statue of Liberty.
- to PATRICIA KRESHA who, with the help of MARY LUKASSEN, designed and made the Kresha Centennial banner.
- to MARCIE KOSCH ETTER who made some good points as to why we should value our freedom.
- to JODI KRESHA for her beautiful flute solo and her aunt, CHRIS KRESHA GABEL, too, for the peppy polka.
- to DAN KRESHA who read "Your Name". We know by your expression that you meant every word of the poem.
- to the GRANDSONS and GREAT-GRANDSONS who sang, "God Bless the USA".
- to the GRANDDAUGHTERS and GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTERS whose voices sounded very professional as they sang, "Grandpa, Tell Me 'Bout the Good Old Days", to 6 or 8 real grandpas.
- to ANN (KARGES) SERIO, representing the Anna Kresha Karges family, for greeting us.
- to MARIE (KARGES) BAARS and husband, EVERETT, who flew in from Milwaukee to help us celebrate.
- to WILL and CHRIS FRYE, who flew in from California, to meet the Nebraska Kreshas and to help us celebrate. We were so glad to make your acquaintance and look forward to visiting you the next time we come to California.
- to a fine young lady named KRISTA KUHNEL who gave an interesting speech for the Kuhnel family. We appreciated your presence.
- to LARRY KOSCH who took pictures of any family that requested it of him.
- to TONY KRESHA and MURL and MARCIE ETTER for making video tapes.



Lillian Witulski

Lillian's Thank You (continued from previous page)

Thanks for the following donations:

Decorated cake, Sophia Kresha; 2 sheet cakes made and decorated by LuJane and Joe Kresha; Red silk rose bouquet for the reception table, Arthur and Irene Kresha, Charles and Lucy Kresha; Nuts, Mary Lukassen; Mints, made by Lillian Witulski; Punch, Rose Hilger and Martin and Elaine Kresha; Public address system, Hank and Bonnie Kobza; Colleen, Jolene and Lois Kresha for decorating the hall; Martin Kresha for the antique display; Dolores Nyffeler, Debbie and Joyce Kresha for handling the registration and name tags; Elaine Kresha for putting the ads in the local newspapers. (Anyone else that I have forgotten?)

Lillian Kresha Witulski

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to everyone who sent pictures, letters, or other information to be used in this special Centennial issue of the KRONICLE. I hope that you will enjoy it.

The BIRTHDAY TIMES, found in this edition, is a Hallmark Publication. It gives news for the month of September, and the year, 1888.

The pictures used in this issue are courtesy of Lillian Witulski, Gloria Thomas, Larry Kosch, Marcie Etter, Mary Lou O'Brien and Denice Kresha.

Your assistance is requested in filling out the geneology sheet as it pertains to your family. Our files are old and incomplete. Return it to me before the end of the year.

Elaine Kresha  
2503-8-St.  
Columbus, NE 68601

I plan on getting another paper out in early October and then the Christmas issue out right after Thanksgiving. (Deadline for letters, etc. for the Christmas issue is November 1)

*Elaine*



Singers from l to r:

- Colleen Kresha
- Jolene Kresha
- Elaine Kresha
- Eva Kresha
- Harold Witulski

July 5, 1988

Dear Kresha Kin,

We enjoyed the 100th Anniversary celebration, although I wished afterward that there had been more time to talk to individuals. It seemed to be over too quickly, after all the months of planning (or perhaps, because of it!). The organizers and musicians did a great job. I would have liked to end it all with an evening dance--with lots of polkas. (I miss the old Nebraska wedding dances) I have included the speech I gave, to be printed, if there is enough room in this issue.

We video-taped the reunion, with people visiting, (sounds like a noisy chicken coop) lining up to eat, the total program, and introducing families. I will be glad to make a copy for anyone and mail it to you, if you send me \$6. by September 30. Just remember that we are amateur, not professional, photographers--even if you were all movie stars! (\$6 would cover the blank tape, postage, and the VCR we need to rent to copy them.)

In mid June we took our family vacation and headed south through Colorado to Arizona. In Colorado we saw the Mesa Verde Cliff Dwellings, took the narrow gauge train from Durango to Silverton, stood at "4 Corners" (4 states at once). In Arizona we stayed 1 week at Flagstaff and saw a volcano, meteor crater, and the awesome Grand Canyon. Murl plans a raft trip with some men next week.

Our daughter moved in May to live with her father and attend college in Seattle. She was sorry she had to miss the reunion and I hate to have her so far away. (The little birds do leave the nest.....)

From August 1-8, I am going with a tour group from around here to Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, on a pilgrimage. Our Blessed Mother, Mary, has been appearing there daily for about 7 years to 6 young teenagers. She says it is the last time she will be able to appear on earth, and appeals for more prayers, peace, and becoming closer to God. The floods, droughts, earthquakes and diseases are all warnings to us. People from all over the world have flocked to Medjugorje and most return with renewed faith and telling of miracles they saw. People have been giving petitions (sealed in an envelope) to me so I can take them and leave them there. I also am taking a few holy objects to have Mary bless. In fact, if you send me 50¢, I'll send you a Medjugorje medal that has been blessed by Mary. (I'm beginning to feel like a catalog.) I feel I am not only going for myself, but for many others. I hope to share more information when I return. The Marian year ends August 15. Mary said that her true birthday is August 5.

We continue to pray for rain, and that you all have a happy and healthy year until our next reunion.

Love and prayers,



Marcie, Murl and  
Zachary Etter

1965 Stonehenge Dr.  
Lafayette, CO 80026

(303) 665-9369

MURL Etter, Lillian Witulski, Murl Etter  
Zachary Etter

RESPONSE FROM THE AMOLIA KRESHA KUHNEL FAMILY.....by Krista Kuhnel

I am happy to be here, meaning not only here at the Kresha reunion, but here in America.

If it wouldn't have been for the bravery and courage of my Great-grandfather Kuhnel and Great-grandmother Kresha, I plus a lot of you here today wouldn't have experienced the life we have now.

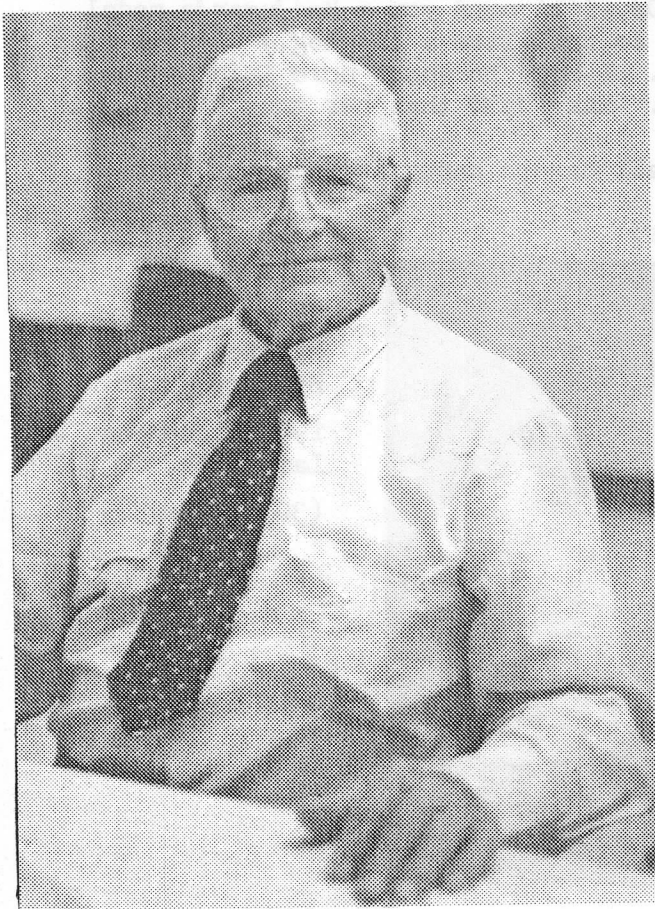
The many times I helped my mother doing research in different towns and libraries, I have to admit I got bored, but that was when I was a lot younger. Then that day she found the names--Amolia, and baby Louis, Anna and Adolf--on the German immigrant passenger ship list, it made me stop and think how fortunate I was to have ancestors who left their homes, families and friends to seek a better life for themselves and how painful that must have been for them.

My thoughts go to the young mother Amolia with her baby son and her younger sister and brother, and how unselfish this really was of all of them.

So, I am really proud to be the fourth generation Kresha-Kuhnel offspring to be living in America. Thank you for having me here.



KRISTA KUHNEL



ADOLPH KRESHA



TRAVIS SIMPSON  
Son of Fred and Rhonda (Smith) Simpson



SALUTE TO THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Presented by Bethanie O'Brien



KELLY and BETHANIE O'BRIEN

Today we celebrate one hundred years in America for our family. This is a GREAT celebration and we find it proper on this day to salute a grand old lady who was here in America since our arrival-- The Statue of Liberty.

The Statue of Liberty was first conceived by a French sculptor, Auguste Bartholdi. He saw the great statue as a fitting gift to celebrate the friendship of two countries that loved freedom.

The Statue of Liberty was only two years old when Adolf Kresha and his two sisters first saw it as they arrived in America. When Grandpa Adolf was once asked whether he remembered seeing the statue, he said, "Yes", and that it reminded him a little of the dear mamma he had left behind. This mamma was here to welcome him to America and a new home.

The sculptor, Bartholdi wanted her to be like a mamma as he chose the image of his own mother as his guide.

So today we salute this Grand Old Lady and we salute the gift of freedom that she gave to Grandpa Adolf and our family. May we ever hold it dear and do it proud.

Kelly O'Brien, dressed in a Statue of Liberty costume, then read an excerpt from a poem--"The New Colossus", written by Emma Lazarus, a Greek emigrant.

"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Bethany and Kelly are daughters of Tom and Mary Lou O'Brien and grand-daughters of Harold and Lillian Kresha Witulski



Children and Grandchildren of Lillian Kresha Witulski

L-R: Harold Witulski, Sharon Kosch, Leon Kosch holding Christine, Tom O'Brien, Larry Kosch (back row) (Middle row) Lillian Witulski, Mary Lou O'Brien, Matt O'Brien, Katie O'Brien, Marcie Etter, Murl Etter (Front row) Kelly O'Brien, Bethanie O'Brien, Andy O'Brien, Ben O'Brien, Zachary Etter



DANIEL KRESHA-BRIGHTON, CO

YOUR NAME

Edgar A. Guest

You got it from your father, 'twas  
the best he had to give.  
And right gladly he bestowed it. It's  
yours the while you live.

You may lose the watch he gave you  
and another you may claim,  
But remember, when you're  
tempted, to be careful of his name.

It was fair the day you got it, and  
a worthy name to bear,  
When he took it from his father,  
there was no dishonor there.

Through the years he proudly wore  
it, to his father he was true,  
And that name was clean and spotless  
when he passed it on to you.

Oh, There's much that he has given  
that he values not at all.  
He has watched you break your  
playthings, in the days when you were small.

You lost the knife he gave you  
and you've scattered many a game,  
But you'll never hurt your father  
if you're careful with his name.

It is yours to wear forever, yours to  
wear the while you live,  
Yours, perhaps, some distant morning  
to another boy to give.

And you'll smile as did your father--  
with a smile that all can share,  
If a clean name and a good name  
you are giving him to wear.



EVA KRESHA

---

**A** good name is rather to be chosen  
than great riches, and loving favour  
rather than silver and gold. The rich  
and poor meet together: the Lord is  
the maker of them all.

**Proverbs 22:1-2**

August 10, 1988

Dear Family,

We are all just fine. I really want to thank Lillian and her committee who worked on the Centennial reunion. It was great. You all did a wonderful job. I'm sure it was a great deal of work. It was so nice meeting parts of the family that I had never met before, and seeing those I haven't seen in many years.

Our trip was good, too. The kids seemed to enjoy it. Aaron was really good in the car. I was a little worried about that.

Thanks again to Charlie and Lucy for putting up with us that weekend.

Everyone here has been really busy since we've come back. I did get some painting done, but not all that I wanted to. We had our Hoffman reunion here at my place the weekend after the Kresha reunion, so time has been busy. I enjoyed that reunion, too.

I am back selling Christmas Around the World again this summer/fall. I enjoy it and it helps out a little with the money part. Andy took his Electronics Technician exam and passed. Now he can climb one more step on the ladder. I'm really proud of him. He's working hard to make a good home for his family.

Danny and I will be going back to school soon. I start August 22 and Danny goes back the 25th. I'm not really ready to go back, but I'm sure I'll get in the groove once I'm there.

Guess I'd better close. I want to go to 9 o'clock mass, and it's getting around that time.

May the Good Lord keep you all in His care always.

All our love,

PAT, TOM, PAM and DANNY KRESHA  
ANDY, BECKY and AARON KRESHA



L to R:  
Andy, Pam, Aaron,  
Becky, Tom, Danny  
and Pat Kresha

OLDEST AND YOUNGEST

Oldest child-Sophia Kresha

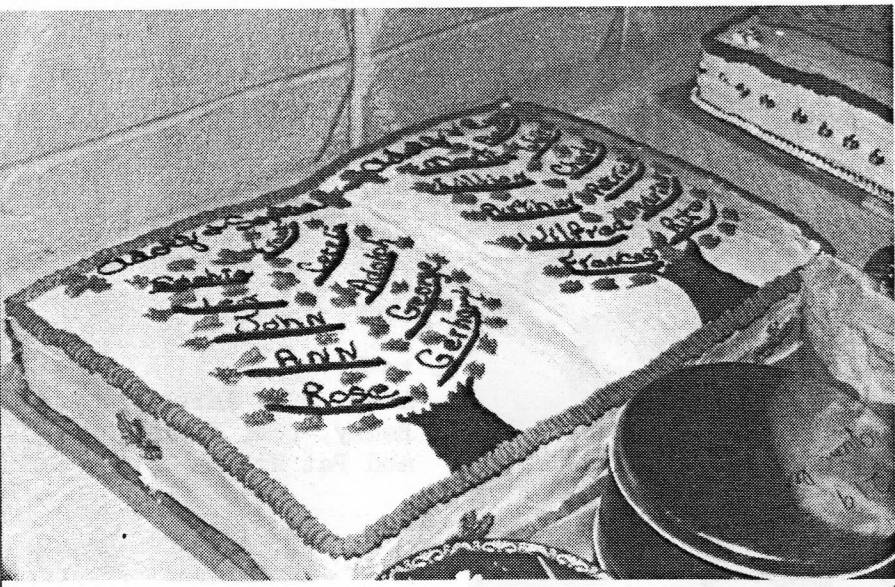
Oldest grandchild-Glenn Kresha

Youngest grandchild-Danny  
Kresha

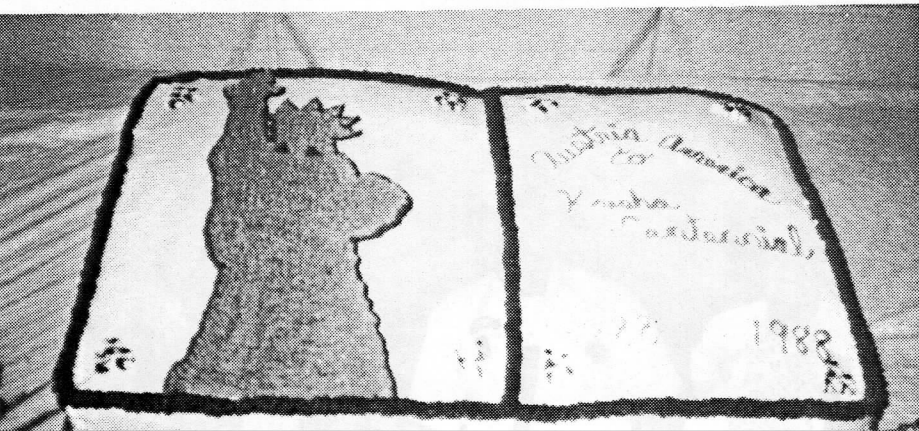




"GRANDPA, TELL ME 'BOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS"---Grandpas-L to R- Glenn Kresha, Paul Kresha, Adolph Kresha, George Kresha, Charles Kresha, Harold Witulski, Allen Kresha



ANNIVERSARY CAKES BAKED BY LU KRESHA



JODI KRESHA--Flute Solo  
Daughter of Gregg and Denice Kresha

Box 245  
Minden, NE  
June 8, 1988

Dear Harold and Lillian:

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and good wishes to me on retirement. I am really looking forward to this new way of life. Bonacum House will be an excellent surrounding for living. The priests and sisters as my companions will make for a happy environment.

I will not be present for the Kresha Centennial and family picnic. That will be the day of my parish farewell dinner here at Minden. Give the family members my greeting, blessing and best wishes.

When any of you are in Lincoln after June 15, please feel welcome at Bonacum House, right across the street from the Cathedral.

Personal remembrance to all!

**FATHER JOHN HOWE . . . . .**



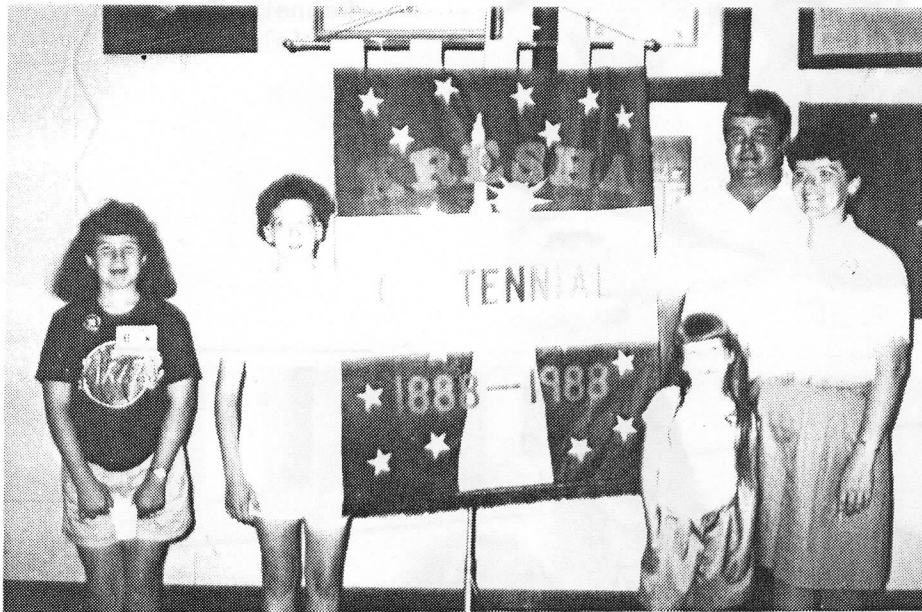
L to R:  
Colleen Kresha,  
Kenneth Kresha,  
Jolene Kresha



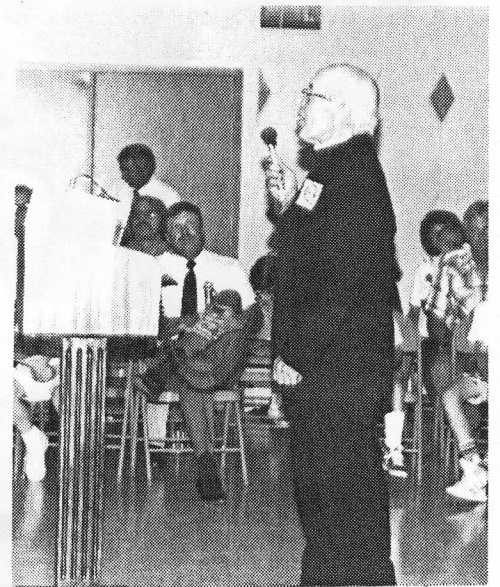
Front: Joe Thomas, Teresa Thomas, Karen and Shawn Higgins, Gene Thomas  
Back: Gloria Thomas  
(Taken 5/15/88)



Grandsons and Great-grandsons singing, "GOD BLESS THE USA"



Connie, Jodi, April, Gregg and Denice Kresha



Father Gerald C. Messman



Becky Kresha--Vocal Solo



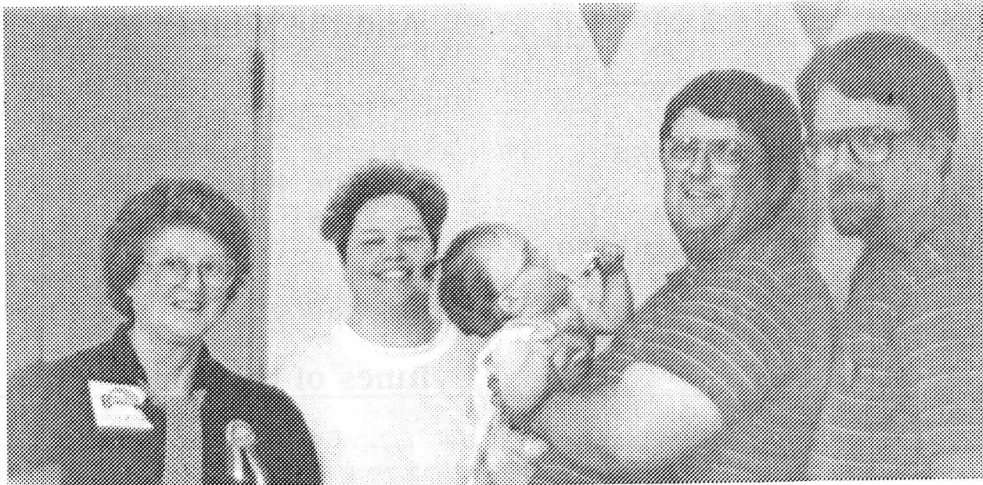
Anniversary cakes donated by Sophia Kresha



Star and Kenneth Kresha, Carmen Church, Bernard Kresha, Lois Kresha



Jodi Kresha-Chris Gabel  
Flute Duo



Lillian Witulski, Sharon and Leon Kosch, Larry Kosch  
Christine



Sophia Kresha



Rhonda Simpson, Romona Smith, Rosalie Gabel,  
Mary Lou Dunekacke, Maxine Golez,  
Front--Eva Kresha

# The Birthday Times

Amelia, Anna And Adolf KRESHA FAMILY  
 arrived in America on Saturday, September 8, 1888

## The Year's Top Story

Great Blizzard of 1888 strikes unprepared Atlantic seaboard.

## News of the Month

British Minister, Lord West, tells former British subjects to vote Democratic.  
 Chinese Exclusion Act prohibiting Chinese laborers in US repealed.  
 Hudson River ice crop remains unused.

## People Who Share Your Birthday

- 1922 Sid Caesar  
Actor, comedian
- 1925 Peter Sellers  
Actor, Pink Panther
- 1889 Robert Taft  
US Senator
- 1841 Antonin Dvorak  
Composer, New World Sym
- 1924 Grace Metalious  
Novelist, Payton Place
- 1157 Richard I  
King of England

PRESIDENT Grover Cleveland  
 VICE PRESIDENT (no vice pres.)

## And the Winner Is...

- Play Shenandoah by B. Howard
- Music Semper Fidelis by J.P. Sousa
- Books The American Commonwealth by J. Bryce
- The Happy Prince by O. Wilde
- Play Sweet Lavender by A.W. Pinero
- Painting L'Estague by Cezanne
- Sculpture The Thinker by Rodin
- Kentucky Derby Macbeth II - G. Covington up

## People Your Age

- .....Irving Berlin.....
- .....Richard Byrd.....
- .....Maurice Chevalier.....
- .....Knute Rockne.....

## Tunes of the Times

- Over the Waves ... Peer Gynt Suite ...
- Berceuse ... Voices of Spring ... With All Her
- Faults I Love Her Still ... Where Did You Get
- That Hat? ... Scarf Dance ... Clementine ...
- Drill Ye Tarriers Drill ... Capriccio Espagnol

## Famous Firsts

- Washington Monument completed ...
- First electric streetcars ...
- Self-propelled combine harvester
- introduced ... Burroughs patented
- adding machine ... Drinking straw
- invented ... Natl. Geographic Soc.
- and Parker Pen Co. founded ... Kodak
- camera marketed by George Eastman

## Life in the U.S.A. — Then & Now

|              | 1888        | 1987        |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Population   | 60,496,000  | 239,743,000 |
| 3 Br. Home   | \$2,200     | \$78,843    |
| Avg. Income  | \$440       | \$29,212    |
| New Ford     | 1st in 1903 | \$9,120     |
| Eggs, 1 doz. | \$.20       | \$.86       |
| Bread, 1 lb. | \$.05       | \$.63       |
| Milk, 1 gal. | \$.26       | \$2.22      |

## Fun Facts & More

Survivors gathered at Gettysburg for 25th anniversary of battle ... LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY opened on Broadway ... Fashion: high choker collars for men and lots of lace for women ... Wreaths, baskets & bouquets were made from human hair and yarn ... CASEY AT THE BAT poem published ... Sousa's SEMPER FIDELIS premiered for President and Congress ... Elite of NY society called "the four hundred"



# ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF DAVID CITY

580 I Street, David City, Nebraska 68632

May 10, 1988

Mrs. Harold Witulski  
Route 2, Box 181  
Beatrice, NE 68310

Dear Lillian:

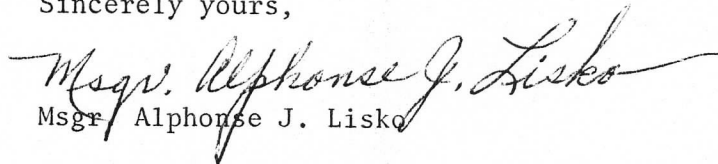
This is finally a response to your letter of April 8th regarding the centennial celebration of the Kresha family in America. I postponed responding because I was not sure I could be definite about June 12th.

Only recently have I learned the dates we would be gone on a Canadian vacation were finally confirmed. The trip begins on June 10 to the 22nd. My advance reservation was paid up early in March, but we did not know the exact dates. What I'm saying is that it is a northern Saskatchewan fishing trip on Reindeer Lake.

I regret very much that I'll miss seeing the Kresha clan. We all have fond memories of District 39. I'm still involved in education and the hiring of teachers, one per grade and even two per grade in the lower elementary level. My amazement never ceases when I recall our one room school house holding 40 kids, grades 1 to 8, and only one teacher who was also the janitor, the nurse and every thing else. We boys always teased the girls. We also liked to sneak off the grounds to fish Clear Creek off the bridge during recess or at lunch time.

Please pick a spot somewhere in your program to extend my congratulations to everyone. I'll be mindful of you in my thoughts and in my prayers.

Sincerely yours,

  
Msgr. Alphonse J. Lisko

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

KAY A. ORR, GOVERNOR



June 10, 1988

Mrs. Lillian V. Witulski  
Route 2, Box 181  
Beatrice, NE 68310

Dear Lillian:

It was a pleasure to hear from you and to learn of the forthcoming Kresha family centennial celebration.

Please convey my sincere congratulations to all the descendants of Adolf Kresha who will be gathered together in Columbus on June 12th to honor the memory of the patriarch of your family and to celebrate your proud heritage. The family history you shared with me was very touching, a story which is representative of the many families who left their homelands to make a new beginning in America. These were the families which were built upon the solid values of life and had a positive impact on the development of our Nebraska communities.

It pleases me to know that you have chosen the "Celebrate Nebraska" theme for your Kresha centennial. I join you in paying tribute to your mother, Eva Karges Kresha and in welcoming your cousins from across the United States. May this be a joyful homecoming for them and a happy reunion for all.

Sincerely,

KAY A. ORR  
Governor

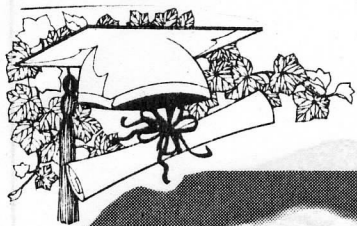
KAO:mk

# Kresha Kronicle



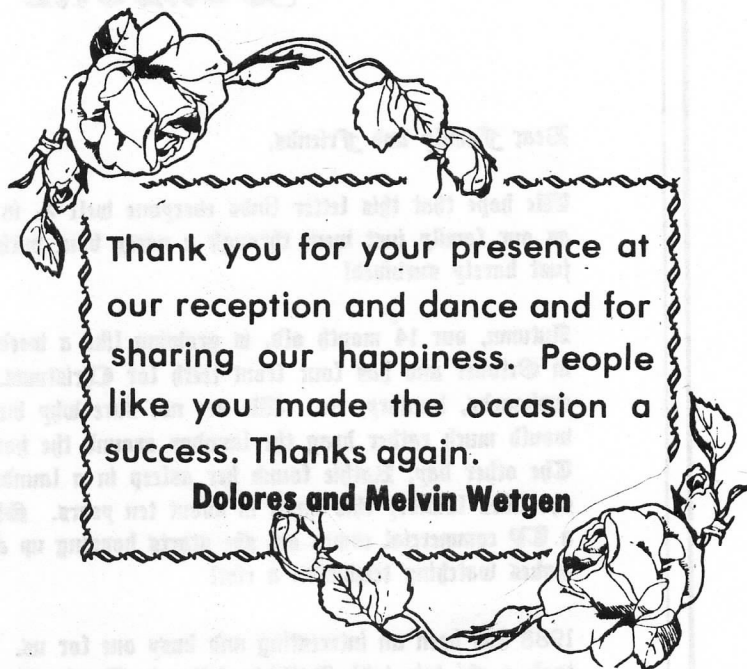
Volume 14 No. 3 2503-8-St., Columbus, NE 68601

Potpourri, 1988



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KATHRYN O'BRIEN, daughter of Thomas and Mary Lou (Kosch) O'Brien, graduated on May 14, 1988 from Conestoga Consolidated High School near Nehawka, NE. She was a merit honor student and received a \$500. scholarship to North Western College, Tarkio, MO. She is attending Creighton University, Omaha, NE.



Thank you for your presence at our reception and dance and for sharing our happiness. People like you made the occasion a success. Thanks again.

**Dolores and Melvin Wetgen**

**NEW SHELBY PRINCIPAL** — Stephanie Iwan is the new principal at Shelby High School.

Iwan had previously been principal and teacher at Archbishop Bergan Junior-Senior High School in Fremont from 1982-86.

A Kearney State College Graduate, Iwan has taught at North Platte Public Schools, St. Paul Public Schools, and Niobrara Public Schools, Lusk, Wyo.

She has received Bergan's Distinguished Educator award in 1985, Fremont's Outstanding Young Educator award in 1985, and the Nebraska Jaycee's Outstanding Young Educator award in 1985.

Stephanie is the granddaughter of Helen and the late Adam Karges of Duncan, NE. Eva (Karges) Kresha is Stephanie's Great Aunt.

(Picture and article courtesy of COLUMBUS TELEGRAM, Columbus, NE)

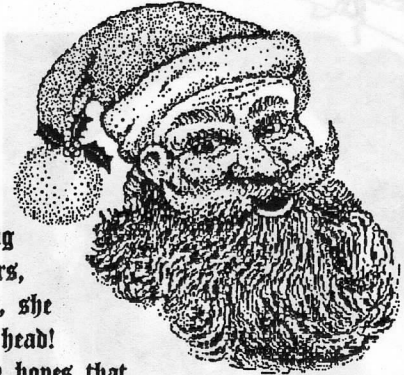


# Seasons Greetings!!!!

Dear Family and Friends,

We hope that this letter finds everyone well & in the Christmas spirit, as our family just went through a nasty bout with the 24 hour flu - just barely survived!

Autumn, our 14 month old, is growing like a weed. She started walking in October and has four front teeth for Christmas. She is in to drawers, cupboards, laundry, etc. We are not sure why we have bought her toys, she would much rather drag the laundry around the house and put it on her head! The other day, Kathie found her asleep in a laundry basket! Mom only hopes that she likes laundry this much in about ten years. She is also our "tiny dancer" - whenever music on the radio or a TV commercial comes on, she starts bopping up and down, swinging her hips and promenading in circles. She makes watching television a riot!



1988 has been an interesting and busy one for us. This last spring, we spent a week in Acapulco, Mexico, and took a ski trip with Kathie's folks in Breckenridge, Colorado. This fall, we attended a wedding reception in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and explored Pike's Peak and Estes Park on the way back, and went to Chicago (Autumn stayed home). While we were experiencing the Chicago Subway and the view from the Hancock Center, Autumn stayed with Grandpa and Grandma Dittmer and was learning to walk!

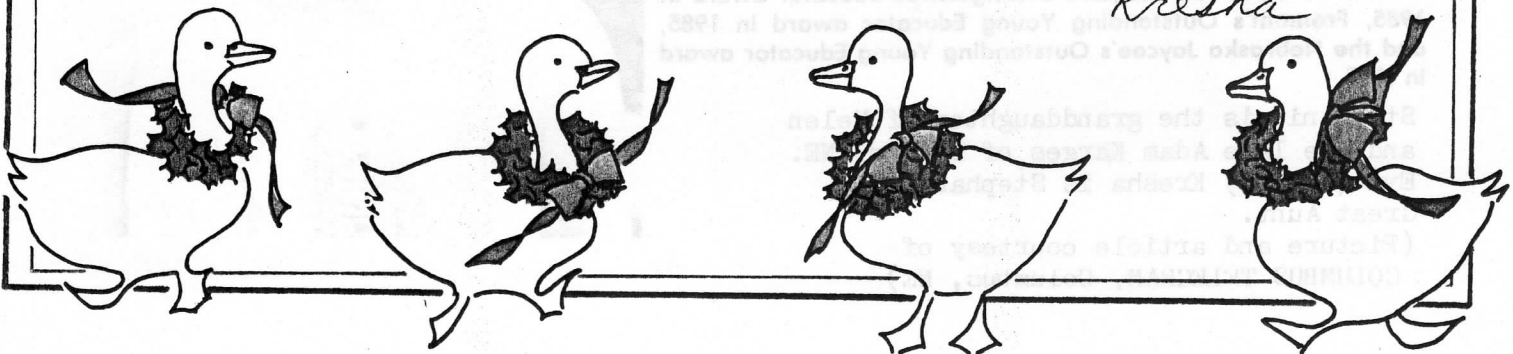
Looking back on the past year, Kathie hasn't really just been sitting around the house - she's been rocking Autumn a good deal of the time. She also has been devoting some time to crafts and sewing. Autumn was a pumpkin for Halloween, complete with a home made costume! It turned out pretty good.

Tony still owns a computer retail store, Connecting Point, and also has been taking a couple night classes working toward his business degree - still a long way off! He still finds some time for woodworking, camping and fishing, but not too much. Tony likes to show off his little girl whenever possible. Autumn greets him every night at the door with a loud Dadeeee! Mom, mum, mum is reserved for when she is unhappy.

As you might have guessed, Autumn is pretty special to us! Her natural curiosity and amazement with the simplest things and her happy smile has given our lives a refreshing change. We have found that we don't have as much time to ourselves and other activities as we would like, but she is definitely worth it! We hope that you may have time to spend with your own families and enjoy the simple joys in this holiday season.

With the peace and joy of the season,

*Kathie Tony & Autumn  
Kresha*



Merry Christmas! What a blessing the Lord Jesus is! He is our hope, our joy, our peace. We count you among our special friends and family. And our prayer list for the holidays has you on it so that we can remember and lift up those most special to us.

Vickie and Andy have recounted to many couples in our parish who have been preparing for the Baptism of their infants, the great gift the Son bestows on us: to be the adopted sons and daughters of God. Knowing Jesus offers us that level of love is PEACE to us.

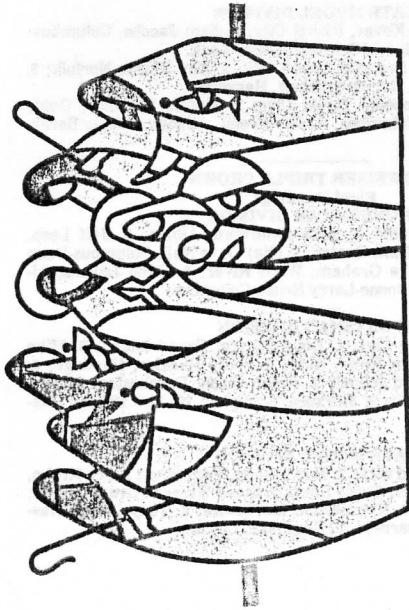
The past year has brought some changes. We have moved into our new home at the west edge of Phoenix, located on two irrigated acres. We have begun to plant some trees, grass, and garden (We can grow two gardens per year-double the work!). Vickie has begun the interior decorating that she is so well known for. Andy has begun fixing the multitude of things that break, even with a new house. We are planning for a garage sometime in the next year and eventually to have a horse (for Vickie), a calf (for Andy), rabbits (for Vincent), and we already have Crystal, a cat (for Carmen).

Vickie has "retired" from nursing but seems busier than ever. She works with Carmen and Vincent on their reading, spelling, and art. Her mowing (ever try 2 acres by hand?), gardening, decorating, cleaning, and laundry never seem to end. Recently Vickie and a neighbor started a "Moms In Touch" group that meets once a week to pray for all the children and teachers of their school. Vincent, 8, is on a soccer team and enjoying art and Lego construction. Carmen, 6, is enjoying reading, Barbie dolls, and biking. Andy is still with Valley Bank doing interesting training projects and personnel problem solving. He goes to a state prison weekly to play his guitar and do bible study with them

May you and yours have a great new year.

Much love,  
 Andy, Vickie, Vince, & Carmen

Kresha



Jan., 1989

Dear Elaine,

Thank you for sending me the KRESHA KRONICLE. Now that I'm not living with my parents, Clarence and Marge Kresha, the Kronicle helps me find out what's happening. Enclosed is a check to help keep things going. Keep up the good work!

BRIAN AND CHRISTINE (KRESHA) TIGHE

August, 1988

Dear Elaine,

I am sending you a clipping from the COLUMBUS TELEGRAM which you may want to print. Dan had a very successful racing season in the Sportsman Class.

He won the championship of the Budweiser Triple Crown Series which included racing at Doniphan Raceway, Grand Island, NE; Boone County Raceway at Albion, NE; and U.S. Speedway at Columbus, NE.

Dan is the 1988 Champion at Boone County Raceway, Albion, NE. He won 2nd place at U.S. 30 Speedway at Columbus, NE.

I am also sending a photograph of our children--Brandon Ray Kresha and Brittany Kay Kresha. It was taken March 3, 1988. Their ages at the time were Brandon, 3 years, 8 months, and Brittany 15 months. They are not 4 years and 22 months.

DAN AND BECKY KRESHA

## Last leg of Budweiser Triple Crown completed at U.S. 30 Speedway

The Budweiser Triple Crown stock car racing series ended Tuesday night at U.S. 30 Speedway.

Tom Svoboda of David City, Dan Kresha of Rising City and Joe Landauer of Albion were crowned champions in the three divisions of competition.

Landauer finished fourth in the Thunder Car A feature Tuesday night to garner enough points to win a Triple Crown title. Jeff Leep, who was tied for first in the point standings entering Tuesday's competition, had engine trouble on the final lap of the feature. He dropped three positions, helping Landauer win the title.

Randy Hall of Exeter won the A feature, while Dean Neighbors of Cairo won the B feature. Thunder Car heat races were won by Mike Beierman of Albion, Dave Nall of Columbus and Ron Grape of Boone.

Dan Kresha won a heat race and finished second in the feature to claim the Triple Crown title in the Sportsman Division. Craig Marxsen of Schuyler was the feature winner. Doug Stange of Grand Island won the other heat race. Stange was second in the final point standings.

Tom Svoboda won the feature and a heat race to run away with the Late Model point title. Kenny Kovar of Rising City also won a heat race. Sam Jacobs of Columbus was third in the feature race and second in a heat race. Jacobs finished second in the final point standings.

Regular racing action resumes at U.S. 30 Speedway Friday, featuring Kids Night in the program starting at 8 p.m.

**BUDWEISER TRIPLE CROWN**  
Third Leg  
Tuesday at U.S. 30 Speedway

### THUNDER CAR DIVISION

First heat—1. Mike Beierman, Albion; 2. Scott Sallach, Albion; 3. Jeff Leep, Grand Island; 4. Randy Hall, Exeter.

Second heat—1. Dave Nall, Columbus; 2. Leonard Landers, Cairo; 3. Mike Graham, Wood River; 4. Dana Labenz, Albion.

Third heat—1. Ron Grape, Boone; 2. Joe Landauer, Albion; 3. Larry Ernst, Columbus; 4. Bob Nolan, Albion.

B feature—1. Dean Neighbors, Cairo; 2. Casey Oliphant, Grand Island; 3. Todd Ligenza, Columbus; 4. Dave Landgan, Cedar Rapids; 5. Larry Temme, Petersburg.

A feature—1. Randy Hall, Exeter; 2. Mike Beierman, Albion; 3. Dave Nall, Columbus; 4. Joe Landauer, Albion; 5. Dean Neighbors, Cairo.

### SPORTSMAN DIVISION

First heat—1. Dan Kresha, Rising City; 2. Tim Fricke, Hastings; 3. Alan Jordening, Blue Hill; 4. Craig Marxsen, Schuyler.

Second heat—1. Doug Stange, Grand Island; 2. Jerry Hackler, Hastings; 3. Mike Landauer, Albion; 4. Corey Van Winkle, Grand Island.

Feature—1. Craig Marxsen, Schuyler; 2. Dan Kresha, Rising City; 3. Jerry Hackler, Hastings; 4. Corey Van Winkle, Grand Island; 5. Mike Landauer, Albion.

### LATE MODEL DIVISION

First heat—1. Kenny Kovar, Rising City; 2. Sam Jacobs, Columbus; 3. Joe Krohn, Albion; 4. Harold Schriener, Guide Rock.

Second heat—1. Tom Svoboda, David City; 2. Ray Haase, Norfolk; 3. Tony Gregg, Hastings; 4. Harlan Schriener, Harvard.

Feature—1. Tom Svoboda, David City; 2. Harold Schriener, Guide Rock; 3. Sam Jacobs, Columbus; 4. Joe Krohn, Albion; 5. Kyle Berck, Marquette.

### BUDWEISER TRIPLE CROWN Final Standings

#### THUNDER CAR DIVISION

1. Joe Landauer, Albion; 2. Mike Beierman, Albion; 3. Jeff Leep, Grand Island; 4. Randy Hall, Exeter; 5. (tie) Dave Nall, Columbus-Dean Neighbors, Cairo; 7. Mike Graham, Wood River; 8. Dana Labenz, Albion; 9. (tie) Ron Grape, Boone-Larry Ernst, Columbus.

#### SPORTSMAN DIVISION

1. Dan Kresha, Rising City; 2. Doug Stange, Grand Island; 3. Mike Landauer, Albion; 4. Tom Rowe, Alda; 5. Jerry Hackler, Hastings; 6. Corey Van Winkle, Grand Island; 7. Kevin Olson, Dorchester; 8. Alan Jordening, Blue Hill; 9. Craig Marxsen, Schuyler; 10. Tim Fricke, Hastings.

#### LATE MODEL DIVISION

1. Tom Svoboda, David City; 2. Sam Jacobs, Columbus; 3. Joe Krohn, Albion; 4. Harold Schriener, Guide Rock; 5. Steve Wessels, Grand Island; 6. Ray Haase, Norfolk; 7. Kyle Berck, Marquette; 8. Tony Gregg, Hastings; 9. Jim Johnson, Kearney; 10. Ron Dake, Lincoln.

# Kresha intern at Gibson Pharmacy

Colleen Kresha is employed as an intern this summer at Gibson Pharmacy, announced pharmacy owner Tom Romaneck. She also plans to work at the U.S. 30 Center business during the Christmas holiday next winter.

A graduate of Osceola High School, Kresha is a second-year pharmacy student at Creighton University School of Pharmacy, Omaha. In her fourth year of post-secondary studies, she attended Central Community College - Platte Campus for two years.

Kresha is performing various duties at Gibsons Pharmacy, including filling prescriptions, compounding, filing and clerking.

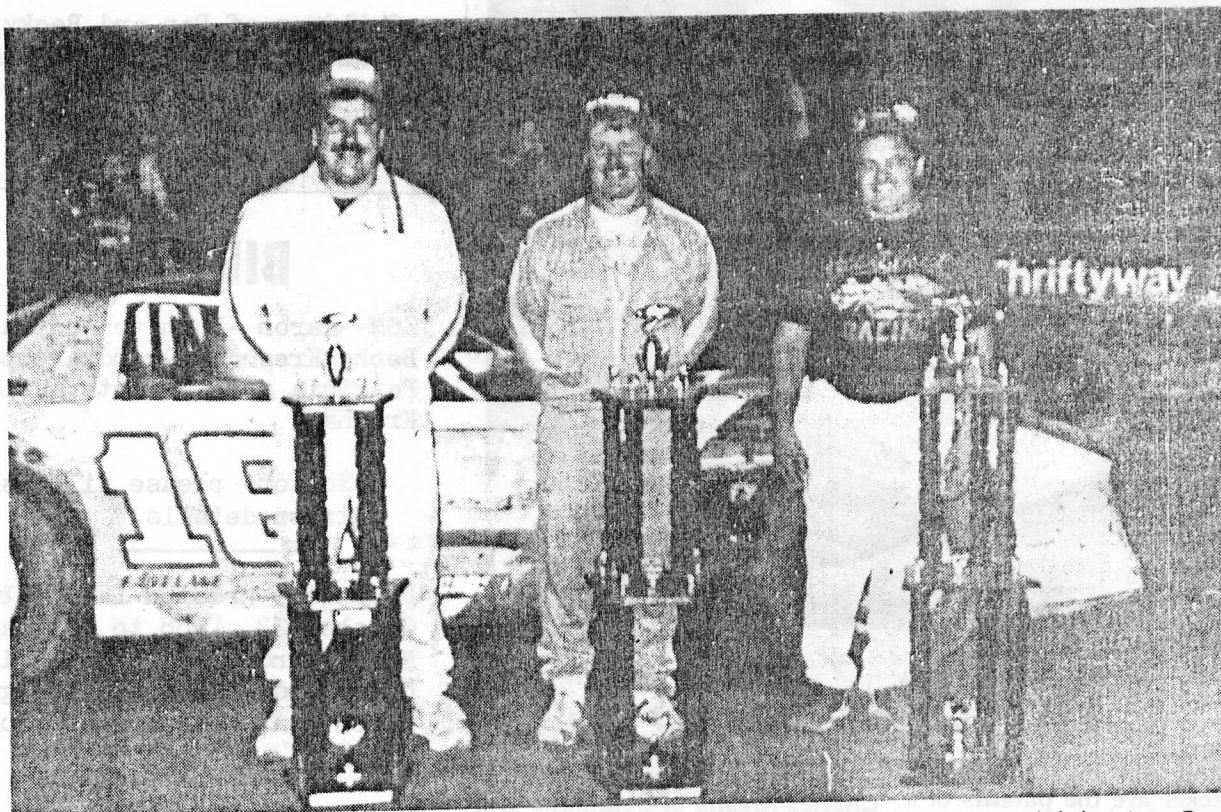
She is the daughter of Martin

and Elaine Kresha of Columbus.



COLLEEN KRESHA

(Columbus Telegram--Summer, 1988)

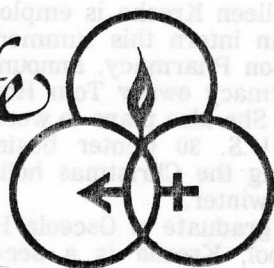


TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS — Champions in the Budweiser Triple Crown stock car racing series were crowned at U.S. 30 Speedway Tuesday night. The winners included (from left): Tom

Svoboda of David City, Late Model division; Dan Kresha of Rising City, Sportsman division; and Joe Landauer of Albion, Thunder Car division.

(Telegram photo by Joe Gaver)

Human Life  
Is  
Sacred



## Who's New

Mr. and Mrs. Jim (Kristi Kresha) Becker are the parents of a daughter, Jennifer Lee, born Tuesday, August 9, 1988 at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. Birth weight was 9 pounds, 14 ounces.

She is the first child for the couple.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kresha of Columbus and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Becker of Enola.

Mrs. Eva Kresha of Columbus and Adam Becker of Enola are the great grandparents.



BRANDON RAY KRESHA 3yrs. 8mo.

BRITTANY KAY KRESHA 15 mo.

Children of Dan and Becky Kresha  
Grandchildren of Larry and  
Carol Kresha

Picture taken 3-3-88

## BIRTHS

SON--Aaron--born to Andy and Becky Kresha. Grandparents are Patricia and the late Adrian Kresha.

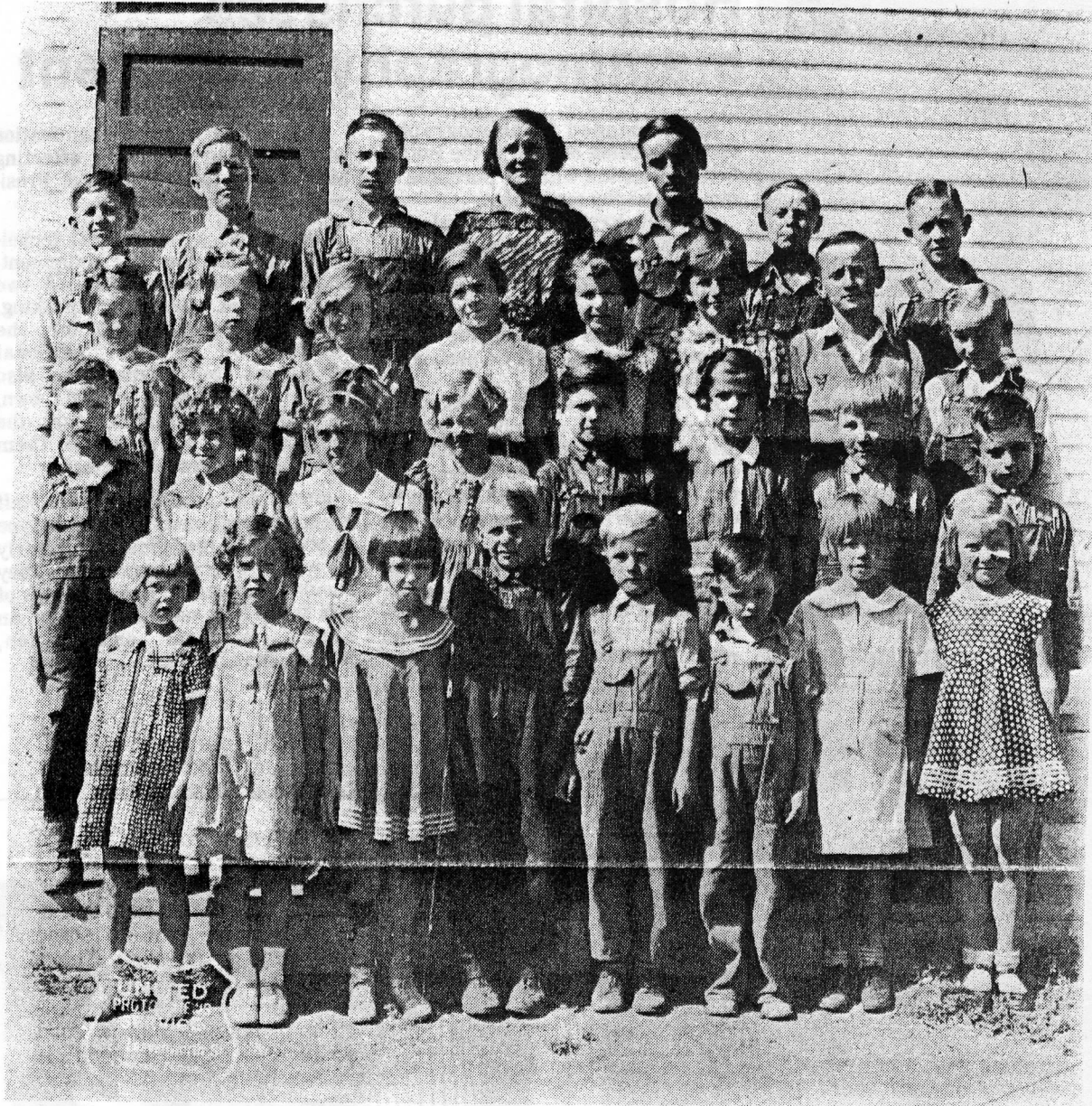
(Someone please fill us  
in on details.)

DAUGHTER--Kristen Layne--born October 23, 1988 to Mick and Nancy Bender. Kristen weighed 8 1/2 lbs. Her maternal grandparents are Charles and Lucy Kresha.

DAUGHTER--Agave Jade--born November 9, 1988 to Anthony Shawn and Karen Marie Higgins. Agave weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. Maternal grandparents are Gene and the late Pat (Kresha) Thomas.

\*EVA KRESHA IS THE GREAT-GRANDMOTHER TO ALL THE NEW BABIES\*





## School reunion

The first all-school reunion of students of District 18 (Ball School) was held recently at the Neal Hasselbalch home of rural Columbus.

The school was located eight miles north and one mile east of Shelby.

Pictured, in a 1936 all-school photo, are front row from left, Imogene (Hecker) Dill, Columbus; Elaine (Henggeler) Toline, Stromsburg; Rose Marie Brannigan, Fremont; Myron Hecker, Piqua, Ohio; Erwin Hecker, Shelby; Bob Brannigan, Omaha; Doris (Meyers) Compton, Elvins, Mo.; Grace (Johanson) Barges, La Plata, Md.

Second: Wilbert Hohndorf, Shelby; Maxine Henggeler, Atlanta, Ga.; Mae (Tragarz) Alt, Columbus; Betty (Hasselbalch) Johnson, Columbus; Junior Hecker (deceased); Bernice (Hecker) Thompson, Columbus; Richard Korgor, Columbus; Jerome Korgor (deceased).

Third: Betty (Micek) Dickson, Omaha; Patty (Micek) Hodges, Bethel Park, Penn.; Betty (Johanson) Simonsma, Sacramento, Calif.; Shirley (Johanson) Hartley, Lincoln; Donna (Micek) Crebbin, Columbus; Marcella (Korgor) Siemek, Columbus; Louis Benda, Shelby; Neal Hasselbalch, Columbus.

Fourth: Dale Meyers, Fremont, who died Sept. 6; Alvin Hohndorf, Omaha; Bernard Korgor, Shelby; teacher Rose (Kresha) Hilger, David City; Albert Benda (deceased); Dale Enyeart, Long Beach, Calif.; Edward Tragarz, Columbus.

Attending, but not in this picture, was George Meyers from Goehner.

Not attending were Elaine (Henggeler) Toline, Stromsburg, Maxine Henggeler, Atlanta, Ga., Doris (Meyers) Compton, Elvins, Mo., Patty (Micek) Hodges, Bethel Park, Penn., and Dale Enyeart, Long Beach, Calif.

More about the Ball School picture--This photo was taken in 1937. We were in the "dirty thirties", a term used to tell about the drought, dust storms and tough times. Farmers couldn't pay their taxes and that meant teacher's pay was often late.

So many came to this happy occasion. We had a great time recalling all that has happened through the years. Some I hadn't seen since 1937 when they were small children.

It was nice of Neal and Thala Hasselbalch to plan and host our reunion. We had a good time.--ROSE HILGER

# Hospital purchases mammography equipment

An expanded mammography service is being offered at the Butler County Hospital with the purchase of mammography equipment.

Jo Ellen Vrbka, administrator of the hospital, said the hospital formerly had access to a portable mammography system from a Lincoln hospital. But it was decided there would be some economies in owning the equipment. The savings will be passed on to patients.

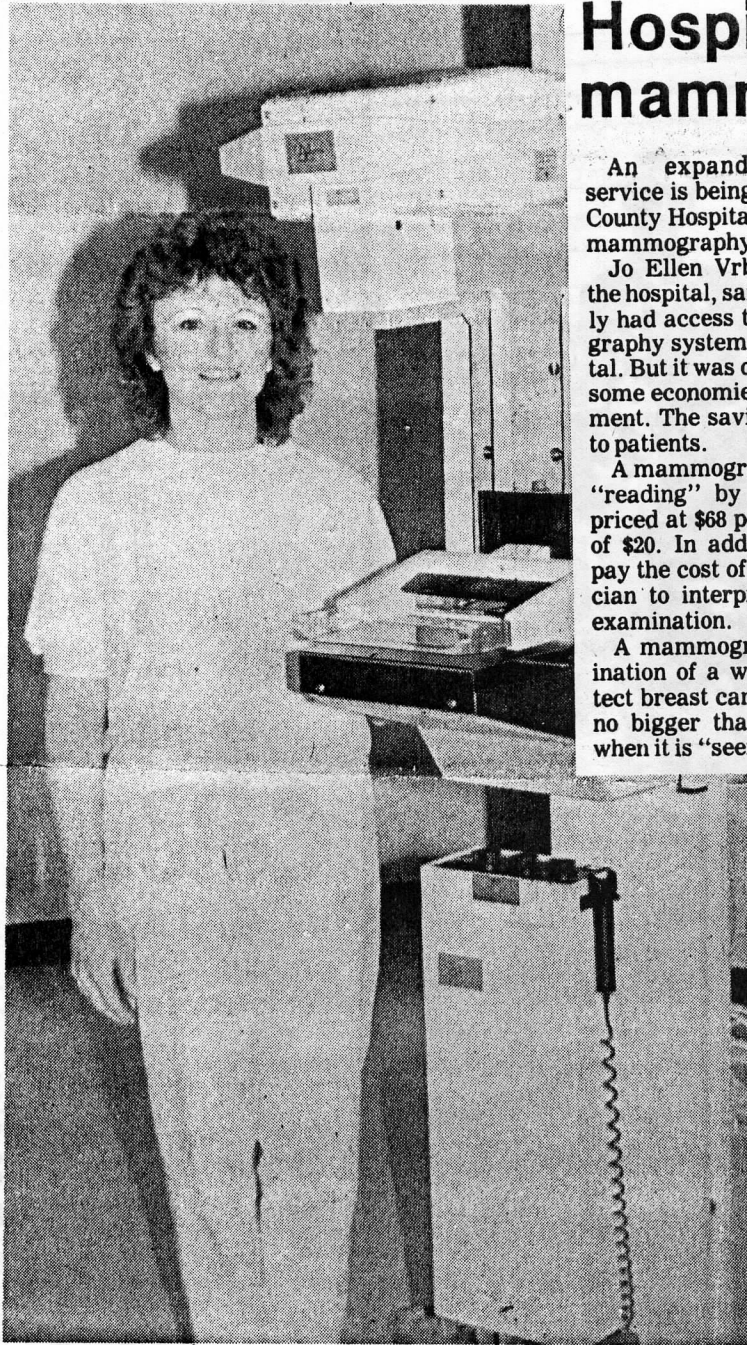
A mammography examination and "reading" by a radiologist is now priced at \$68 per person, a reduction of \$20. In addition, the patient will pay the cost of a visit with her physician to interpret the results of the examination.

A mammogram is a X-ray examination of a woman's breasts to detect breast cancer. A cancer may be no bigger than a dot on this page when it is "seen" on film.

This is the type of examination which spotted a cancer affecting Mrs. Nancy Reagan, wife of President Ronald Reagan.

Sue Hilger, a radiological technician, operates the new equipment. Examinations are scheduled two days a week. Generally speaking, patients are referred for the examination by their personal physicians, but women can also make appointments on their own, with the understanding that the results must be given to them through their personal doctors.

Mrs. Vrbka said the hospital staff considers mammography as a type of preventive medicine, particularly for women over 50 years of age. They should have annual examinations of this type. It is no substitute for an annual physical examination, though, she cautioned.



The mammography system for detecting breast cancers is operated at the Butler County Hospital by Sue Hilger, radiological technician. — Banner-Press photo.



EVA KRESHA--December 12, 1988  
96 years old.

(Photo courtesy-Margaret and George Kresha--June 1988)





MR. AND MRS.  
KENNETH M. KRESHA

### Loveless-Kresha

Star Loveless of Rising City became the bride of Kenneth Kresha of St. Edward in an April 16 ceremony at St. Stanislaus Church in Duncan. Celebrants at the 2 p.m. mass were Rev. Jim Gaughan and Rev. Joe Miksch.

Their parents are Howard and Norma Loveless of Rising City and Martin and Elaine Kresha of Columbus.

The bride chose a romantic white gown of chiffonet and chantilly lace. The sheer yoke featured a mandarin neckline and was outlined with a lace ruffle. Long bishop shadow sleeves ended in bridal points. Handclipped re-embroidered medallions and a venise lace cameo studded with pearls and sequins trimmed the skirt front that ended in a chantilly lace ruffle. Tiers of chantilly lace formed the skirt back and chapel train. She wore a matching coach hat of white chantilly lace studded with tiny pearls. The upswept side was held by flowers. A pouf and fingertip illusion veil added the final touches.

Rose Loveless of Rising City was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Jolene Kresha, Cindy Loveless and Donna Bisson, all of Columbus. They wore violet gowns of glimmering fantanza.

Bernard Kresha of Osceola was best man. Groomsmen were Patrick Kresha of Las Vegas, Nev.; Paul Ridder of St. Edward and Dave Klein of Silver Creek. Ushering the guests were Steve Loveless of Rising City, Jeff Loveless of Columbus and Rex Loveless of Columbus.

Jessica Loveless of Columbus was flower girl and Oritha Loveless of Columbus was the bride's personal attendant. Diane Thalken was the organist and vocalists were Lois, Colleen and Jolene Kresha.

A reception, dinner and dance were held at the St. Stanislaus Parish Hall in Duncan for 200 guests. Host couples were Max and Bonnie Nordeen of St. Edward and Glen and Helen Winterfeld of Milford. Assisting at the reception were Angie Want, Jill Thewke, Lisa and Paula Kneifel, Maxine Freeman, Lucille Kresha, Norma Ewert, Janet Kneifel, Karen Johannes and Jarrod Loveless.

Following a wedding trip to the Ozarks, the couple will make their home is St. Edward where the groom is a mechanic for Mahoney Sales and Service.

MR. AND MRS.  
ANTHONY SHAWN HIGGINS

Karen Marie Thomas and Anthony Shawn Higgins of Seattle, Wash. were united in marriage on Saturday, the fourteenth of May, nineteen hundred and eighty-eight at  
The Unity Church of Seattle--  
Seattle, Washington



The Banner-Press, David City, Nebr.—Sept. 22, 1988

## Potatoes choice of Hilgers for an alternative crop

Dan and Mary Jane Hilger have found an alternative crop which they like to supplement their farm income: potatoes.

Just recently they completed harvesting potatoes from one acre of their land located along Highway 64 east of Bellwood.

Their yield on that acre was about 20,000 pounds of Norgold, Gem and Kennebec potatoes. The different varieties were planted to take advantage of the differing maturities.

They dug the potatoes, bagged them in their garage converted for that purpose, and then marketed the product through grocery stores in Bellwood, David City, Columbus, Lincoln and Norfolk.

Dan explained that, in addition to exploring alternative crops, he decided several years ago to quit using agricultural chemicals to control the insects and weeds which were attacking his grain crops.

In 1983, the PIK year, he seeded his entire farm to alfalfa. At that time he realized that continuous corn planting and extensive chemical usage had reduced his yield potential and turned the soil "to putty."

Unfortunately, 1984 and 1985 were not good alfalfa crop years, he explained. "What the rain didn't drown out, the herbicide residue burned out."

Returning to the government's 50-92 program in 1986, he decided not to continue the use of chemicals. He began looking at two other systems of farming, organic and probiotic.

He chose the latter because he believes it allows an opportunity to better balance nutrient levels and for a free choice of crops to be raised.

For those to whom the word probiotic is unfamiliar, Hilger explained that it means to proliferate the natural life of the soil and plant. The natural system produces nutrients from old plant matter and if these nutrients aren't readily available or are out of balance, the plant's natural resistance to insects and disease is greatly reduced.

Hilger has used custom blended systemic foliar fertilizers to precisely

ly balance the nutrient needs of his crops. This balanced fertilizer system stimulates the plants' insect resistance. In this way he is not damaging the beneficial insects in the field.

He added that he has used some herbicide on corn, but finds less is required. With part of his corn in third year corn ground and no insecticide used any of those years, he has no insect problem. He points out, "When you work with nature, nature works with you."

Hilger found that even vegetable crops could be grown without insecticides so he decided to try an acre of potatoes this year.

Small ridges were pulled in the field using a conventional four-row ditcher which he uses on corn. The potatoes were planted in these ridges using a one-row planter. He used the ditcher for cultivating.

A one-row PTO digger lifts the potatoes from the ground, they are picked up by hand and placed on a hay rack. The garage was air conditioned so the crop could be cooled and dried in three or four days.

The Hilgers were able to raise their potatoes with only 50 pounds of nitrogen, three foliar feedings which contained about 64 ounces each of various nutrients, and no insecticide or herbicide.

This contrasts with a commercial potato farm Dan Hilger visited where 285 pounds of nitrogen were applied along with nitrogen present in high nitrate well water.

He took advantage of the idle acres program to plant 30 acres of alfalfa which paid off by building up the soil and also producing a hay crop which was readily marketable this year.

"Diversity really helps smooth out the bumps in agriculture," he commented.

Summing up, Hilger said his long range goal is to take a systems approach to the future of agriculture. "Any system that is to be truly sustainable for years to come must not contain elements that insects or weeds develop resistance to or that are detrimental to our natural resources. It must work with nature and, of course, be profitable and bountiful."



The potato lifter which digs the potatoes out of the ground, leaving them in plain sight where they can be picked up and placed on a hay rack for transport to the garage for drying and bagging.





R-S photo by Michelle du...

Athena Fardig enjoys visit with John and Ines Kresha of Cottonwood as part of her Adopted Grandparents Project

# Grandparents make grand project for 4-H'er

By BETTY LEASE

**C**OTTONWOOD — Athena Fardig has a whole bunch of grandparents, far more than the typical four. They are adopted grandparents.

She considers herself lucky, and so do they. When Athena visits her adopted grandparents, she may bring some fresh vegetables from the home-garden, some flowers, some homemade cookies, a hand-carved jack-o-lantern or a birthday card. But most of all, Athena brings herself, and that's what really counts.

Athena, a 16-year-old West Valley High School junior, adopted her first grandparent five years ago when she signed up to participate in the Adopted Grandparents project through Cottonwood 4-H Club. Along with younger brother Matthew, Athena and several others regularly visited their senior friends.

But in the second year, Athena and Matthew, children of Joan and Clyde Fardig, found themselves alone in the project; the others had opted not to continue. With only the two of them

participating, the 4-H project ceased to be led by an adult and became a "self-determined project," which allowed them to continue on their own and receive credit in the 4-H program.

The following year, Matthew dropped out, too, leaving Athena to carry on by herself. She understands that it is difficult for some young people to make conversation with older folks and visit convalescent hospitals, but the red-haired teen doesn't have any trouble.

Athena began visiting residents of convalescent hospitals when her late great-grandmother lived in one.

"I just walk up to them and introduce myself and ask them if they'd like someone to talk to," Athena said. "They're glad to have someone to talk to. Many of them have no one else to visit them."

Conversation, she said, "depends on the person, what they like to do and what they're interested in." Athena has been read excerpts from one woman's diary, kept when she was 14, and passages from old, treasured letters. Much of her visiting time is

spent just listening, Athena said.

"They're always really happy that someone is interested in them.

"I really like doing it," Athena said. "A lot of people tend to ignore the elderly."

As this year's president of Cottonwood 4-H, Athena decided to resurrect the Adopted Grandparents program. At least three other members have expressed interest to date.

"I'd like to get more people involved," Athena said, with each 4-H'er adopting one senior citizen and making regular trips to convalescent hospitals.

Laurie Woolery, community leader of Cottonwood 4-H Club, said: "I think it's a great idea. I'm tickled to see the kids do it. I'm hoping it will be a big success."

Mrs. Woolery describes Athena as "quiet, but very capable. She's very caring also," she added. "I think it's very natural for her to do this."

When asked how many adopted grandparents she has, Athena just shrugs. They include neighbors, members of her church and residents of

care facilities — there are too many to count.

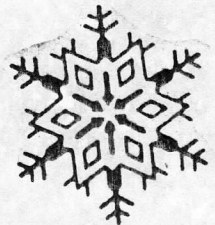
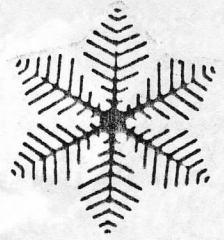
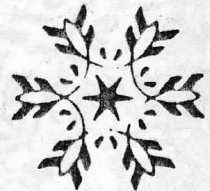
She keeps a calendar of her grandparents' birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions. Neighbors John and Ines Kresha were invited to the Fardig home for dinner and cake on their 50th anniversary several years ago.

And last summer adopted grandparent Mary Coker of Cottonwood was included in a family outing to Whiskeytown Lake. "She was really happy because she hadn't been to the lake in such a long time. She took pictures of everyone," Athena said.

Athena has also helped Mrs. Kresha clean her house and assisted Mrs. Coker with dinner preparations.

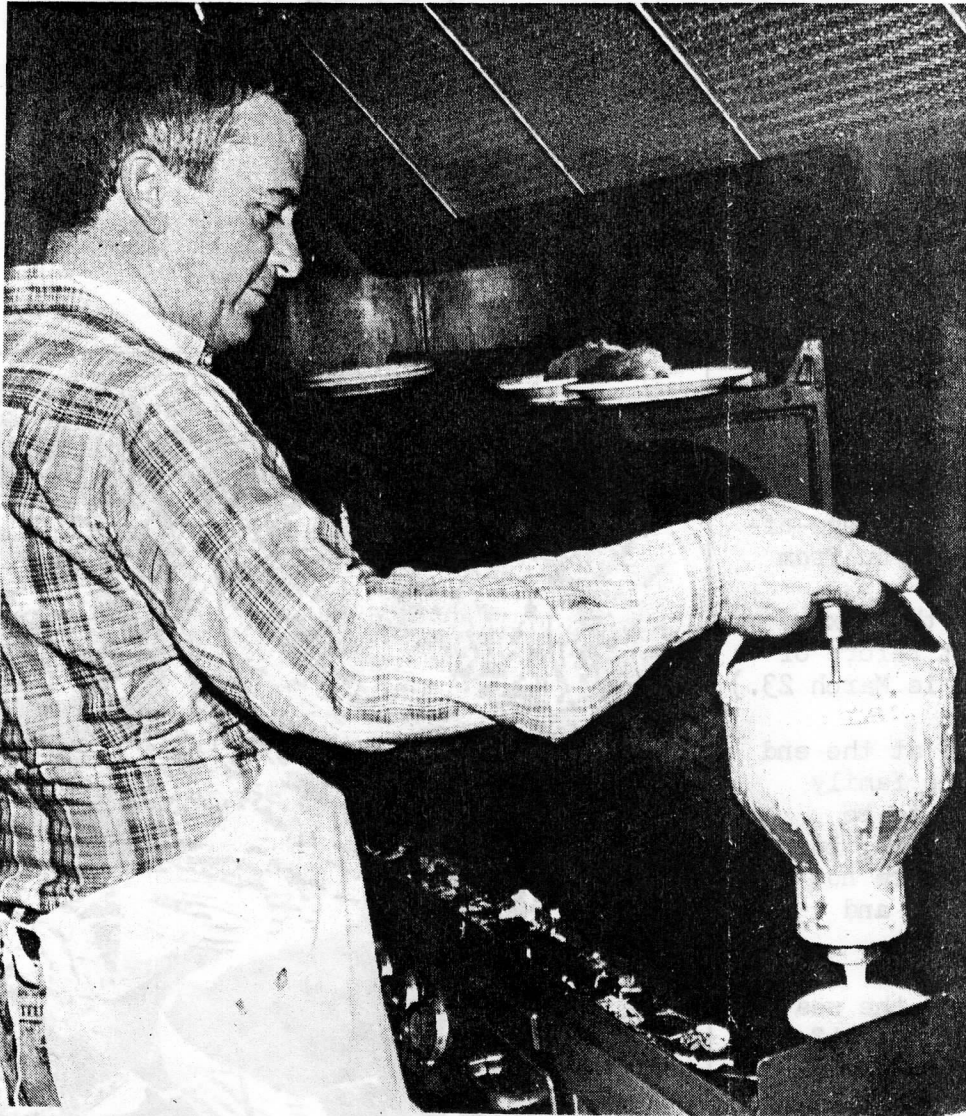
Mrs. Kresha said she enjoys the visits paid she and her husband by the Fardig offspring. "I love them. They're nice children," she said.

Although the Kreshas have children, grandchildren and a great-grandchild of their own, they don't live in the area. "We get very lonesome up here being away from our children," Mrs. Kresha said.



The Banner-Press, David City, Nebr.—March 17, 1988

# Nebraska Timeline: Community feeds are still popular



Dan Hilger, using a pancake mix dispenser, lays out a batch of pancakes on the grill. The dispenser aids in preparing a uniform size pancake.

Community "feeds" date from the earliest days of settlement in Nebraska. Usually sponsored by church, civic, or social groups, the "feeds" were often held to raise funds for a charitable cause. Feeds were most frequently scheduled during winter months, offering a sure cure for cabin fever, if not great cuisine.

Most feeds featured one particular dish. Many of us still attend the local pancake, chili, or spaghetti feed. But sometimes the menu has been a little more interesting—and exotic.

In settlement days, scarcity of provisions made for simple menus. The Grand Island Times noted several "mush and milk" festivals in the winter of 1875. These events were held to raise funds to relieve grasshopper-stricken settlers. If loading up the family for a mush and milk feed sounds unappetizing to you, consider this: in February the paper noted, "They ain't called 'mush and milk festivals' anymore. They call them 'grasshoppers' now."

Sometimes the name of the feed is the principal drawing card. One group in Dannebrog sponsored a yearly "ground hog" feed on February 2. It's hard to say how many people attended to see if Puxatawney Phil's relatives were being cooked and served. Reliable sources insist the meal was ground hog—as in pig. The bad pun was served up at no extra charge.

The prize for the most unusual feed may have to go the Crete American Legion Post, which for over 30 years sponsored a raccoon feed. No pun here. "Choice Blue River valley raccoon" was the centerpiece for the meal. Fifty-five of the critters were trapped, skinned, and baked for the feed in 1951. And while roast beef or pork was available to those faint of palate, most came for raccoon. What started as an invitation-only stag affair turned into a community feed that drew between 400 and 500 people every winter.



1-29-89

EDITOR'S NOTE--

Happy New Year!

This issue of the KRONICLE is to pull together all the loose ends of 1988--a Kresha Potpourri.

I want to thank all of you for your letters, pictures, articles, etc. this past year. Without you, the KRONICLE couldn't be.

Someone suggested to me that if those of you who have typewriters could type your letters it would make my work easier. I'll second that motion!! Please, don't stop writing just because you can't type your letters. Keep the news coming, in any shape or form.

I'm sure you noticed the new "headers" on the last two issues. Ray Kresha contributed the Kresha Kronicle part. Tony Kresha contributed the Centennial Edition part of the header. I think they gave the KRONICLE a professional, change-of-face look. Thanks to both of you from all of us.

Target date for printing the next KRONICLE will be either just before or just after Easter. (Easter is March 23.) Keep the news coming.

Remember the blank page at the end of the Centennial Issue?--The family history (geneology) that was to be filled in? I have received some, but there are still quite a few more not in. Would you please fill those in and return them to me?

We had a wonderful Christmas! Our whole family was together and the weather was grand. What more could one ask?

God's blessings on each and every one of you in 1989.

*Love,  
Elaine*



There is a lot of hand work in the production of potatoes, including picking them up out of the field. Dan and John Morbach, Marcus Hilger and Eric Semin had drawn that assignment the Saturday morning when these pictures were taken.