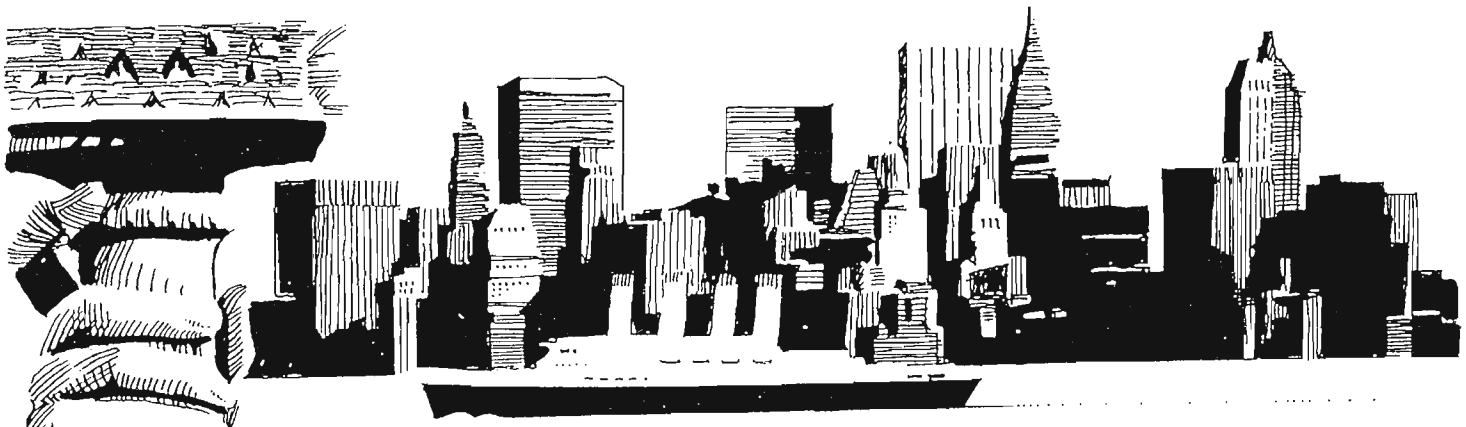

The Kresha Families in America 1888 - 1988

by Lillian V. Kresha Witulski





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The Kresha Families in America

1888 - 1988

by Lillian V. Kresha Witulski

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the brave, young folks that left their homeland of Austria, said "goodbye" to their parents, Theodor and Cecilia Krehsa, all their friends, and sailed across the great Atlantic Ocean to America, the Land of Freedom.



Acknowledgements

Words of thanks go out to the descendents of Joseph Kresha, Amolia Kuhnel, Adolf Kresha, and Anna Karges, for their cooperation in supplying the data and interesting stories that make this book valuable and entertaining.

In the future, may our children's children use this book as a starting point in the geneological record for their family.

A heartfelt thanks goes to the late Patrica Kresha Thomas, and her husband, Gene Thomas, for making and printing the Kresha Genelolgy Book in 1975. It is a fine reference to births, marriages, and death records of the Adolf Kresha family.

A very special "thank you" goes to my husband, Harold Witulski, who overlooked the undone household chores that occurred at our home while this book was being written.

Thank you also to Anthony Kresha who edited and published the information and stories.

Lillian Kresha Witulski
Author

Anthony E. Kresha
Editor

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Chapter One

The History of the Homeland

The country Moravia has no legendary history.[1] Her name first appears at the beginning of the 9th Century, under its Slav form, Moravia (German, March or Moehrn). Its first ruler was Prince Moimir. During his reign, Christianity made considerable progress in Moravia and the oldest Christian church was consecrated at Nitra by the Archbishop of Salzbury. The people distrusted German preachers, and knowing no Latin, could not understand the liturgy. Prince Moimir tried to withstand the Germans, but in 846, Louis the German, invaded Moravia and made Rastiz the ruler.

Prince Rastiz was determined to give his people political freedom. He soon began the systematic conversion of this nation. Thus began the greatest episodes in history of the Slavs and their church - the mission of the Apostles, Cyril and Methodius.

In 894 the Magyars invaded Moravia with 216,000 men bearing arms (arrows, lances, clubs, and men all on horseback). This implies that Moravias population was 1,000,000

[1]Information taken from "The History of Nations", Austria - Hungary based on the work of Paul Louis Leger by William E. Lingelbach, Ph.D.

people, and it took 3 years for the army to cross the Carpathian mountains. King Geiza (972-997) was the first peaceful ruler of this pagan country when the Magyars were forced back and he took possession of the land along the Danube Valley. Austria is well known as another form of the German Oesterreich - the Kingdom of the East. This celebrated historical name appears for the first time in history in 996, in a document signed by Emperor Otto III. The land to which it applied was called Small March or Borderline Province, after the destruction of the Avar empire, and was governed by two Counts of the Frontier. The population consisted of Germans and Slavs. It was ruled by Margrave Burkhard, the brother-in-law of Henry of Bavaria. Leopold of Babenberg succeeded him in 973, and thus began the dynasty of Babenberg. From the invasion and crusades, we now come to the Hapsburgs in 1273-1493. Maximillian ruled from 1493-1740. He expanded and increased the house of Austria. More territory was acquired by the marriage of his sons or invasions.



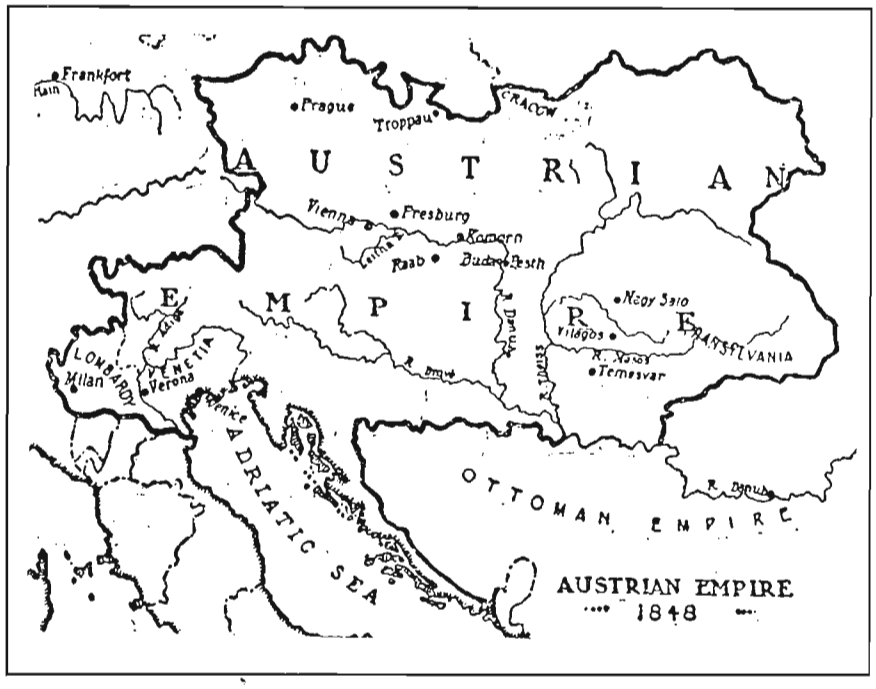
Map 1 - Austria and Moravia in Central Europe in 1477. (Kresha Territory is 49 degrees longitude, 17 degrees latitude.

Skipping the Hussite Wars, invasions, Royality, and the disappearance of Moravia from the maps, now begins the reign of Emperor Francis Joseph, who ruled as a constitutional monarch starting in 1848 and in 1910, celebrated his 80th birthday. Four ministries were organized for war, marine, finance, and foreign affairs. Seven nationalities were recognized: German, Bohemian, Poles, Italians, Yougo-Slavs, and Wallachians. Each

tribe was represented in Vienna by a chancery. (This was the era in which the Krehsa grandparents and great grandparents were born or lived.)

On March 15, 1848, the government adopted this constitution which was copied after other foreign models.

The Germans thought that Austria should be one of their states, since Hungary wasn't represented. Then Austria was declared an independent by an Imperial Decree. Hungary's constitution in 1867 was to be maintained in so far as it did not come into conflict with that of the Empire. This was the time of the dual monarchy (Austria - Hungary).



The Austrian Empire in 1848.

Emperor Francis Joseph I decreed that the national language shall be German; the religion, Catholic; all children shall attend school from age 6 to 15; and all boys age 15 shall be conscripted into the army. Other nations referred to this group of boys as the Emperor's Student Army.

That was the reason why Theodor and Cecilia Krehsa sent their sons to America by the age of 15. Northern Central Europe was constantly at war or being occupied by other nations. Austria was at the crossroads for the three big powers: Germany, Russia, and Italy. If Austria wasn't at war, other nations used it as a pathway to get to their enemies.

In 1867, Emperor Francis Joseph's army was defeated by Prussia.

In 1867 to 1871, Dualism was established and Austria-Hungary became a dual government in the dominions of the Hapsburgs by dividing them into two states with equal rights, each with its separate government, but subject to the same sovereign and same flag. Hungary was to consist of Hungary proper, Croatia, Slovonia, Transylvania, Seria and the military frontier. Austria was to have 11 provinces, which made 17 in all.

In 1879, Austria concluded a secret treaty with Germany, which was published in 1888,

at a time when Russia seemed to be in a threatening attitude. This treaty was called, "An Alliance For Peace and Mutual Defense", and pledged the two states to maintain the conditions established at Berlin, especially against Russia.

Map 1 is a map showing the boundaries and towns or villages where the Krehsa family originated in 1888. This map was obtained from The Library of Congress and was sent by courtesy of the late Senator Edward Zorinski (Nebraska).

This brief history of our grass roots lays the foundation for the reason why Theodor and Cecilia planned and worked so hard to send their children to America, the Land of Freedom.



Current map of Central Europe. The three cultural regions of Czecholslovakia. Most Nebraskans of Czech descent have roots in Bohemia and Moravia, historians say.

History, Part 2

Added 2011 to clear up certain issues regarding name spelling and just where the Kresha's came from!

The spelling "Krehsa" was not used for very long and probably should have been listed as "Kressa". In Czech, a "ss" is pronounced as one would "sh" in English. The listing at Bedloe Island on the passenger list is inconclusive as to how it was spelled. The birth registration is very clear: Kressa.

The Kresha families came originally from what is now the Czech Republic. At the time of the emigration of Adolf Kressa, the area was a personally owned by Emperor Franz Josef of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It is not part of Austria today. It makes it confusing to refer to Moravia (which few are familiar with) or Austria (which is not very close to where the Kressa's came from).

Evidence:

From the copies of the birth certificates of Adolf, Sr.'s parents indicate that Theodor Kressa were from Hradec # 33 and Cecila Girikovsky (variant Perikovska?) was from Nova Dedina. Nova Hradecna and Nova Dedina are about 4-5 miles apart, which you would expect since Theodor was a farmer and would not have moved around a lot. They were Roman Catholic and might have met at church function, since it was close by.

Spelling was not fixed, nor was language, in part due to the many changes in which country confiscated/conquered it. The languages were also changing as people became literate and books became available. Bottom line. Spelling was not important and often varied, depending on many different circumstances.



The address listed, Number 33 Hradec(na) still exists in an agricultural area of what was once called Moravia in the Czech Republic. Here it is from Google Earth:

The area is agricultural:





History of the Nová Hradecná Area of Moravia.

Location

Nova Hradecna and Nova Dedina are located in the Sumperk district of the Olomouc Region of the Czech Republic. To find it easily, enter the following coordinates on a map: Lattitude: 49.85, Longitude: 17.10.

Here is a summary of the history of the region, as pieced together from various internet sources, mainly the Wikipedia and New Advent Encyclopedia.

Ancient History

The oldest known residents of Moravia were the **Celtic Boii** and **Cotini**, who withdrew from the area around 60 BC. The Celts were followed by the **Germanic Quadi** who lived there before they were driven out by **Attila the Hun** around 440. **Slavic Tribes** moved in after the death of Attila after 453.

The **Eurasian Avars** invaded from the east around 550, where they remained until the Avars were defeated by **Charlemagne**, King of the Franks (Germans) in 796, enabling Moravians to return to their land.

Moravia became a large kingdom at this time, under Prince Moimir. Moravians tried several times to become independent, but without success. The Franks and Italians christianized the Moravian Kingdom with the help of Cyril and Methodius of Greece, who took time to learn the Slavic language. The people did not trust the German preachers much and because they did not speak Latin, could not understand the liturgy at church services. Moimir fought the Germans, but in 846, Louis the German invaded Moravia and made Prince Rastiz the ruler.

Prince Rastiz was determined to promote political freedom, opening the door for two Greek brothers who spread Christianity to Moravia, St. Cyril the Philosopher and creator of the Cyrillic language and Methodius.

Middle Ages

The Moravian Kingdom fell apart with the death of King Svatopluk I in 895 and the subsequent invasion by the **Magyars** who were from what is present-day Hungary. The Magyars invaded with 216,000 me bearing arms (arrows, lances, clubs, swords, and all on horseback). The Magyars are credited with demonstrating that castles could be defeated by a successful siege, that is, surrounding the castle and waiting until the castle inhabitants starved and gave up.

The German Emperor Otto I the Great at the Battle of Lechfield in turn defeated the Magyars in 955, near Augsburg in Bavarian Germany.

The ally of Otto I, Duke Boleslaus I the Cruel, the Premyslid ruler of Bohemia, received Moravia in return for his help. The Premyslids were a **Czech** Royal family dynasty. King Boleslaus I is also known for ascending the Czech throne by killing his brother King Wenceslas, who is today known as **Good King Wenceslas** of Christmas carol fame! King Wenceslas was later canonized a Catholic saint. Boleslaus eventually repented and had his son educated as a priest. Control of this remote area was weak and Duke Boleslaw I of Poland took over Moravia and Bohemia in 1003, and ruled it until 1029, when the Bohemian Duke Bretislaus I recaptured it from Poland.

For a long time Moravia was governed as a Dukedom in Olomouc, but it was subservient to the Duke of Bohemia.

In 1182, Moravia became a Margraviate, independent of the Bohemian Crown, subject only to the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I. That did not last long. In 1197, Moravia again became subject to Bohemia in order to settle disagreements regarding who should be Emperor, but Moravia remained a margraviate. A margraviate is an area ruled by a margrave, a hereditary royal title similar to a count.

Moravia was pretty much "Germanized" during this period, with occasional interruptions when the **Mongols**

invaded from the east around 1241 and the **Cumans** in 1252.

The Premyslid dynasty died out with the death of Wenceslas III in 1306. His daughter, Elizabeth married John of Luxembourg, the son of the reigning **German Holy Roman Emperor**. This made him King John of Bohemia and thereby Moravia. This dynasty lasted until 1437 when **Alfred of the Habsburgs** was elected to be Holy Roman Emperor.

Renaissance

By this time, the Catholic Church had become very powerful and aligned itself with the ruling Holy Roman Empire whose royalty were now being crowned by the Pope.

A famous Czech religious philosopher from Charles University in Prague, **Jan Hus**, campaigned for reform in the Catholic Church but was **excommunicated** for his efforts in 1411. The Emperor convened a Council of Bishops to, deal with Hus as well as the fact that there were two or three popes during this time, referred to as the "**Western Schism**". **Hus was burned at the stake** on July 6, 1415. Chaos descended upon the area following Hus's execution, as his followers kept up the fight, leading to the **Hussite Wars** from 1420 to 1434.

Hus wrote extensively and is considered a **National Hero** in the Czech Republic, with a statue in Prague's Old Town Square. The day of his death, July 6th is a **National Holiday**.

One follower of Hus, George of Podebrady was elected King of Bohemia in 1458 (and thus Moravia) only to be excommunicated by Pope Paul II in 1466. Three years later, in 1469, the King of Hungary, Mattias Corvinus, conquered Moravia, detaching it from Bohemia. King George's successor, Wladislaw Jagellion, took Moravia back in 1491... as well as Hungary.

Wladislaw's son, King Louis II, was killed in battle in 1526. The result was the election of a Spaniard (and Louis II's brother-in-law and a Hapsburg) Ferdinand I as the Emperor of Bohemia, Moravia, and Hungary. This marked the "possession" of Morvavia by the ruling **Habsburgs** family in Vienna, Austria, until World War I.

In 1633, the southern part of Morvavia was devastated by the invasion of the **Turks and Tatars** as far north as Olomouc and Brno.

Starting in 1642, Moravia was the scene a devastating war between the Empire's forces and the **Swedes**, who occupied the city of Olomouc for six years until the Peace of 1648. Olomouc had been the traditional capital of Moravia, but it was moved to Brno when the Swedes occupied it. This war saw sixty-three castles, twenty-two large towns, and three hundred and thirty villages destroyed. **The plague** also swept away thousands of the inhabitants whom the war had spared.



Maria Theresa, 1717 - 1780

One memorable monarch was Empress Maria Theresa, 1717-1780, who among other things was Queen of Bohemia and thus Moravia. She broke the rules to become **Empress** and pushed financial, educational, business and

agricultural reforms. She reorganized the army and consolidated authority in Vienna.

She also had 16 children on the 'Royal Bed' in Vienna. One daughter was **Marie Antoinette** who married King Louis 14th of France and a son became **Holy Roman Emperor Leopold II.**

In 1742, most of Silesia, a sliver of land in north Moravia, was seized by King **Frederick the Great of Prussia** in the War of the Austrian Succession. Silesia was occasionally part of Moravia and very near Nova Hradecna, which is south and west of Silesia by a few miles. It was also known as the Sudetenland and a pawn of Hitler's during WWII. To complicate matters even more, in 1782 Moravia and Silesia were united for purposes of administration, but not politically. It was a industrialized area and Adolf's mother Cecilia worked in one of those factories and took the train there to work.

The Holy Roman Empire was dissolved in 1806, in part a reaction to **Napoleon**'s crowning himself Emperor in 1804 – **Francis II** did not want Napoleon to succeed him. Austria and thereby Moravia had been defeated by Napoleon, and became subservient for a while, ending with Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815.

The early 1800's saw a lot of unrest and a wave of nationalism, perhaps inspired in part by the American and French Revolutions.

Meanwhile things were getting strange. In 1835, **Ferdinand**, despite being mentally retarded and an epileptic, was crowned Emperor of Austria to fend of challenges to his legitimacy. His parents were **Holy Roman Emperor Franz II** and his first cousin, Maria Theresa of Two Sicily's. That worked for a while, but unrest all over caused continuing pressure.

Franz II's nephew, **Franz Joseph**, was named the Emperor as soon as he was old enough. He was born in 1830 and started a military career at age 13. In 1848, the people of Vienna started a revolt against the Hapburgs, which forced further changes. Franz Joseph was named **Governor of Moravia**, which was separated from Bohemia and made a **land owned by the Crown.** The Royal Family first left Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna for Innsbruck and later to Olomouc in Moravia, not too far from Nova Hradecna.

This lead to more changes: Emperor Ferdinand was forced to abdicate and the young and vibrant but **18-year-old Franz Joseph was installed as Emperor of Austria**. He was immediately given the task of putting down the uprisings in Vienna, Hungary and Italy, in which he was eventually successful in 1849.



Emperor Franz Joseph,

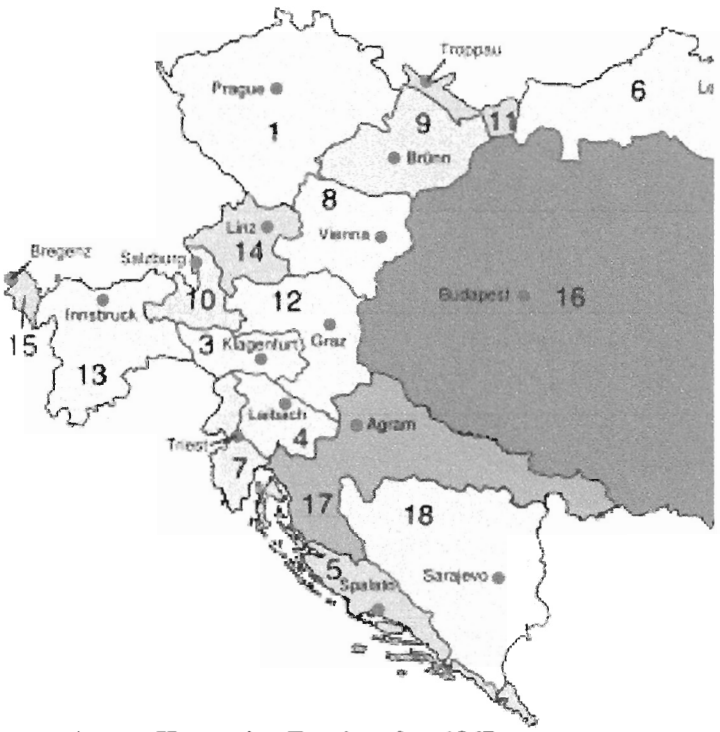
Austro-Hungarian Empire

In 1850, the young Franz Joseph, with the guidance of Prince Felix Schwarzenberg, concluded the "Punctuation of Olomouc", in which Prussia agreed, for the time being, to stop trying to consolidate German lands and to submit to Austria. With all of these military successes, Franz Joseph consolidated his own power bases, took back some reforms, but recovered a lot of influence on the world stage. The death of his mentor, Schwarzenberg, two years

later lead to a gradual decline in prestige and military power with many defeats. The 22-year-old was not a military genius in his own rite.

One of Franz Joseph's biggest defeats took place in Moravia, perhaps **60 miles from Nova Hradecna**, near present-day Hradec Kralove, known in German as Koniggratz. In 1866, Prussia again reasserted their desire to unite the German-speaking people, but without Austria. The battle saw over 450,000 men on the battlefield, with an estimated **54,000 men killed, wounded, or missing in one day.** It exceeds the estimated 51,000 casualties at Gettysburg a few years earlier in the United States.

Moravia is #9.



Austro-Hungarian Empire after 1867

Franz Joseph made peace with Hungary, resulting in his becoming King of Hungary in addition to being Emperor of Austria. This resulted in the **Austro-Hungarian Empire** in 1867. His wife, Queen **Elisabeth (Sisi) of Bavaria**, became a favorite of the common people, not unlike Princess Diana of England. Her story is a favorite.

Emperor Franz Joseph decreed that the national language should be German, the religion Catholic, all children should got to school from 6 to 15, and that all boys should be conscripted into the army. Other nations referred to this group of boys as the Emperor's Student Army.

Franz Joseph reigned for 68 years, dying at age 86 in 1916. His wife **Queen Sisi** was assassinated, his son and heir Prince Rudolf committed suicide, and his next heir, a nephew **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** was assassinated in 1914, triggering World War I. Franz Joseph himself was nearly assassinated once, but his omnipresent military uniform blunted the knife.

The last Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Karl I, was Franz Joseph's grandnephew. Karl I reigned only two years 1916-18, due to the break-up of the Empire at the end of World War I. Moravia, as a political subdivision, disappeared into **Czechoslovakia** and more recently the **Czech Republic.**

Compiled from Internet Sources, mainly Wikipedia and the New Advent Encyclopedia by Webmaster: Raymond Kresha, son of Glenn Kresha, son of Leo Kresha, son of Adolf Kresha, Sr., Son of Theodor Kressa of Moravia.

Important Historical Events of Austria

955	The Beginning of the Magyar war at Lechfeld and Freedom for Austria.
976-1246	Emperor Fredrick II was killed in battle against the Hungarians. With him, the male line of the family came to an end. The Babenbergs rule until 1246.
1247	For 100 years there was no ruler. After several attempts, the Habsburgs were victorious and ruled the land until 1918.
1365	After Albert III and Leopold III died, Rudolf, their brother ruled. When the division of the family land took place, it caused serious troubles.
1457-1463	Civil war broke out between Frederick and Albert VI, his brother, then Albert VI died in 1463 and the lands were united again.
1493	Maximilian I became ruler at the death of Frederick. While he reigned, the Habsburg territory became larger.
1517	The Protestant Reformation began in Germany.
1519	The land of Austria was inherited by Maximilian's grandson, Charles V, who was the ruler of Spain and the Netherlands. Charles gave some of his share to his brother, Ferdinand, which divided the house of Habsburg into the Austrian-Spanish Branches.
1523	This is the first time Roman Catholic records were kept.
1570	Austria was constantly invaded by the Turks and the conflicts of the Roman Catholics and the Protestants began.
1618	The Thirty Years' War between the Protestants and Roman Catholics began.

1731	Archbishop Firmian of Salzburg expels 23,500 Protestants. They went to East Prussia and Brandenburg.
1740-1744	Austria lost the Silesian province to Prussia.
1740-1741	The war of Austria with Spain, Bavaria, France and Saxony took place.
1781	The German peasants are invited by Emperor Joseph II to settle in Glaicia. The non-catholic groups were given permission to keep church registers thru the Tolerance Act.
1784	Emperor Joseph II decrees that all ministers shall keep separate records of christening, marriages and deaths.
1804-1813	The Napoleon wars are fought.
1848	The Hungarian people revolt.
1914-1918	The Austrian-Hungarian Empire ends with World War I. It is divided into: Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Russia and Yugoslovakia.
1938	Civil registration of records begins. The Germans occupy Austria.
1939-1945	The World War II is fought.
1955	The country of Austria once again became an independent democratic state.[2]

[2]Reference: "Handy Guide to Austrian Genealogical Records", by Dagmar Senekovec.

Chapter Two

THEODOR and CECILIA KRESSA

Theodor Kressa was born in Hradec on August 31, 1834 to Theodor and Theresia Kresser.[3] Theresia Perikovska[4] was born on November 10, 1836 at Nova Dedina Schroffelsdf. During their married life they lived in Hradec in House Number 33.

All their children were born in House Number 33, which was the custom at that time. Infant mortality was very high and the first three babies that were born to them lived only several weeks.[5]

Theodor was a farmer, as was his father before him (Theodor Kresser). Farmland was assigned to each family by the Crown, and the permission is handed down to members of his family. One third of the income from the crops is given to the Crown, one third is paid as taxes, and the last third is kept by the farmer. Each parcel of farm land

[3]Names were sometimes spelled just the way the person pronounced them (Kresser is Slavic, Krehsa is German).

[4]See explanation of different spelling in Genealogical information.

[5]See Genealogical information.

consisted of 25-30 acres. The hills were used as pasture for the livestock.

Farming with horses, Theodor had a violent temper and once the horses refused to pull the machinery, he became so angry that he left the horses in the middle of the field with the plow in the ground and walked home, "taking to his bed" to sulk. His wife, Cecilia, had to walk to the field, calm the horses and kindly coax them, while she finished the field[6]

All the crops grown here in the present day were grown in Moravia, Austria, with the exception of corn, which originated with the Indians. Austrian farmers also grew hops, sugar beets, barley, and rye - the necessary ingredients required to brew ale, the popular alcoholic (6%) beverage. It was a sign of hospitality to offer "Spirits" to your guests. Kressers brewed their own "Spirits".

Cecilia was a hard working woman who worked in a factory, riding the train there, every day. She could make many things.[7] When she arrived home in the evening, she'd have a bottle of liquor under her dress. She also raised a large family, helped with the livestock, and farming.

Cecilia said[8] that their sons weren't going to get killed in all the wars and as soon as they reached the age of 15, the Conscription Law age, she sent them to America, the Land of Freedom. On December 2, 1987, on the national news, Channel 10 - CBS, it was stated the Russian Army consists of Youthful Conscripts.

Adolf caught a bad flu virus which caused many deaths among the children of Europe and America. Since he was only twelve years old, he said that he didn't grow much after he was sick (Adolf was 5'3" tall).

Adolf's family had a few cows for milk, a few chickens to eat and provide eggs, and hogs for meat. Theodor and Cecilia butchered their own livestock, frying the pork and storing it in five gallon crocks after covering it with hot lard. They stuffed their own sausage and smoked it in the village smokehouse. The carcass was shared with neighbors, relatives and friends, who later returned the same amount of meat when they butchered.[9]

In the fall, the root crops were dug and stored in a pit near the foundation of the house, where frost and cold couldn't hurt them. In the pit were stored potatoes, beets, turnips and carrots.

Since all the family liked sauerkraut, the Krehsa's made enough to last all year. That

---

[6] As related to the author by Ann (Karges) Serio, Anna Kresha's daughter.

[7] Papa Adolf didn't know what she made because each day she made something different. He told all of this to his daughter Lillian.

[8] As related to the author by Papa Adolf.

[9] As related to the author by Papa Adolf.

required a big cabbage patch, with the children providing the garden labor. Grapes were grown on the hillsides to make jellies and wine. Hops were grown on tall fences in the orchard. The Krehsa family were farmers for many generations.

One summer, in August, Theodor and Cecilia came to Nebraska to visit their children.[10] It was very hot and humid and every day both of them would go down into the potato cellar where it was cool, close the door and sit there all day. Soon it was time to go back to the "Old Country",[11] and no way could they be convinced to stay and live in America.

Three years after their visit, Cecilia passed away. In a few years, Theodor married a widow lady who had small children.[12]

Theodor passed away on November 11, 1915.[13]

[10]As related to the author by Dolores Smagacz Nyffeler.

[11]The "Old Country" was used most often because the name of the town or country changed very frequently.

[12]As related by Mama Eva.

[13]See Papa Adolf's letter to his brother Theodor on Page 16 and 17.

STÁTNÍ OBLASTNÍ ARCHIV V OPAVĚ

pracoviště Olomouc, Wurmova 11, tel. 25023

Č. j.: Sar 429/43-87 Dne 29. května 1987

771 11 Olomouc

Rodové schéma :

Kressa	Adolf	x 1873, 4. 4.	Hradec
Kressa	Theodor	x 1834,31. 8. + ?	Hradec
Cecilia	roz.Peřikovská oo ?	(před r.1856)	Nová Dědina
		x 1836,22.10. + ?	Nová Dědina
Kressa	Theodor		
Theresia	roz.Kleker		

- x - s - x -

Potomci Theodora Kressy a Cecilie roz.Peřikovské v Hradci na domovním čísle 33 :

Theodor	x 1856, 2. 7.	+ 1856,10. 8.
Anna	1857,18..9.	1857, 8.10.
Amalia	1858,30.10.	1858,13.11.
Cecilia	1860, 7. 7.	
Theodor	1862,22. 6.	
Amalia	1866,10. 7.	
Aloisia	1868,10. 7.	
Anna	1871,14. 3.	
Adolf	1873, 4. 4.	
Josef Ferdinand	1876,13. 2.	

Vyhotovil St.Lapčík

Workcenter, Olomouc, Wurm Street 11, phone 25023

No.Sar 429/43-87
771 11 Olomouc
35,359/87

May 29, 1987

Mrs. Marcie Etter
1964 Stonehenge Dr.
Lafayette, CO 80026
USA

Genealogical information

Upon your request we are enclosing birth registration copies of Adolf Kressa and his parents in the town of Hradec (Gratz in German). At the same time we have looked for the brothers and sisters of Adolf Kressa, born in Hradec. We cannot document the marriage of the parents of the above named as the marriage register is now in the personnel division of the City National Committee at Unicov. Your stated name of Krehsa appears in the registers as Kressa, sometime Gressa. Adolf Kressa's mother is listed in the register of his birth by her family name Jirikovska (Girikovska). Her correct name at birth sounds like Perikovska (Perzikovska). See listing of her birth in 1836. In case you are interested further, we can, upon your request, continue the research of your family tree.

Enclosures:2

For State regional archives:

Dr. (Signature illegible)

STATE REGIONAL ARCHIVE IN OPAVA, SILESIA

Workcenter, Olomouc, Wurm Street 11, phone 25023

No.Sar 429/43-87 May 29, 1987
771 11 Olomouc

Birth Date: April 4, 1873
Date of Baptism: April 5, 1873
Name: Adolf Kressa
Birthplace: Hradec No. 33 (Gratz in German)
Parents: Married
Religion: Roman Catholic
Father: Theodor Kressa, living in Hradec, son of Theodor Kressa, living in Hradec, and his wife Theresia, daughter of Jan Kleker of Libiva (Libein in German)
Mother: Cecilia, daughter of Jan Girikovsky, living in Nova Dedina (Schroffelsdorf in German) and his wife Theresia, daughter of Franz Klement of Zadni Ujezd (Storzendorf in German)
Godparents: Joseph Pollaschek, living in Rybnicek (Ribnik in German)
Franziska, wife of Josef Schenk, storekeeper in Sumvald (Schonwald in German)

Birth register of Roman Catholic parish at Hradecna (Markersdorf in German) sign.U-IV-10, page 371.
Birth date: August 31, 1834
Date of baptism: September 1, 1834
Name: Theodor Kressa
Place of birth: Hradec No. 33
Parents: Married
Religion: Roman Catholic
Father: Theodor Kressa, farmer
Mother: Theresia, daughter of Jan Kleker, pensioner in Libiva
Godparents: Franz Kressa, apprentice shoemaker
Anna, wife of Franz Kappel, gardner



Family Picture taken in 1888. (L-R Back) Amelia Krehsa Kuhnel, Adolf Kresha, John Thiele, (Cecelia's husband), Josef Krehsa, Anna Krehsa Karges. (L-R Front) Ceceila Kresha Thiele and baby Aloisia Krehsa Weixler Badstieber, Theodor Krehsa (father), Cecilia Krehsa (mother) holding grandson Louis (Amelia's), Anna Krehsa Karges.

Chapter Three

THEODOR KREHSA, JR.

Theodor Krehsa was born on June 22, 1862[14] to Theodor and Cecilie in House Number 33, at Markerdorf, Moravia. After attending school until the age of 15, he came to America with friends of that area who had also booked passage with the Immigration Agent. He settled in the Platte County, Nebraska area where he had employment. It is believed that the time was after 1877. An emigrant had to have a job waiting for him before he could come into the United States.[15] He worked for farmers in Merrick County, also, and was a blacksmith by trade.

On April 6, 1886, Theodor applied for his Citizenship papers at Osceola, Nebraska, and on March 1, 1887, Theodor became a citizen of the United States and renounced his allegiance to THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA, of whom he was a subject.

Theodor never changed the spelling of his last name to sound American.

Theodor had good friends in Binghamton, New York, who had lived in his village, so he went there to visit them. There he spent the rest of his life, frequently sick and requiring hospitalization. Theodor Krehsa died on July 19, 1938 at the age of 76.

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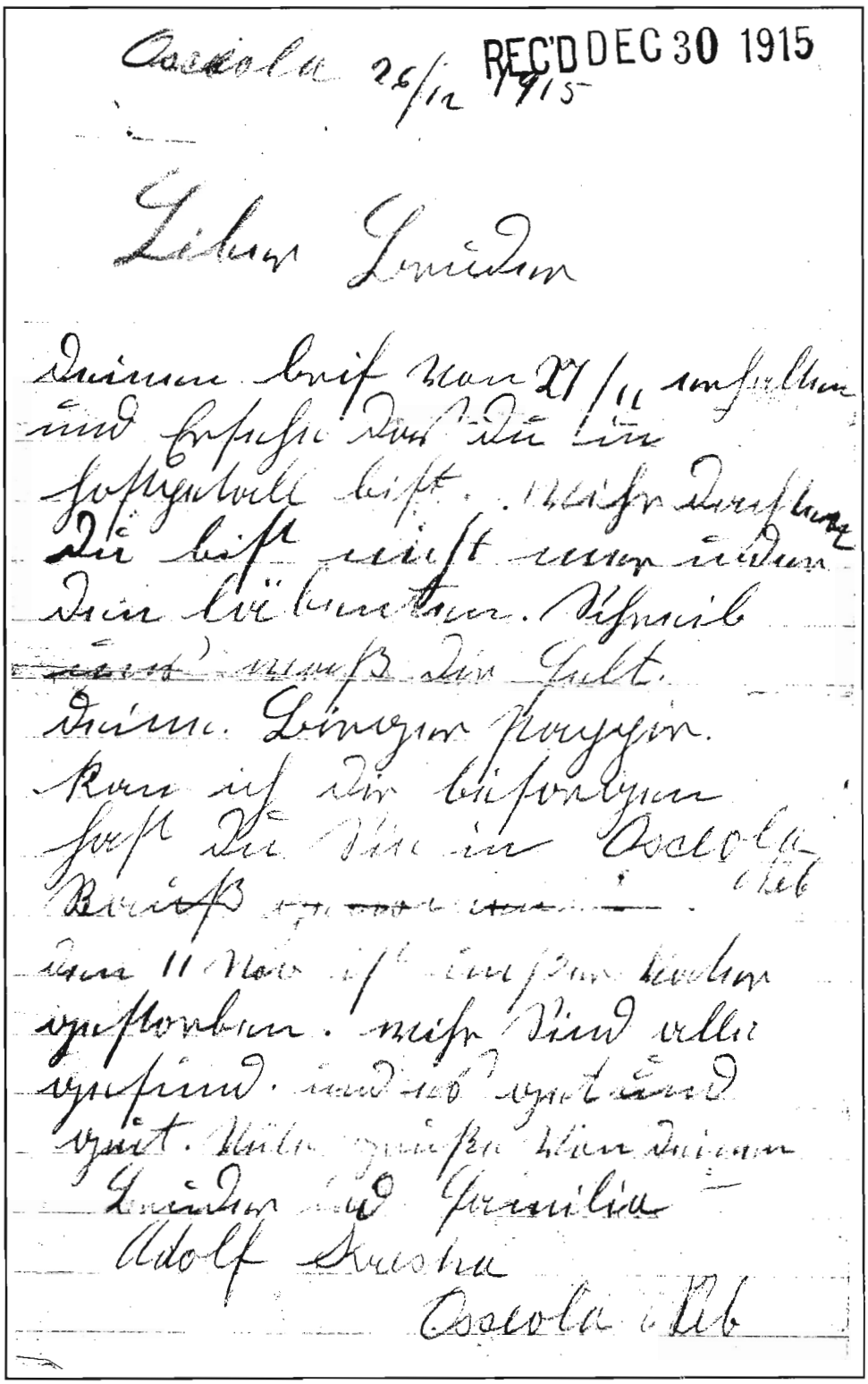
[14] According to the Geneological Records from Czechoslavokia.

[15] Related to author by Papa Adolf.



Osceola 26/12 1915 REC'D DEC 30 1915

Lieber Bruder

deinen brief von 27/11 erhalten
und ersehe daß du im
hospital bist. wir dachten
du bist nicht mehr under
den läbenden. Schreib
~~uns~~ was dir fehlt.
deine Bürger Papier.
Kan ich dir besorgen
hast du Sie in Osceola
Neb
Bauß ~~[illegible]~~.
den 11 Nov ist unser Vater
gestorben. wir sind alle
gesund. und es geht und
gut. Viele grüße von deinen
Bruder und Familie
Adolf Kresha
Osceola Neb

Adolf's letter to Theodor, Jr.

(Translation of Adolf's letter written to Theodor)

December 26/15

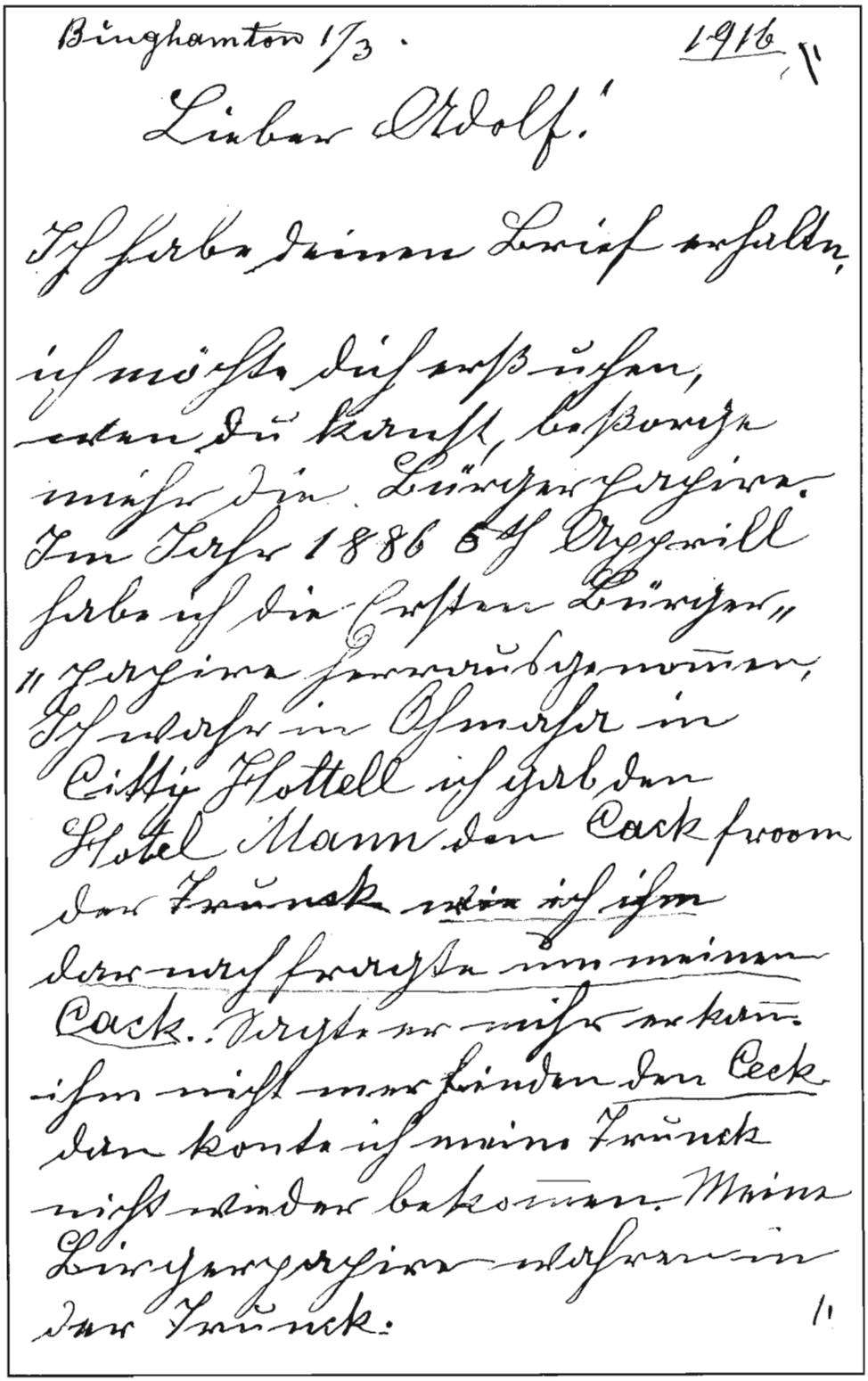
Dear Brother,

We received your letter of November 27, 1915 and learned that you are in the hospital. Now we know that you are still among the living. Write us about the money... Your naturalization papers can be supplied... I will take care of this. Did you leave them in Osceola? On the 11th of November our father died.

We are all well and things are going well for us. Many greetings from your brother and family.

Adolf Kresha

Osceola, Nebraska



Binghamton 1/3. 1916.

Lieber Adolf!

Ich habe deinen Brief erhalten,

ich möchte dich erßuchen,
wen du kanst, beßorge
mehr die Bürgerpapiere.
Im Jahr 1886 5th Apprill
habe ich die Ersten Bürger-
papiere herausgenommen,
Ich wahr in Ohmaha in
Citty Hottell ich gab den
Hotel Mann den Cack froom
der Trunck wie ich ihm
darnach fragte um meinen
Cack. Sagte er mihr er kann
ihm nicht mer finden den Ceck
dan konte ich meine Trunck
nicht wieder bekommen. Meine
Birgerpapiere wahren in
der Trunck.

Theodor, Jr.'s Letter to Adolf.

(Translation of Theodor's Letter)

Binghamton, 1/3 1916

Dear Adolf,

I have received your letter. I would like to have you see if you can do something about my naturalization papers.

In the year of 1886, on April 6th, I took out my first naturalization papers. When I was in Omaha, I stayed at the City Hotel. I gave the man my check tab for safekeeping/storage of my trunk. Later when I asked for the check tab, the man said that he could not find it. Therefore, I could not claim my trunk. The citizenship papers were in the trunk.

(Translation by Mrs. I.V. Graening)

(It is believed there was another page to this letter, but it is missing. Adolf said that his sister, Anna, always wanted to take his letters home with her, so he'd given her one page.)

In answer to the question about "the money", there was a reply. Theodor states that one day he returned to the Hotel in order to change his clothing. The proprietor had come to his room and suggested that Theodor give him his money for safe keeping. (He must have agreed to this.) From the Hotel, he walked to the hospital and inquired of the superintendent about employment. The superintendent said that he was too old to work there. He suggested Theodor seek work with a Mr. Henry Drake (farming) and was hired for $5.00 cash per month, with room and board.

Theodor wishes the Adolf Kresha family a Happy New Year.

The last time Adolf heard from Theodor was on December 20, 1926. He was in Tunnell, New York, and stated the fact that he had a new job with a farmer named Henry Stahl. When he visited his friends in Binghamton, they told him of a letter that came from Osceola, which they forwarded and that he never received. He sent greeting to all the Nebraska family.



(L-R) Theodor Krehsa, Jr. and Adolf Kresha.

The Kresha family never heard from Theodor again. In 1987, a letter along with a stipend was sent to the New York Department of Health and Vital Statistics with a request for a search of a death certificate on Theodor.

FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH ONLY

New York State Department of Health

DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

40365

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH District No. 310 (To be inserted by Registrar)

STATE OF NEW YORK
County Broome
Town
Village
City Binghamton (No. Binghamton State Hospital St.; 12 Ward)
[If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number]

Registered No. 137

2 FULL NAME Theodore Krehsa

3 Residence No. Binghamton St., Ward.
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident, give city or town and state)

4 Length of residence in district where death occured: Years 10 Months 9 Days

5 How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? Years Months Days

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

6 SEX: M
7 COLOR OR RACE: W
8 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (Write the word): Single

8a IF MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED
Husband of (or) Wife of

9 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year) 1858

10 AGE: Years 77 Months unknown Days If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.

OCCUPATION*
11 Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. Shoeworker
12 Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc.
13 Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) unknown
14 Total time (years) spent in this occupation unknown

15 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) (State or Country) Austria

FATHER
16 NAME Theodore Krehsa
17 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) (State or Country) Ireland ?

MOTHER
18 MAIDEN NAME unknown
19 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) (State or Country) unknown

20 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
(Signature of Informant) Records of Binghamton State Hospital for [illegible]
(Address) Binghamton NY

21 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL: Binghamton State Hosp.
DATE OF BURIAL: July 25 1935

22 UNDERTAKER (License No.) (Signature): [illegible] Wilcox
ADDRESS: Binghamton NY

23 Filed July 22, 1935 Lillian Freeman Dep. Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

24 DATE OF DEATH (month, day and year) July 19, 1935

25 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Aug 23, 1934, to July 19 1935
I last saw him alive on July 14, 1935
To the best of my knowledge, death occurred on the date stated above, at 9 40 P m

CAUSE OF DEATH*
Chronic Gastritis

CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES
(a) Psy Alm Prae Par.
(b) Chronic Interstitial Nephritis
(c)
(d)

DURATION OF CONDITION	Yrs.	Mos.	Dys.
		6	

26 Where was disease contracted, or injury sustained? unknown

27 Name of operation, if any none Date
Condition for which performed
Organ or part affected

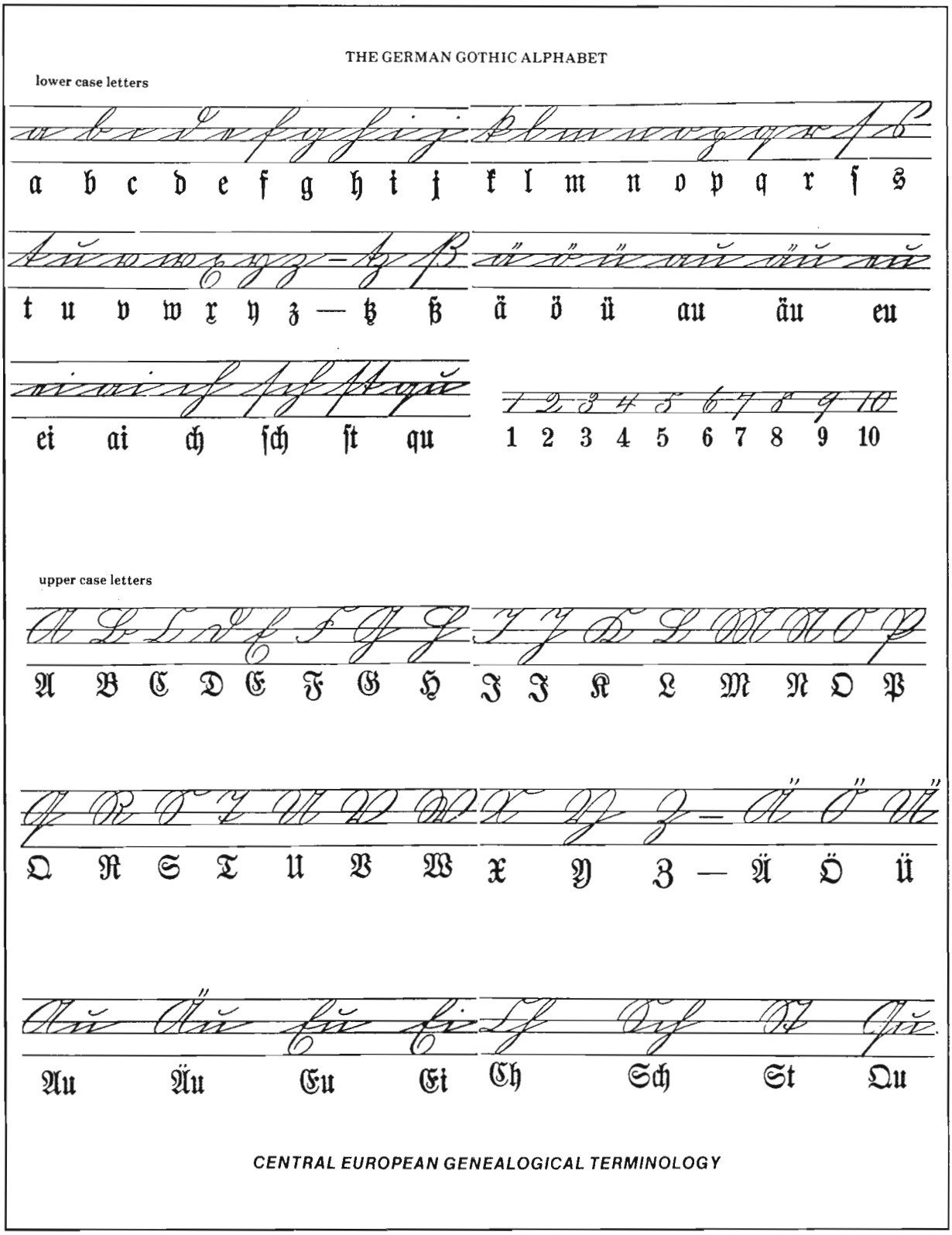
28 What laboratory test assisted diagnosis? autopsy

29 Was there an autopsy? yes
(Signed) Claude [illegible] M.D.
July 23, 1935 (Address) Binghamton NY
*See reverse side for instructions

Burial or Transit Permit issued by Lillian Freeman Date of Issue July 22-1935

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE FILED WITH THE LOCAL REGISTRAR WITHIN 72 HOURS AFTER DEATH

Form VS No. 606. 9-12-32-75,000 (17-1606)
N. B.—WRITE LEGIBLY WITH DURABLE BLACK INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.



The German Gothic Alphabet, used on old letters and documents, in comparison to Modern English Alphabet.

Chapter 4

Adolf Franz Krehsa

Adolf Krehsa was born on April 4, 1873[16], to Theodor and Cecilia (Perikovske) Krehsa (German spelling, or Kresser, the Slavic spelling) at Hradec, Moravia.[17] They lived in the arch-diocese of Olmutz, the deanery of Moravia-Neustadt, in the parish of Markerdorf, and in the political district of Littau. He was born in House No. 33 where his parents were living. As was the custom, his father and Godparents carried him to the Catholic church the very next[18] day to be baptized according to the Rite of St. Laurentium the Martyr.

Adolf attended public school according to the law, until age 15. Then his Mother made plans for him to come to America, because she didn't want her son to be killed in the wars. Conscription was the law and every boy had to enter the army at age 15. (This army was referred to in history books as the Emperor's student army.) His Mother worked in a factory every day to earn money to send him to America.

One incident told to the author by Adolf, was that when he was 12 years old, there

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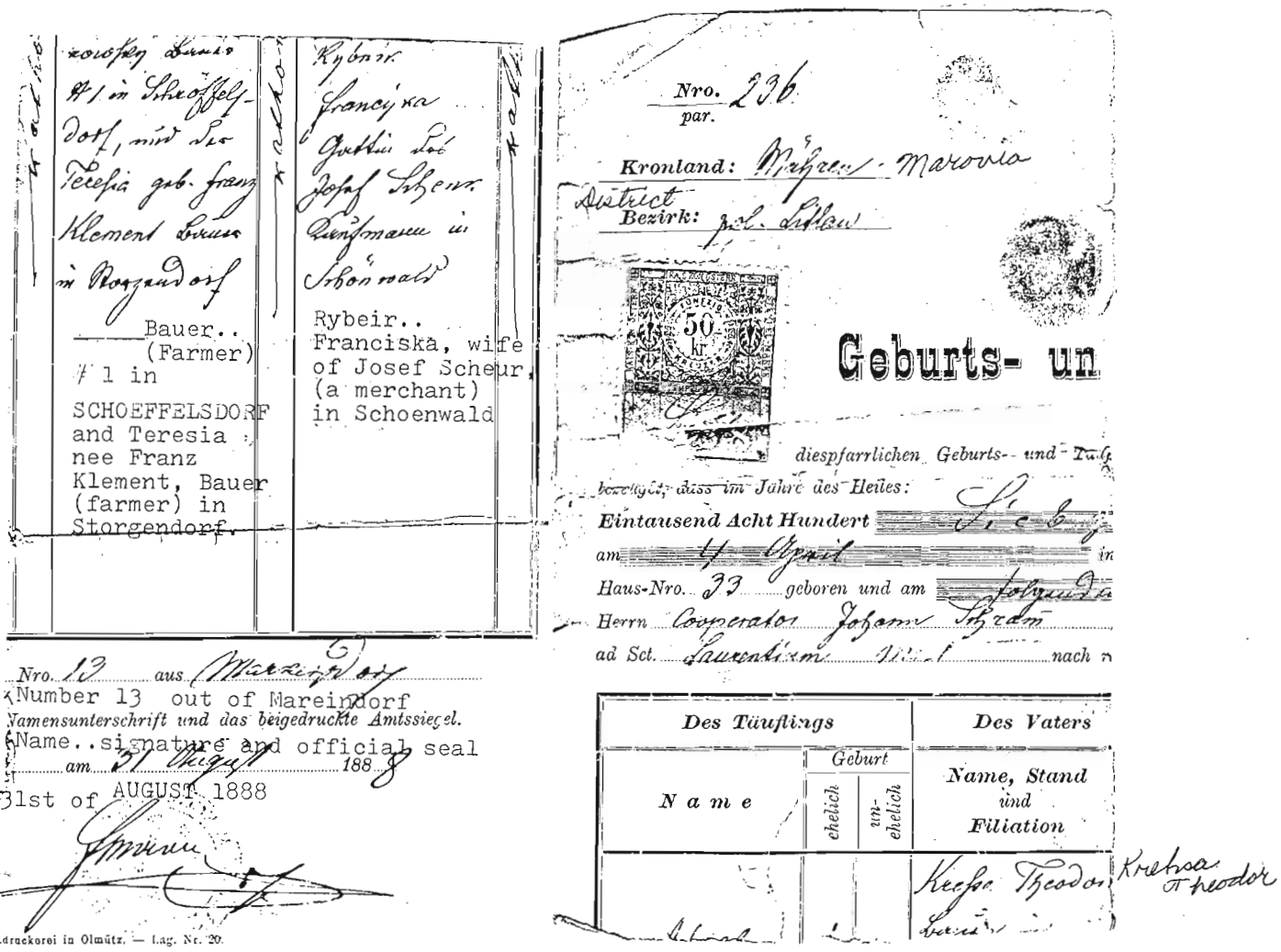
[16]See piece of passport application - birth certificate.

[17]See Geneological report, Page 12.

[18]As told to the author by Rev. Herbert Graening, who was born in Germany. The infant mortality was very high in those early years.

was a bad strain of flu which was killing all the children who had it--especially if they ate very much food, and he caught it. He was sick in bed for a week and his Mama cooked a chicken and made a big kettle of soup. She gave Adolf a small bowl full before going to work, then she put the kettle of soup high on top of the kitchen cabinet, out of his reach. He became hungry again, put a chair by the cabinet, one on top of the cabinet, and crawled up, carefully lifted down the big kettle of soup, and ate some of it. Then he went back to bed as his Mama had ordered him. Several times he came to the table to eat more soup, so that at the end of the day, the soup was all gone. When his Mama returned from work (silk factory, brewery, or crafts), she sat by the table with the pile of chicken bones and cried, "Alolf, Adolf, you are surely going to die!" But he assured her that he was feeling good now. "See, I'm still living," he said, "You were starving me."



Rybeir..
Franciska, wife
of Josef Scheur,
(a merchant)
in Schoenwald

Bauer..
(Farmer)
1 in
SCHOEFFELSDORF
and Teresia
nee Franz
Klement, Bauer
(farmer) in
Storgendorf.

Nro. 236
par.

Kronland: Mähren - Moravia
District
Bezirk: pol. Litau

Geburts- un

diespfarrlichen Geburts- und Tau

Eintausend Acht Hundert

Haus-Nro. 33 geboren und am

Herrn Cooperator Johann Schram

ad Sct. Laurentium

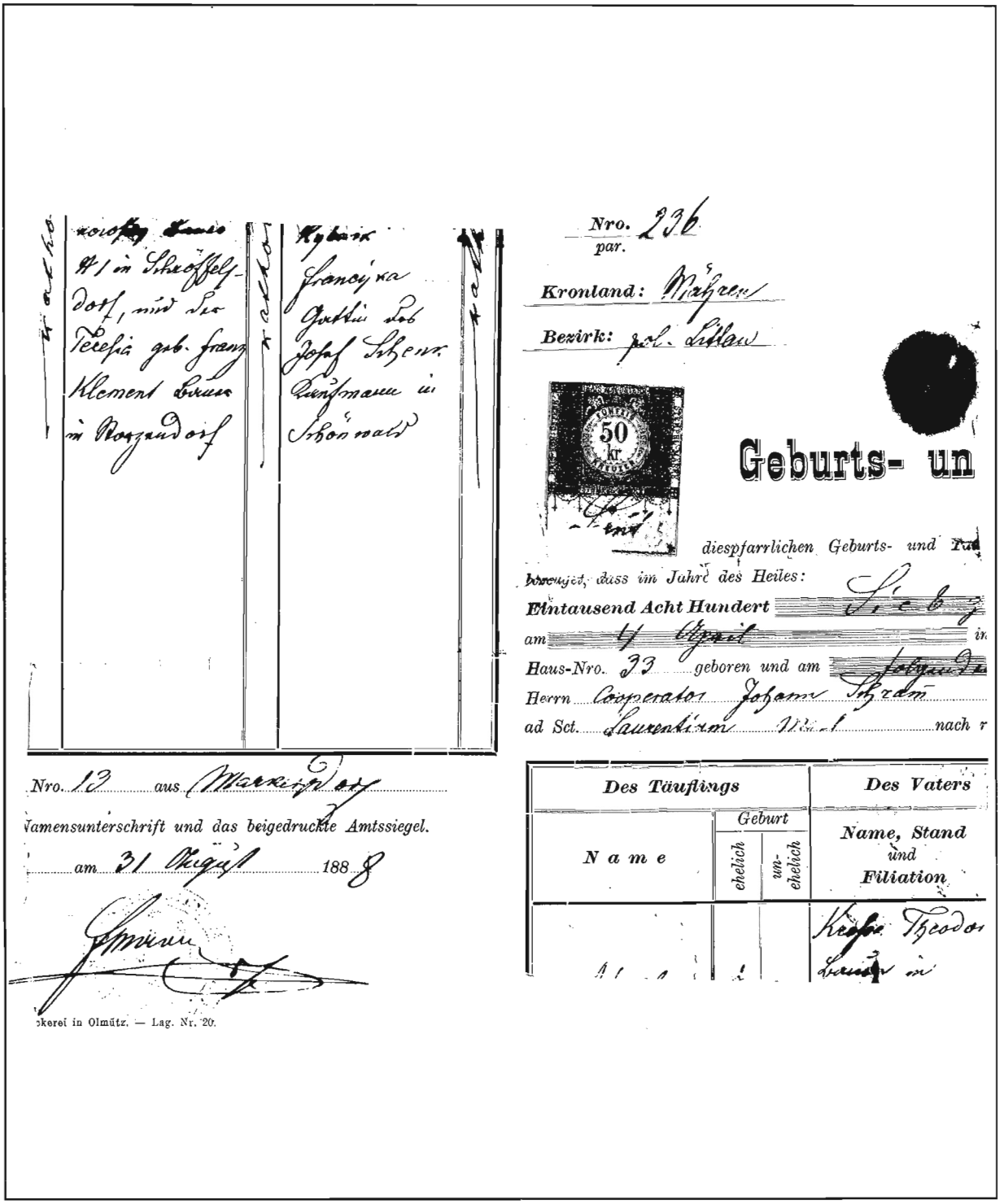
nach

Nro. 13 aus Mareindorf
Number 13 out of Mareindorf
Namensunterschrift und das beigedruckte Amtssiegel.
Name..signature and official seal
am 31 August 188
31st of AUGUST 1888

Des Täuflings			Des Vaters
	Geburt		
Name	ehelich	unehelich	Name, Stand und Filiation
			Kresha Theodor

Kresha Theodor

...druckerei in Olmütz. — Lag. Nr. 20.



Nro. 236
par.

Kronland: Mähren

Bezirk: pol. Littau

50 kr.

Geburts- un

diespfarrlichen Geburts- und Tau

bezeuget, dass im Jahre des Heiles:

Eintausend Acht Hundert Sieb

am 4 April in

Haus-Nro. 33 geboren und am folgende

Herrn Cooperator Johann Schram

ad Sct. Laurentium Mai nach r

Des Täuflings			Des Vaters
Name	Geburt ehelich	Geburt unehelich	Name, Stand und Filiation
			Krehsa Theodor Bauer in

Nro. 13 aus Markersdorf

Namensunterschrift und das beigedruckte Amtssiegel.

am 31 August 1888

[signature]

...ckerei in Olmütz. — Lag. Nr. 20.

Above document has pieces missing, so without the heading, one can only guess that it was a passport application, and the names, although incomplete, are those of references who signed the application and had to give their addresses and occupations.

Chapter Five

The Immigration

A travel agent secured passports and birth certificates for those immigrating to America.[19] Each immigrant had to have a sponsor or employer before they could leave Austria. Adolf's employer (cooperator) was Johnn Schram,[20] a farmer from the Krehsa neighborhood, who now lived in Platte County, Nebraska. The travel agent booked passage on the train to travel to Hamburg, Germany, the harbor, passage on the S.S. Weiland immigration ship, and passage on the train from New York Harbor to Columbus, Nebraska. One-way passage at that time was $37.50 on the ship.[21]

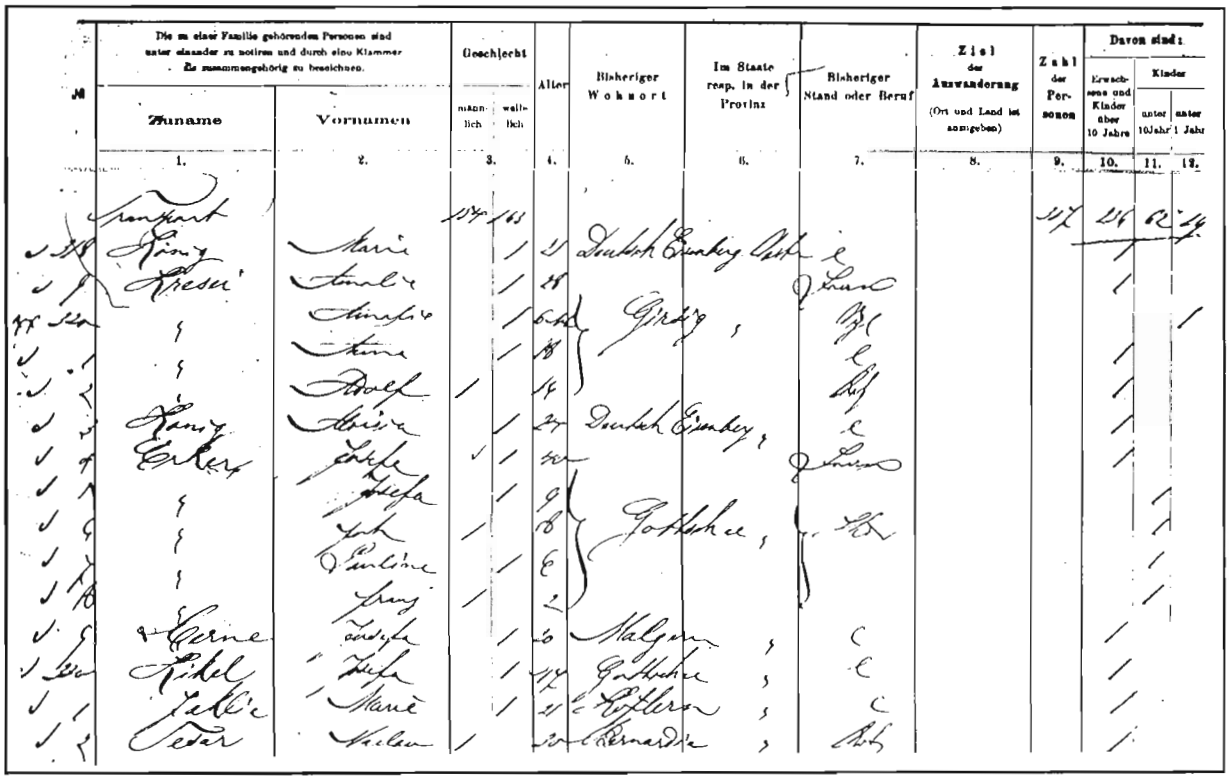
The Krehsas said their "good-byes" and traveled by train to Hamburg. Their passport was dated August 31, 1888. They were on the Atlantic Ocean trip for 8 days. The morning that a light was sighted about 4 A.M., all the passengers started yelling, "Get

[19]Notice that their name on the passport was spelled Krehsa, but on the passenger list, Kresser, as seen by Joyce Kuhnel.

[20]See name on passport-birth certificate.

[21]As told to the author by Mrs. Herbert Graening, who sailed from Hamburg.

up! We see America, already!" The light was the torch on the Statue of Liberty.[22] Soon all the lights of New York City could be seen. When the ship docked, a large crowd greeted them with hugs and kisses. Several bands were playing. They had to stay at Bedloe Island for a physical check-up and the required quarantine, which lasted two weeks.



Die zu einer Familie gehörenden Personen sind unter einander zu notiren und durch eine Klammer als zusammengehörig zu bezeichnen.		Geschlecht		Alter	Bisheriger Wohnort	Im Staate resp. in der Provinz	Bisheriger Stand oder Beruf	Ziel der Auswanderung (Ort und Land ist anzugeben)	Zahl der Personen	Davon sind:		
Zuname	Vornamen	männlich	weiblich							Erwachsene und Kinder über 10 Jahre	Kinder unter 10 Jahr	Kinder unter 1 Jahr
1.	2.	3.		4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.

Passenger list from ship that brought the Krehsa's to America.

When the Krehsa family were released from quarantine, they boarded the train for Nebraska. Amolia and baby son, Louis, got off the train at Schuyler, Nebraska, where Adolf Kuhnel was employed. Anna and Adolf continued to Columbus, Nebraska, where their brother Theodor was there waiting for them. He took them to their places of employment.

The Krehsa Family arrived in America when Grover Cleveland was president. He had been the Vice-President. The outstanding play was "Shenandoah" written by B. Howard. The favorite band music was "Semper Fidelis" written by John Phillip Susa and played before Congress for the first time. The favorite Sculpture was "The Thinker" by Rodin. The two favorite books were "The American Commonwealth" by J. Bryce and "The Happy Prince" by O. Wilde. The winner of the Kentucky Derby was Macbeth II by G. Covington. The famous tunes of the time were: "Over The Waves", by Peer Gynt Suite; "Berceuse", "Voices of Sprint"; "With All Her Faults I Lover Her Still"; "Where Did

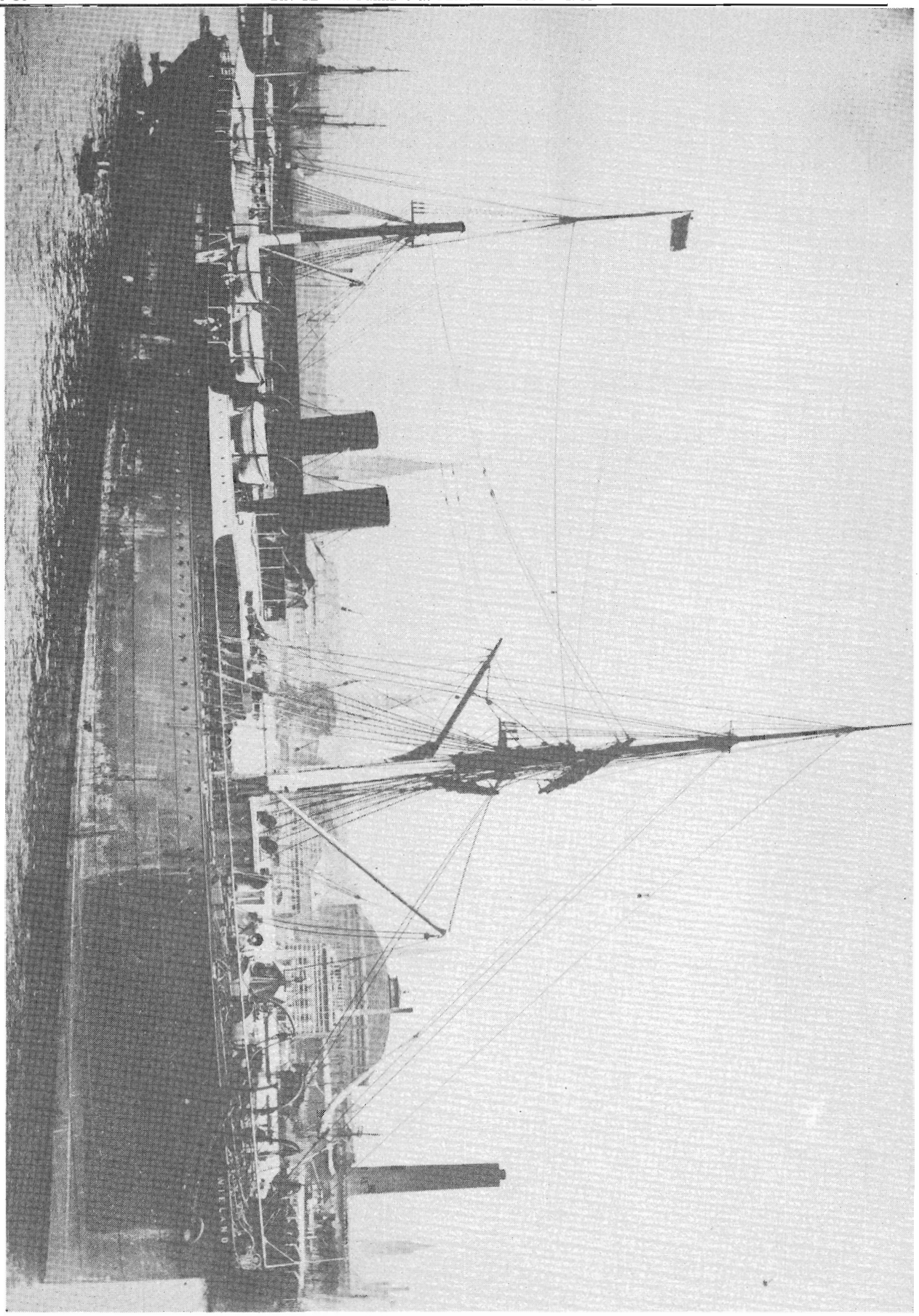
[22]When the author asked Papa Adolf if he saw the Statue of Liberty, he said, "Yes, it was new and shiny (2 years old), and she loooked just like our Mama, holding up a lamp so our ship could see where to go to get to America."

You Get That Hat?"; "Scarf Dance"; "Clementine"; "Drill Ye Tarriers Drill"; and "Capriccio Espagnol".

Life in the United States in 1888 had 60,496,000 people, a three bedroom house cost $2,200, the average income was $440, eggs cost $.20 per dozen, bread was $.05 a loaf, and milk was $.25.

That fall, when Adolf's job at Johnn Schram's farm was finished in Platte County, he went to Polk County (Nebraska) to work for the John Scholze family during the winter. It was near rural School District #39. After chores were finished, he attended school to learn reading and writing of the English language and take citizenship lessons. He attended the same school that all his 19 children attended, in Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska.

When Adolf made his first application for his Naturalization papers, the priest advised him to make his name "Americanized". It was pronounced "Kraysay". So he changed the "h" and "s" around and he liked the way it sounded. From now on, Adolf's name shall be spelled "Kresha". (Anna didn't change the spelling of her name and on her marriage certificate she used Anna Kresser.) Theodor never did change the spelling of his name. Amolia used Krehsa for her last name on her marriage license. Later when young Josef came, he changed the spelling of his name to Joseph Kresha.



The S.S. Weiland brought immigrants Adolf, Anna, Amollia and Louis Krehsa to New York Harbor on September 8, 1888.
(Photo courtesy of Salem Museum of Massachusetts.)

The Trip to Freedom

by
Lillian Kresha Witulski

Adolf left his home to seek his fate
In the fall of eighty eight
With Anna and tall Amolia
They sailed to the U.S.A.

Their trunks were packed with clothing
For work they were hired to do.
His sisters were domestics
And he had a farm job, too.

The big ship was so crowded and slow.
Their cabin was hot and low.
Bad Seasickness was their plight
When they passed thru a storm in the night.

Time to get up. It will soon be light.
The ship has sailed far in the night.
Miss Liberty will soon be in sight.
Her torch should be high and bright.

Everyone cheered for the New York harbor.
The lights were seen from afar.
A few weeks at Bedloe Island
For check-ups and tests were par.

When the days of their quarantine passed,
They boarded their train at last.
They gazed at the wide open spaces
And stared at strangers faces.

Their train trip ended in Columbus.
Theodor was waiting there.
With a team and a wagon to take them
To their jobs for some rest and care.

Chapter Six

Adolf and Sophie Kresha

One mile from the country school lived John Kropatsch and his wife Anna (Kral). They had come from Austria, too, and spoke German. Their first child, Sophie, was born on March 3, 1874. Adolf and Sophie went to the same school, District #39 in Polk County, Valley Precinct. After school, Adolf courted her and on January 14, 1894, they were married at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, which was first built in 1889. Adolf had rented a farm near Silver Creek and that is where he made a home for his wife, Sophie.

Frank Kresha

Adolf and Sophie gave birth to their first born on April 26, 1895. He was named Frank. He was a very sick baby and Adolf immediately baptized him. He had a heart condition and passed away on May 6, 1895. He was buried in St. Andrew's Catholic Cemetery. When the author asked about Frank's death, Papa Adolf said, "When Frank died, I went out into the middle of the yard, knelt down, looked up into the heavens and asked God why He gave us such a beautiful son, only to take him away in such a short time. Right then, I promised God that I'd have as many babies as He saw fit to send us."

This was a sad time in Papa Adolf's life. A severe drought also occurred in 1894 and 1897. In 1897, Adolf and Sophie moved into the red brick house with her brother Frank, after purchasing 160 acres of farmland, just south of her folks (the John Kropatsch's). A new home was built on their farm. Sophia Cecelia was born on June 13, 1897. Her Papa Adolf started out on foot across the pasture to tell his borther-in-law, Oswald Kropatsch and they met in the pasture. Papa said, "We have a baby girl and we named her Sophia Cecelia." Oswald said, "We have a baby girl, too, and we named her Eva." From then on, the two girls called themselves "twin cousins".

The new home was finished and Adolf moved his family into it. On April 11, 1900, the first baby to be born in the new house was Leo. Cecelia arrived on March 19, 1902; John, on May 11, 1904; Adolph, on September 19, 1906; Ann, on July 12, 1908; George, on January 31, 1911; Rose, on September 21, 1912; and Gayhart "Mike" on May 27, 1914.

On March 22, 1902, Adolf Kresha made application for his Naturalization.

He had applied several years earlier, but due to the process of moving, it was lost, so he reapplied. On September 25, 1906, he became a citizen of the United States, renouncing his allegiance to the Emperor of Austria.[23]

On August 24, 1908, during a lightning storm, St. Andrew's Catholic Church burned down.[24] Papa Adolf had helped build it and supported it. Since it was in a low location and sometimes water stood between the church and cemetery, it was voted to relocate the new church at the NW 1/4 corner of the NW quarter of Section 18, Township 15, Range 1. Most of the members of St. Andrew's were of German decent.

In the summer of 1916, Mama Sophie became very sick and neither medication or the Doctor's care helped. Sophie passed away on July 13, 1916, from blood poisoning. She was the first person to be buried from the new St. Andrew's Catholic Church and in the new Cemetery.

The oldest daughter, Sophia, was 19 and she mothered her brothers and sisters and kept house for Papa.

There is no history of Adolf Franz Kresha from 1916 until 1919, the period when he was a widower.

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[23]See Chapter on "Papers from the Black Box".

[24]From the History of the Lincoln Diocese.



Adolf Kresha and first wife, Sophie Kropatsch Kresha, married January 14, 1894. (Photo furnished by Romona Smith.)



Adolf Kresha's first family (L-R, Front) Ann, George, Rose and Gayhart. (L-R Back) Adolph, Cecelia, John, Sophia and Leo.

Chapter Seven

SOPHIA CECELIA KRESHA

Sophia Kresha was born on June 13, 1897 to Adolf and Sophie (Kropatsch) Kresha in the Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. Sophia's parents were living in the red brick home with Frank Kropatsch (Sophie's brother), a bachelor, while their new home was being built on the NW Quarter of Section 11, Township 15, Range 2, Polk County, Nebraska. It is still owned by the Kresha Estate, as of 1989.[25]

Sophia attended rural School District #39 and completed the eighth grade. Then Papa paid for 10 piano lessons for her. She had a natural talent for music and learned quickly. She and her twin cousin, Eva Kropatsch, went to Lincoln to attend a dressmaking and sewing school.

In 1919, Papa Adolf married Eva Karges. Sophia stayed home one more year to help Eva adjust and care for the children. Then Sophia was free to pursue a career.

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[25]Sophia was baptized when a week old at the first St. Andrew's Catholic Church. Her Godparents were Amolia and Adolf Kuhnel.

After convincing her Papa to let her go to school, Sophia went to Omaha to enroll in the Van Sant School of Business. The Administrator questioned her ability to learn the courses, as she had no high school education. Sophia convinced the Professor to let her try, and if the courses were too hard and she couldn't make the grades, she'd quit. It was very hard and she took typing, shorthand, and three other subjects. She worked part-time for room and board, doing household chores for a family in Omaha who had formerly lived in Polk County. Papa Adolf had told Sophia, "You can count eggs good enough to marry a farmer."

Sophia had to study hard and prayed a great deal, and graduated from business college. She was employed at Boy's Town by Father Flanigan for 25 cents an hour, sending out funding letters for the New Boy's Town. She is now a Charter Member of Boy's Town.

Sophia was advised to go home to her folks and await word of a job. The family had been invited to a wedding in Columbus, but Sophia didn't go--just her brothers and sisters went. When the phone rang and Papa answered it, a man's voice asked for Sophia. "Ah-ha!," Papa said, "That's why you didn't go to the wedding. You were waiting for your boyfriend to call." It was Lynn Sheldon, Polk County Extension Agent, asking her to come to work for him in the morning. "The office is located in an old school building and the County Commissioner will give you the keys," Sheldon said. Mr. Sheldon planned to be gone from the office until 3 p.m. He told her to address the envelopes on his desk, answer the phone, and help the customers who came into the office. At 3 p.m., a nice looking man came in and Sophia asked him if she could help him. He said, "Are you the new secretary? How do you do, I am your boss Lynn Sheldon."

One morning, another nice looking gentleman approached Sophia as she was unlocking the door to go to work and he said, "Why do you get here so early?" Sophia replied, "Because I'm anxious to get my day going." Then he told her a secret. "Don't tell anyone," he whispered, "But I'm running for County Clerk, and if I win, I want you to be my Deputy Clerk." He did win and he said, "Sophia, you have two strikes against you. One, your father is a Republican and you have to be a Democrat to sign the bond." Sophia answered, "All my family are Democrats, and they can sign my bond." "Secondly," he said, "you are the only Catholic in the town of Osceola."

When her job at the County Agent's office ended, she took a job in Lincoln as a secretary at the Nebraska State Home For Children.

At election time, when John Fillman won the office of County Clerk, he gave Sophia the job in his office as Deputy County Clerk. Sophia left Lincoln and went back to Osceola, where she found an apartment in town with Mrs. Whaley. Her salary at the new job was $1,248.00 per year. When that apartment was sold to Harry Pratt, she continued to live there.

As a young girl, Sophia sang in the St. Andrew's Church Choir. Father Francis Lombardi said, "He who sings in church, prays twice." She organized the Harmony Club for choir members. Later, all young people of St. Andrew's were invited to be members. They sang to the sick and shut-ins of the parish at Christmas time and delivered fruit baskets. When new song books were needed, the Harmony Club sponsored a play,

"Here Comes Charlie", at Ellers Hall, which was located several miles from the church. The Harmony Club was a social club with religious undertones and was always advised by the Pastor.

Sophia always attend Mass at St. Andrew's Church and then spent the Sunday with her parents. We all looked forward to her Sunday visits because she brought us the SUNDAY OMAHA WORLD HERALD and something good to eat. In the winter she'd bring two heads of lettuce. Mama Eva would fry some diced bacon crisp, add sour cream and toss the salad. Papa Adolf loved lettuce, too. It was delicious and full of vitamins.

When John I. Anderson defeated John Fillman in the election for County Clerk, Sophia continued to work as Deputy County Clerk. Then Sophia ran for County Clerk and was defeated by a small margin. She was out of a job.

Walter Berk worked for the Farm Security Administration and he suggested to Sophia that she take the Civil Service exam which was being given in Columbus. She stayed with her sister Cecelia and husband John (Jack) Smagacz, who was then Chief of Police, and he showed her all around Columbus. When she took the exam, she received a grade of excellence and was hired by the Farm Security Administration in Osceola. She worked there from 1942 until 1946.

When that office closed, she was transferred to Valentine, Nebraska. She worked for Norman O'Keefe from July, 1946 until August, 1949. She then asked for a transfer to be closer to her family.

Valentine is a great distance to travel, and Sophia had been visiting her family and relatives in Polk and Platte Counties during the holidays in 1949, when she headed back to her job. At 11 a.m., she drove into a blinding snowstorm between Anselmo and Thedford, with drifts higher than her black Chevrolet. She came upon a herd of cattle on the road on the south side of a hill between the drifts. They blocked her way and soon had their frosty noses pressed against her car windows. She could no longer continue her journey, as snow drifted up around the car, causing her engine to stall. She nibbled on raisins and other food that she had in her car. When night came, she said her prayers and prepared to meet her Maker.

About 9 p.m., it grew light in her car and she heard a snowplow coming. Sophia forced her door open against the snowdrifts and stuck out her gloved hand to signal that she was still alive. Chief of Police in Columbus, Jack Smagacz had called many towns asking about Sophia and they were out looking for stranded motorists. The snowplow operator came to her car and asked, "Are you alone?" She answered, "Yes." "What in the hell are you doing out here by yourself?", he said. (The sun was shining when she left.) Further down the road, they came upon another stalled car from Gordon with a Mother and her son inside. All the stranded motorists had to stand in the snowplow cab. Visibility was so poor that the driver had to travel with the door open. All of them were nearly frozen by the time they reached shelter. They stayed at a hotel. Sophia didn't reach Valentine for several days due to blocked roads. The first one she called was her sister Cecilia in Columbus, to say "Thank You", and that she was safe at last. This was the blizzard of 1949 and the temperature was 3 below zero.

In August, 1949, Sophia was transferred to Mitchell, Nebraska. The name Farm Security Administration, was now changed to Farm Home Administration. Her new boss was John Clouse. When the office was moved to Scottsbluff, her boss was Bill Clark. She retired in 1967 at the age of 70.

After Sophia retired, she volunteered her services at St. Theresa's Thrift Shop for the Catholic Church in Mitchell. Used clothing was donated and sold for a modest price. If the clothing needed to be cleaned or mended, Sophia did it. She laundered over 300 garments. The profit was earmarked for stained glass windows in the proposed new Catholic church. Father Placek requested the money be put into a separate fund from the Church's money and Sophia was in charge of keeping this record.

Many years before, Sophia had learned to play the church organ. She played the old organ in the Catholic Church in Mitchell and it was "worn out", so she donated a new organ to the church. She played the new organ in church until May 1, 1987, when she retired from the organ bench, at age 90.

Father Metheny, from the Episcopal Church and some good people from the Mitchell community nominated Sophia for an Ak-sar-ben "Good Neighbor Award", which she received on July 31, 1972. Always ready to help the poor, needy, sick or elderly, she scrubbed floors or took them to the doctor (in her black Chevrolet). At this writing, in 1988, she still drives a black Chevy!

Sophia loved black, shiny cars. Whenever she purchased a new one, it was a black Chevrolet. In the summertime, when she lived in Osceola and came home on Sundays, we all helped her wash and wax her Black Chevrolet. It tool a bushel of clean rags to rub all that white wax off her black car. When she drove back to Osceola, after the first dusty mile, one could not tell that we had worked so hard to polish her car.

Father Weist of Mitchell went to Rome to see the Pope and brought back a plaque for "Outstanding Work Done" and he presented it to Sophia in 1972.

Sophia taught Catechism in the Catholic Church in Mitchell for 27 years. She belongs to the Legion of Mary for 22 years now, and transported the Pilgrim Virgin Statue into the homes for daily rosary.

Sophia was always ready and willing to help any member of her family. During the Depression Years, many times her Papa needed money to pay the taxes, or interest on the mortgage, and Sophia loaned it to him. When Patricia (sister) was very sick, Sophia went with Dr. C.R. LeMar and the feverish little girl to St. Mary's Hospital in Columbus, staying with her until the crisis had passed. When Adrian (brother) had a compound fracture of his arm, Sophia drove him to Omaha on a Sunday to have a specialist set the broken bone. It was gas rationing at that time, and she had a difficult time finding gasoline to drive to and from Omaha. She arrived at Papa's home at 2 a.m. with Adrian, drove to her home in Osceola and reported for work at 8 a.m. the same morning. When her Mother (Sophie) was dying, she said the rosary with her before she died of blood poisoning. When Charles (brother) was seriously ill with a blood clot in his lungs, Sophia stayed at his bedside. She also attended him when he

had the chicken pox, keeping him in her own home.

When anyone needed help, they knew they could "Ask Sophia". She is loving, compassionate and generous. Her family are truly blessed to have her as their sister.



This 1978 photo shows Sophia Kresha, Louis Trausch and Leo Kresha.



Sophia Kresha's 88th birthday celebrated on June 10, 1985.



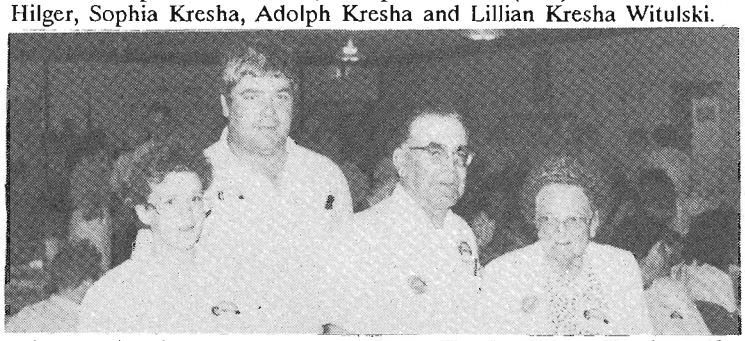
The Kresha sisters: (Front) Ann and Sophia, (Middle) Rose, (Back) Cecelia.



Sophia Kresha is shown here in a 1972 newspaper clipping with Democratic Presidential nomination candidate, Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty. Sophia's sister, Ann, is married to Sam Yorty's brother-in-law. (Star Herald Photo)



Taken in September of 1986, this photo is of (L-R) Rose Kresha Hilger, Sophia Kresha, Adolph Kresha and Lillian Kresha Witulski.



Pictured (L-R) are Jodi Kresha, Gregg Kresha, Glenn Kresha and Sophia Kresha taken in June of 1988.

Chapter Eight

LEO A. KRESHA

Leo A. Kresha was born on April 11, 1900 to Adolf F. Kresha and Sophie (Kropatsch) Kresha in Polk County, Nebraska in the Valley Precinct where his family resided. Leo was the first baby born in the new house on the Kresha Family farm. He attended rural school in District 39 and after graduating from the eighth grade, helped his parents farm until old enough to start farming for himself. Adolf gave his son a team of horses, a cow, some chickens and loaned him the machinery to work the farm that he had rented.

On November 22, 1922, he married Pauline Liss, the daughter of Peter Liss and Katherine (Duracinski) Liss. Pauline was born on December 20, 1902.

To this union were born:

Raymond Glenn, on August 27, 1923. Glenn attended rural school District #13, and graduated from Osceola High School in 1941. He moved to a farm north of Osceola, where he has farmed for 48 years. Glenn married Delphine Jaworowski on May 24, 1949, and from this marriage were born:

> Raymond Glenn, born on November 9, 1950. On August 28, 1971 Raymond married Mary Hernandez, with this union resulting in Matthew Raymond, born on July 27. 1977, and Jonathan Sebestian, born on February 24, 1980. They live in San Antonio, Texas, where Raymond is a high school teacher and Mary is a

Pharmacist at a hospital.

Gregory Edward, born on April 29, 1952. Gregory was married to Denice Donelson on June 10, 1972, and have three girls: Jodi Delphine, born on February 28, 1974, Connie Sue, born on April 15, 1976, and April Marie, born on March 3, 1980. They live north of Osceola, where Gregory farms with his father. Denice is employed as a secretary.

Andrew Leo, born on April 26, 1953. Andrew married Victoria Wiese on May 27, 1978, with Vincent Mark, born on March 24, 1980 and Carmen Joy, born on June 30, 1982, their children. They live in Phoenix, Arizona, where Andrew is employed as a personnel manager at a bank, and Victoria is a Nurse.

Michelle Marie, born on August 8, 1954. Michelle married Michael Berlin on May 28, 1977, and now have Joel Michael, born on January 19, 1986 and Jenna, born on February 19, 1988. They currently live in Omaha, Nebraska, with Michelle employed as a Physician's Assistant, and Michael owning and operating a Physical Therapy clinic.

Christine Ann, born on January 8, 1957. Christine was married to Patrick Gabel on June 24, 1978, and have three boys, Brian Patrick, born on April 14, 1981, Thomas Mark, born on February 14, 1983, and Michael Christopher, born on January 2, 1985. Christine is a Registered Nurse and Patrick is a farmer. They reside northeast of Osceola, Nebraska.

Anthony Edward, born on August 16, 1961. Anthony and Kathie Dittmer were married on October 3, 1981 and to this marriage was born Autumn Marie, born on October 19, 1987. Anthony owns and operates Connecting Point, a computer retail store in Columbus, Nebraska.

Glenn's wife, Delphine passed away on March 23, 1970. Glenn married Ila Lewandowski on August 18, 1972.

Leo and Pauline's second son, Paul Lucian, was born on August 22, 1924. He attended the rural school District 13 and graduated from Osceola High School. He spent two years in the Army Signal Corp, during which time he was stationed in Tokyo, Japan and in the Phillipine Islands. Paul married Theresa Moritz on April 17, 1950 at St. Bonaventure Church in Columbus, Nebraska. Their marriage was blessed with six children:

David Paul, born on February 17, 1952. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska and is employed by AT&T Corporation.

Donald Michael, born on June 11, 1955. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska and is employed by the Mulitgraphics, Corporation.

Sharon Marie, born on April 29, 1957. Sharon was married to Michael Johnson on August 31, 1979, and have a son, Michael Charles, born on February 24, 1985. They live in Omaha, Nebraska.

Ronald, on March 22, 1958. Ronald passed away on March 23, 1958.

Karen Joyce, born on January 22, 1960. Karen married Roger Thompson, on June 22, 1985. They live in Omaha, Nebraska, where Karen is employed at Occidental Nebraska and Roger is employed as an audit manager for Seim, Hohnson, Sestak and Quist. They have one son, Cody John, born March 25, 1989.

Suzanne, on November 10, 1972. Suzanne died on November 11, 1972.

Paul and Theresa have lived the past twenty years in Omaha, Nebraska, where he is employed with the Roberts Dairy Company and Theresa employed at the Yonkers Department Store.

Their third son, Allan Louis, was born on August 25, 1926. Allan graduated from Osceola High School, and spent two years in the Army, and was stationed in Japan. Allan married Loretta Novack on April 29, 1950. To this marriage was born Mary Frances on March 11, 1954. Mary and Douglas G. Reid were married on March 26, 1977, and have two girls, Angela Marie, born on September 4, 1980 and Abby Linn, born on November 30, 1986. Mary and Douglas currently live in Omaha, Nebraska, where Mary is a Registered Nurse at University Hospital, and Doug is employed at Automotive Parts Co.

Allan and Loretta reside north of Osceola, where Allan farms. Loretta is employed at Annie Jeffery Hospital in Osceola.

Leo and Pauline gave birth to Phyllis on October 4, 1932. On March 21, 1957 Phyllis and Lloyd Green were married. Lloyd passed away on December 2, 1972. Phyllis is employed by a communications company in Blair, Nebraska.

Leo was a farmer and a hard worker all his life. He could fix all his own equipment. He owned a cornsheller and in the winter and spring, shelled corn for all the farmers in his neighborhood. When the tractor became the source of power on the farm, he mechanized all his equipment. Leo purchased a steam engine and thrasher and did custom work in his area, having a circuit of farmers who depended on him to thrash their grain. Later, when the combine came on the market, he purchased it and served all his regular customers. He also purchased a self-propelled combine, which was even faster and more efficient.

Leo was a very devout Catholic. When the second St. Andrew's Church burned down on February 19, 1946, he saw a need for a Catholic Church in the town of Osceola. August Ienn and Leo went to Lincoln to talk to Bishop Kucera and got permission to establish a new Catholic Church. On April 5, 1946, Saint Vincent Ferrer Parish of Osceola was formed with 30 families enrolled. The American Legion Hall was purchased for a church building, and "First Mass" was offered on June 2, 1946 by Rev. Gregory Petrus.

Leo and Pauline have 11 Grandchildren and 17 Great Grandchildren. Leo passed away

on August 23, 1984 and was buried in St. Andrew's Cemetery. Pauline passed away on March 13, 1988 after residing many years in a nursing home. She was also laid to rest in St. Andrew's Cemetery.



Leo Kresha at age 16.



The wedding photo of Leo and Pauline (Liss) Kresha.



This four generation photo shows Adolf Kresha's oldest son Leo Kresha (Back), his oldest grandson, Glenn Kresha (Front, Right), his oldest great-grandson, Raymond Kresha (Left, Middle), and his oldest great-great-grandson, Matthew Kresha (Front, Left).



This 1972 photo shows (L-R) Adolph Kresha, Rose Kresha Hilger, John Kresha, Leo Kresha and Pauline (Liss) Kresha (and Pauline's sister).



Leo and Pauline Kresha on their 50th wedding anniversary, celebrated in 1972.



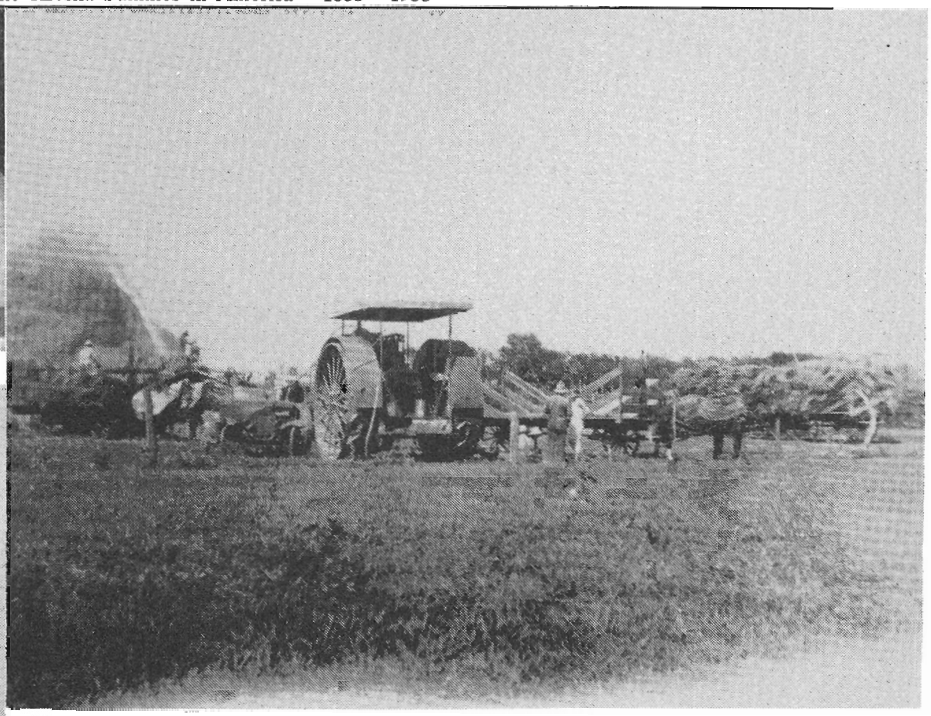
This photo taken in 1973 shows (L-R, Front) Pauline (Liss) Kresha and Leo Kresha, (Back) Phyllis Kresha Green, Allan, Raymond, Glenn, and Paul Kresha.



Loretta and Allan Kresha

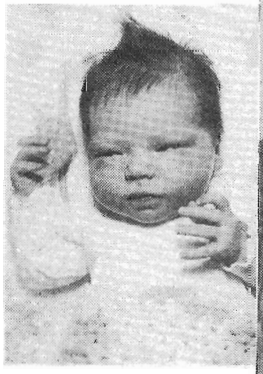


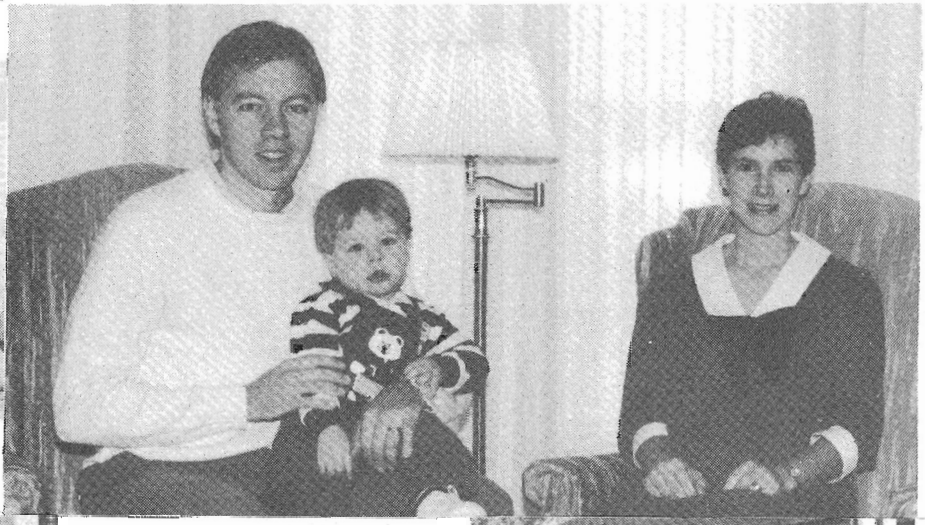
Doug and Mary Kresha Reid with chlidren Angela, 7, and Abby, 1, as taken in 1988.



The "Flower City" kerosene fueled tractor taken in 1935 showing Leo Kresha thrashing grain.

Jenna Berlin, born on February 19, 1988, daughter of Michael and Michelle Kresha Berlin, grand-daughter of Glenn Kresha, great-granddaughter of Leo Kresha.

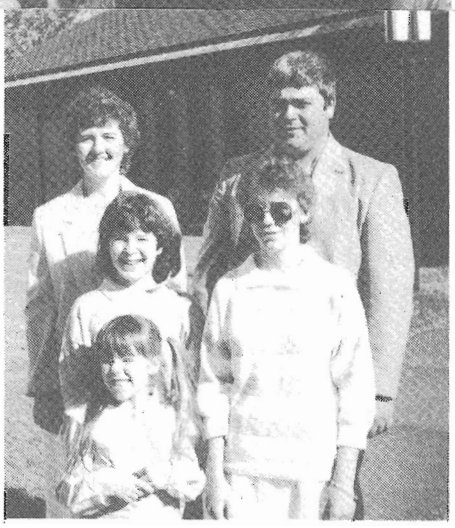




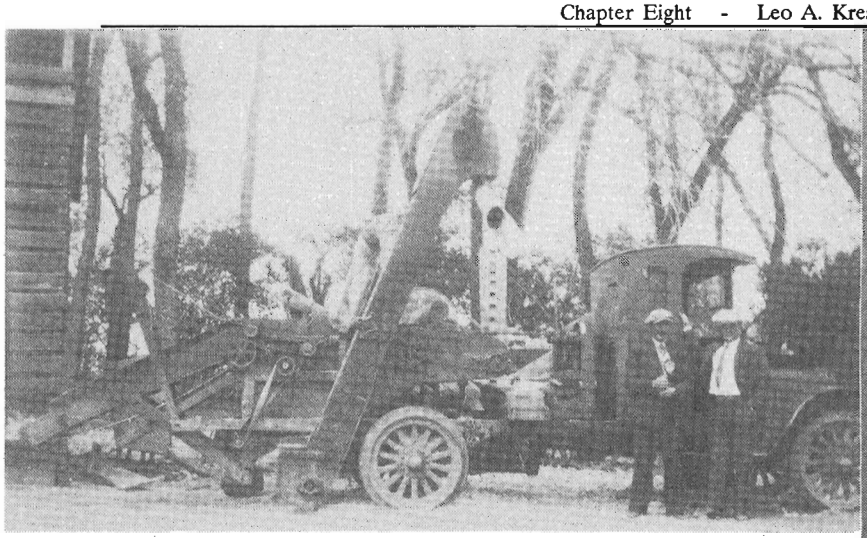
Michael and Michelle Kresha Berlin with son, Joel, born on January 19, 1986. Michelle is the daughter of Glenn Kresha.



Raymond and Mary Hernandez Kresha with sons, Jonathan, age 8 (L), and Matthew, age 11 (R) in 1987.



Gregg Kresha and family. Gregg is the son of Glenn Kresha and grandson of Leo and Pauline Kresha. Shown here are Denice and Gregg Kresha with their children, Connie Sue, Jodi, and April (in front).



Leo Kresha's first truck mounted sheller taken in 1930. It was a republic truck with hard rubber tires. To the left of Leo is Martin Liss.



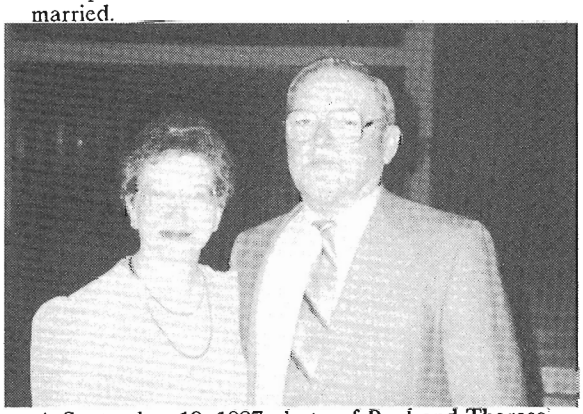
On April 17, 1950, Paul and Theresa Kresha were married.



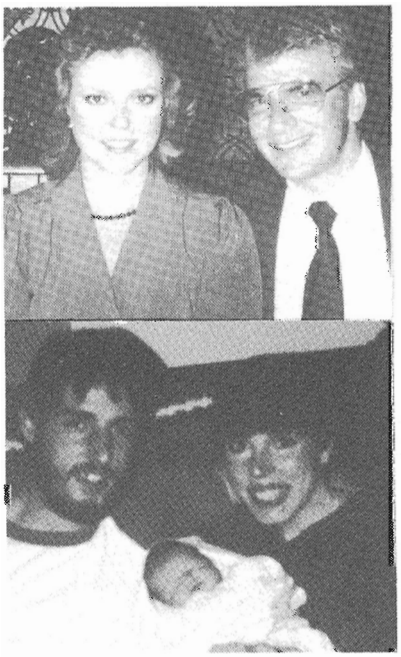
Phyllis Kresha at age 11.



Paul and his son Donald Kresha display the catch of the day while fishing in Canada in July of 1987.



A September 18, 1987 photo of Paul and Theresa Kresha.



Karen Kresha Thompson, daughter of Paul and Theresa Kresha, and her husband Roger Thompson, who were married June 22, 1985.



David Kresha in December of 1987. David is the son of Paul and Theresa Kresha.

Sharon Kresha Johnson and her husband Mike, with Michael, born February 24, 1985.



Shown in this 1987 photo (L-R) are Mary Lukassen, Sue Hilger and Theresa Kresha.



Glenn Kresha Family, Christmas 1987. (L-R, Back) Ila Kresha, Jodi Kresha, Chris (Kresha) Gabel, holding Michael Gabel, Pat Gabel, April Kresha, Glenn Kresha, Gregg Kresha, Denice (Donelson) Kresha, Michelle (Kresha) Berlin, Raymond Kresha, Mary (Hernandez) Kresha, (Front) Jonathan Kresha, Matthew Kresha, Tommy Gabel, Michael Berlin, holding Joel Berlin, Kathie (Dittmer) Kresha, holding Autumn Kresha, and Anthony Kresha.



Glenn and Delphine (Jaworowski) Kresha, Wedding photo, 1949.

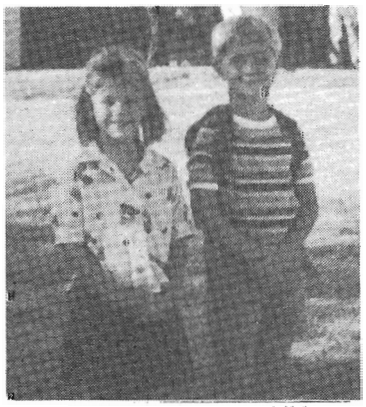


Kathie, Autumn and Anthony Kresha. (1988)



Glenn Kresha and Ila (Lewandowski) Kresha taken in 1988.





Carmen and Vincent, children of Andy & Vicki Kresha.



Vickie Wiese and Andy Kresha Wedding Day, May 27, 1978.

(L-R, Back) Chris (Kresha) Gabel, Pat Gabel, (Front) Thomas, Michael, and Brian Gabel.

Chapter Nine

CECELIA JOSEPHINE KRESHA

Cecelia Josephine Kresha was born on March 19, 1902, to Adolf and Sophie (Kropatsch) Kresha in the Valley Precinct of Polk County, Nebraska on the family farm. She attended and completed her schooling in District 39. She stayed at home helping her parents until in 1922, when she worked in Greeley, Nebraska, helping a family with household duties. Later she worked in Columbus with other families as a maid.

On January 19, 1926, she was married to John J. Smagacz, and they established their home in Columbus, Nebraska. At the time of their marriage, Jack (John) was employed by Swift & Co. driving a truck on an egg route. Later, he followed in his father's footsteps and became a policeman, walking the beat on 11th Street from 8 p.m. until 8 a.m. Soon he was appointed assistant Police Chief, and a few years later, was appointed Chief of Police. In 1949 he resigned because of poor health.

On September 17, 1926, a daughter, Sylvia, was born to Cecelia and John. Sylvia died soon after birth.

A second daughter, Dolores, was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1927. She attended catholic schools in Columbus and graduated from high school. She had jobs

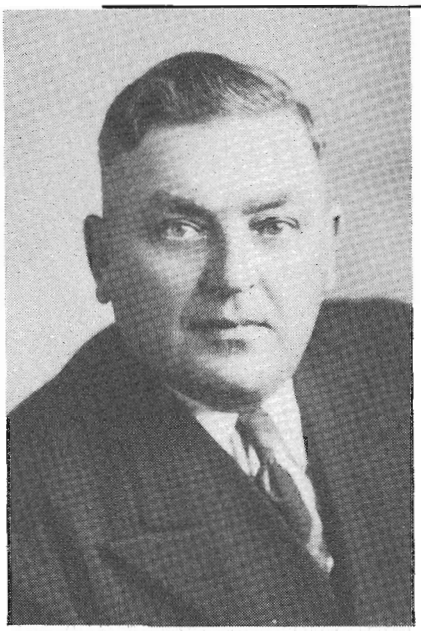
as a secretary and bookkeeper until her marriage to Richard E. Nyffeler on October 11, 1950. They lived and farmed in Platte County, west of Columbus. Richard died on February 21, 1987.

Dolores married Melvin Wetgen on November 3, 1988 at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Duncan, Nebraska. They now reside north of Columbus, Nebraska

Cecelia and John's third daughter, Janice Rose, was born on August 16, 1935, and attended St. Bonaventure's School in Columbus, Nebraska, completing the eighth grade. She then attended St. Joseph's Convent School in Denver, Colorado. In 1952, Janice received the habit of the sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration and chose the name of Sister Mary Dolores. Sister Dolores received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1963. Her first teaching job was on the Zuni Indian Reservation in New Mexico. After teaching for many years in New Mexico, in 1987, she returned to Columbus to teach the 3rd grade in St. Bonaventures Catholic School.

Cecelia loved to garden and raise a few chickens. She had a lovely wisteria vine that she planted on the west fence of the chicken yard to provide shade for her chickens. Other hobbies were cooking and reading.

Cecelia's husband, John, passed away on December 28, 1960. She continued to live in their home until she passed away on January 9, 1970.



John Smagacz - 1945



Cecelia Smagacz



Cecelia Kresha and John Smagacz, married January 19, 1926.



(L-R) Richard Nyffeler, Dolores Nyffeler, Rose Hilger, Sophia Kresha, Adolph Kresha and Lillian Witulski.



(L-R) Lillian Witulski, Sister Mary Dolores, (Janice Smagacz, Rose Hilger and Florence Jarecki.



Dolores and Melvin Wetgen in 1988.



Janice Smagacz (1984).



Dolores and Dick Nyffeler in 1984.



(L-R) Dolores Nyffeler and Sue Hilger.



(L-R) Dolores Nyffeler, Sister M. Delores, and Michael Kresha.

Chapter Ten

JOHN M. KRESHA

John M. Kresha was born on May 11, 1904, to Adolf and Sophie (Kropatsch) Kresha at their home in Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska.

John attended rural school District 39 and graduated from the eighth grade. He helped his father on the farm until he became of age. He then rented the Jarmin farm southeast of Osceola and farmed it for several years.

One day, when he and George were coming from the meadow (forty), near St. Mary's Church, Pilsno, they noticed a fresh pile of straw under the bridge. So they investigated and found that someone had abandoned a good still and covered it with straw. Loading it into their trunk, they took it to the Jarmin farm and began distilling alcohol. John was having parties, too. When word reached Sophia in the Courthouse that someone was running a still southeast of Osceola, she warned John. Soon, he saw the sheriff drive by his house, going slowly. John grabbed the ax and ran out to the still and chopped it up. He wasn't going to be arrested for boot-legging.

John loved children and had a secret pack with Lillian that if she swept and cleaned out his car when he had a date, he'd hide a package of gum for her in a special place

in the kitchen when he came home from the dance. That worked out fine, until one of her brothers found the gum before she did!

John married Caroline Stavas on September 8, 1930. After living on the Jarmin place for six years, they moved to a farm west of St. Mary's Church, Pilsno, with their two daughters, Dorothy and Florence. Later, Clarence, Edwin, and Dennis were born.

Children born to John and Caroline (Stavas) Kresha are:

Dorothy, on March 25, 1933. She attended rural school District 39, and graduated from Osceola High School. She was employed as a waitress, cooked for weddings and receptions, and worked at St. Mary's Hospital, Columbus, Nebraska. On May 11, 1957, Dorothy Kresha married Louis Kush. Louis made a home for her on a farm near Monroe. To this union were born:

Denise, born on February 21, 1958. She attended Monroe High School and was the Homecoming Queen. She is attending Platte College.

Ronald, born on March 1, 1959. He graduated from Monroe High School and owns the Kush Brothers Repair Shop in Platte Center, Nebraska.

Robert, born on March 26, 1960. He graduated from Monroe High School and works in the Kush Brothers Repair Shop. He married Rebbeca Heins on September 4, 1981, and have three children: Eric, born on July 26, 1977; Amy Marie, born on January 11, 1982; and Anthony John, born on June 13, 1983.

Richard, born on April 28, 1962. He graduated from Monroe High School and works in the Kush Brother Repair Shop.

Randy, born on December 28, 1964. He graduated from Monroe High School and attended school in Omaha for Technology of Vehicle Repair. He works with his brothers at their repair shop.

Donna, born on May 27, 1969. She graduated from Monroe HIgh School as Salutarian. She attended the University of Nebraska for one year.

Dorothy is employed as a licensed practical nurse, caring for the elderly in their homes, and Louisworks in Columbus, Nebraska at Behlen Mfg. Co.

Florence was born on May 13, 1934. She attended and graduated form Osceola Elementary and Osceola High School. Florence attended college for several years. On June 15, 1956, Florence Kresha married Jerome Jarecki. He made a home for her in Columbus, Nebraska. To this union were born: Jerry, on April 21, 1957; Tom, on July 14, 1960; David, on December 31, 1963; and Gregory, on February 11, 1967. On November 26, 1986, Tom and Joanna were married. To this union was born Karla, a daughter, on July 31, 1987. Florence works in the Platte County Assessor's Office in Columbus, Nebraska. Jerome is the manager of Columbian Village Apartments.

Clarence Kresha was born on October 5, 1934. He attended the Osceola Elementary School and graduated from the Osceola High School. Clarence served for several years

in the U.S. Navy. After his honorable discharge, he attended a mechanic school in Lincoln, Nebraska. On November 18, 1961, Clarence married Marjorie Kmiecik in St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Silver Creek, Nebraska. Soon they moved to Sacramento, California, where Clarence made a home for them. To this union were born: Christine, on May 5, 1962; John, on December 28, 1963; and Matthew, on October 14, 1980. On August 11, 1987, Christine Kresha married Brian Tighe. They live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Clarence works for the U.S. Postal Service in Sacramento, California.

Edwin was born on May 19, 1943. He attended Osceola Elementary and High Schools, and upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. When discharged, Edwin Kresha married Florence Kula, on May 4, 1968. Edwin made a home for her in Columbus, Nebraska. To this union were born: Kenneth, on April 26, 1969; Lisa, born on August 29, 1971; and Kimberlee, on November 30, 1975. Edwin Kresha was employed by the U.S. Postal Service. He passed away on April 10, 1975.

Dennis was born on June 29, 1944. He attended Elementary and High School in Osceola, Nebraska. Dennis served several years in the U.S. Navy. On July 5, 1969, Dennis married Carolyn Hurt. He made a home for her in Columbus, Nebraska. To this union were born: Ron, on December 16, 1969; Jeff, on January 31, 1972; Terri (daughter) on September 25, 1976; and Jennifer, on September 10, 1983. Presently, they live in Columbus. Carolyn manages a Beauty Shop and Dennis works for the U.S. Postal Service.

John and Caroline moved to Columbus in March, 1961, and John found employment at Dale Electronics in a janitorial position. He worked there for 20 years. When he finally retired, he helped his neighbors care for their yards and gardens.

John Kresha loved to work and help others, play cards, repair small motors, ride a bicycle for exercise, and go fishing.

His family always remembered that Grandpa Adolf loved to have company and took them his delicious smoked meats and liver sausage.

Caroline Kresha passed away on March 26, 1981. She was a very good cook and always generous with her talent, donating food to the church activities or for funeral dinners. Her hobbies were raising flowers and gardening.

John Kresha passed away on October 30, 1983. He was laid to rest in the Catholic Cemetery in Columbus, beside his wife, Caroline. They were members of St. Anthony's Catholic Church of Columbus, Nebraska.



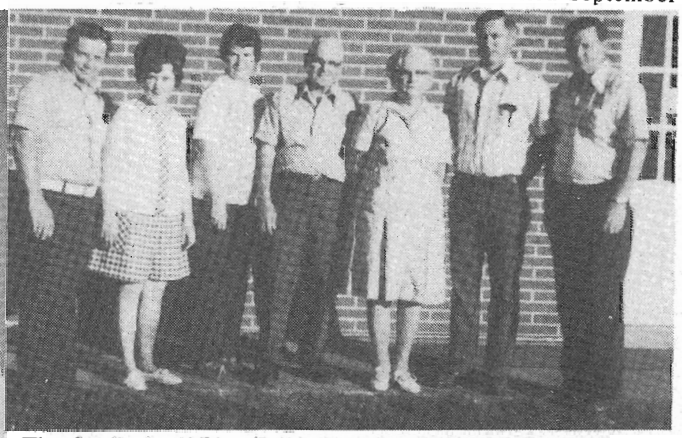
This photo taken on the farm in June of 1943 shows (L-R, Front) Clarence, Edwin, Florence. (L-R, Back) Dorothy, Caroline, Dennis and John Kresha.



John and Caroline (Stavas) Kresha, married September 8, 1931.



John and Caroline Kresha.



The family in 1974; (L-R) Dennis, Florence, Dorothy, John, Caroline, Clarence and Edwin Kresha.



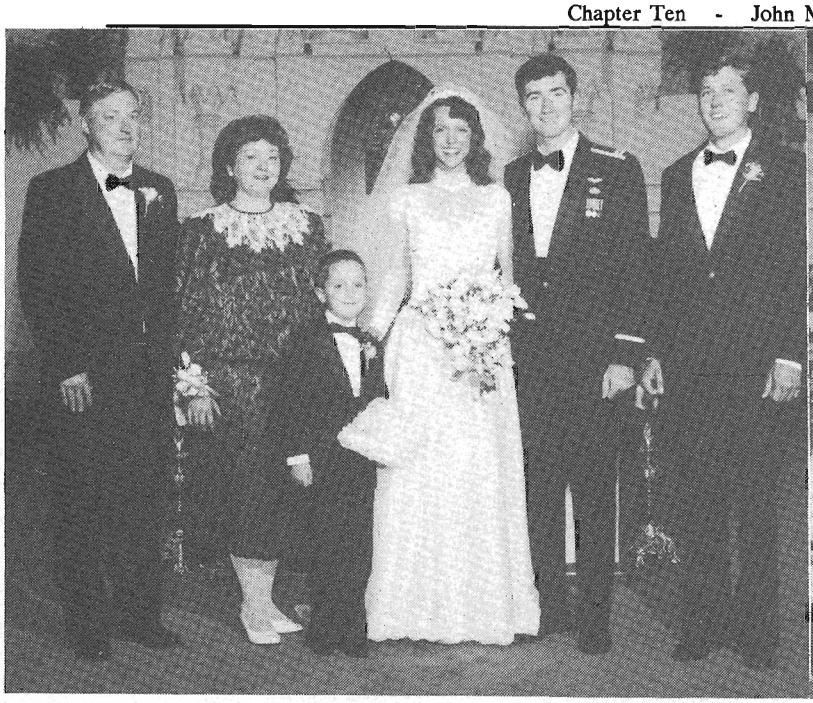
(L-R, Front) Dennis, Edwin. (Back) John, Clarence, Caroline and Dorothy.



(L-R, Front) Matthew and Marge Kresha, (Middle) Christine and John Kresha, (Back) Clarence Kresha.



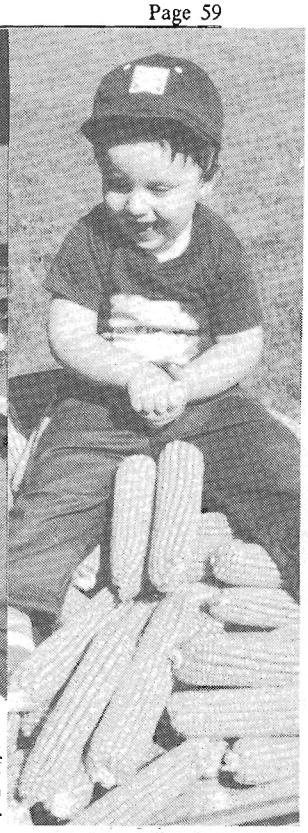
Wedding Picture of Clarence and Margaret Kresha (November 18, 1961)



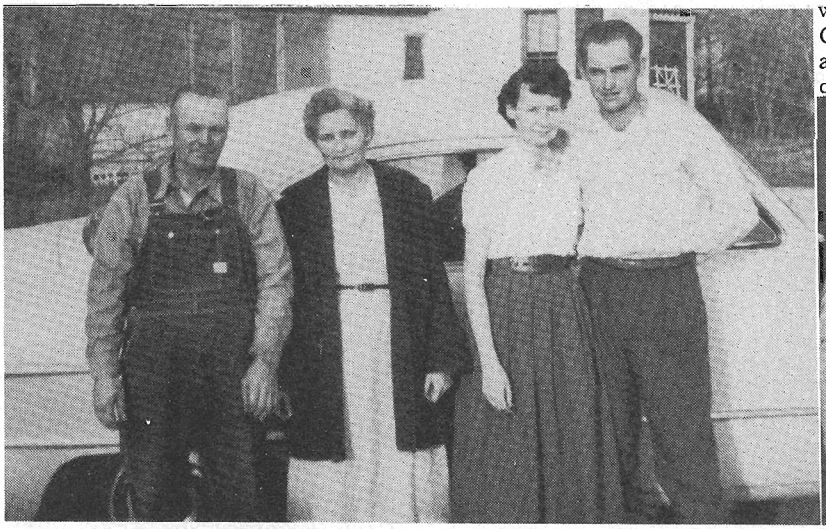
November 11, 1987 wedding. (L-R) Clarence and Marge Kresha, Christine and Brian Tighe and John Kresha, (Front) Matthew Kresha.



Show here are Christine (Kresha) Tighe's husband Brian with John Kresha (son of Clarence and Marge Kresha) and Christine Tighe (daughter of Clarence and Marge Kresha).



Matthew Kresha.



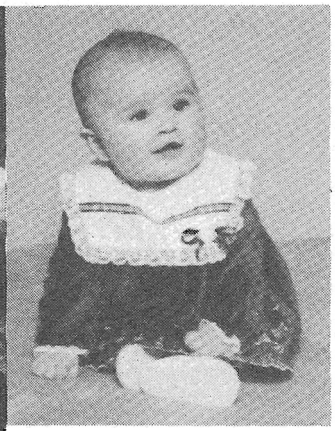
John and Caroline Kresha and Dorothy and Lou Kush in front of the Kresha home.



Wedding November 26, 1987 (L-R, Front) Jerry, (John and Caroline's daughter) Florence (Kresha) Jarecke and Jerome Jarecke, (Back) Tom, David and Greg.



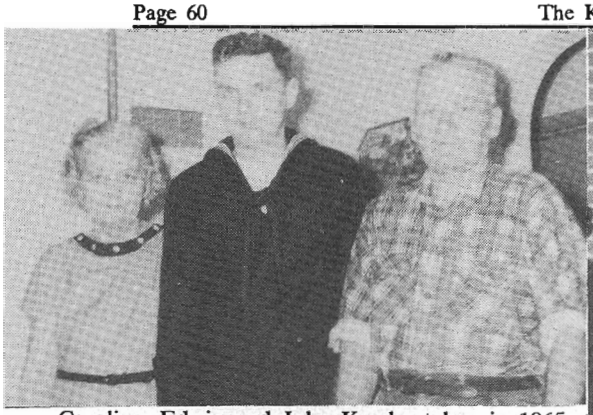
John and Joanne (Kresha) Jarecke, 1987.



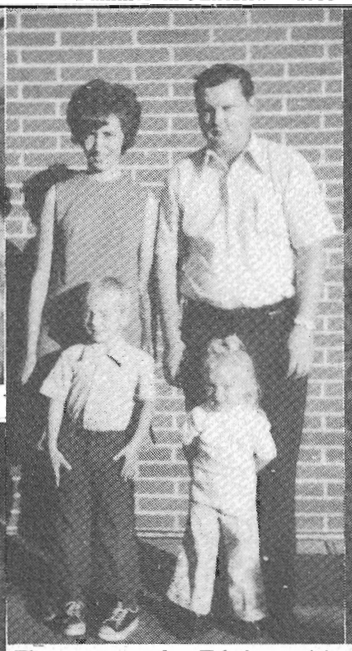
Karla Marie Jarecke at five months (1988) is the daughter of Tom and Joanne Jarecke.



Dorothy and Lou Kush wedding in May of 1957.



Caroline, Edwin and John Kresha taken in 1965.



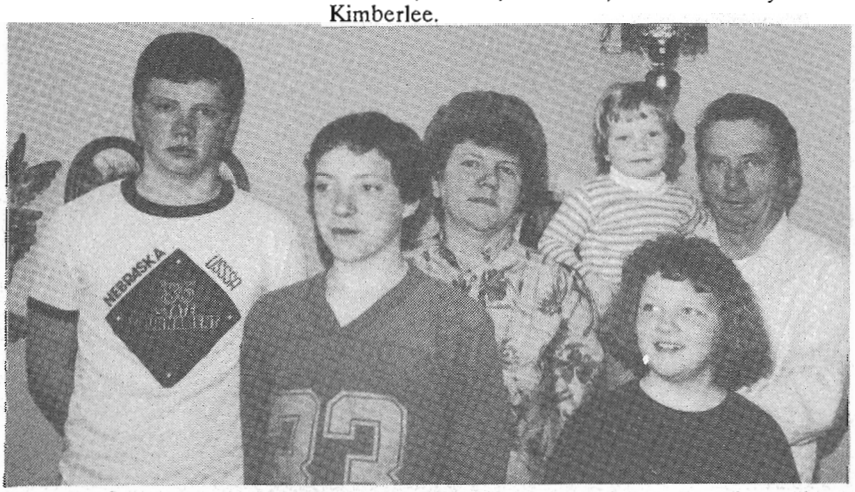
Florence and Edwin with children Kenneth and Lisa.



The family of Edwin Kresha pictured (L-R) Kenneth, Edwin, Florence, Lisa and baby Kimberlee.



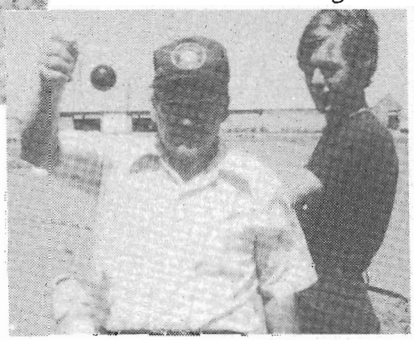
Amelia (Kresha Lukassen, Sophia Kresha and Edwin Kresha.



(L-R, Front) Jeff and Terri Kresha, (Back) Ron, Carolyn, Jennifer and Dennis Kresha.



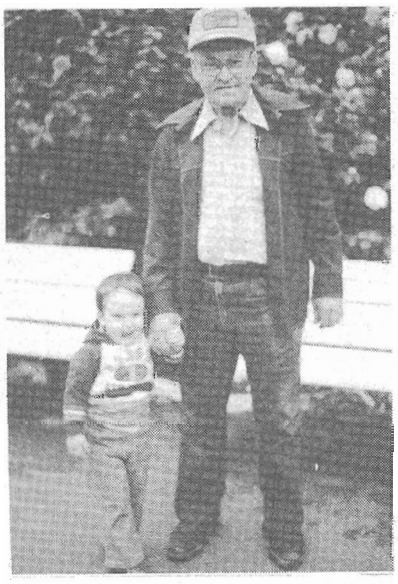
John Kresha talking to his step mother, Eva Kresha, in 1978. Pauline Liss Kresha is in the background.



John Kresha and grandson John Kresha fishing in 1980.



Dennis Kresha at Yosemite National Park in California.



Matthew Kresha with Grandpa John Kresha in February 1983.

Chapter Eleven

ADOLPH MATTHEW KRESHA

Adolph Matthew Kresha was born on September 19, 1906 to Adolf and Sophie (Kropatsch) at their home in the Valley Precinct of Polk County, Nebraska. He attended school District 39 and graduated from the eighth grade.

He helped his Papa Adolf on the farm until he was old enough to farm his own place. Adolph was a very hard worker and always cared for the livestock on the farm. When Mrs. Oswald (Anna) Kropatsch had a sick colt, she asked Adolph what he could do to make it well. Adolph, along with his Mother Sophie, gave the sick colt some warm milk with some syrup in it. The colt recovered, and from that day on, he was given the nickname of "Doc".

When ready to rent his own farm, Papa Adolf gave him some chickens, a team of horses, etc. He rented a place at the foot of the "table land". It was rich farmland. Adolph was a hard worker and took good care of his crops. Adolph was also enterprising. He purchased a beautiful purebred black stallion which he named "Black Beauty", and equipped his black Chevrolet with a horse trailer for transporting the horse from farm to farm, offering stud services. This was a money maker!

The second farm that Adolph rented was northwest of Osceola and belonged to Cora and Clara Schott. It was good rich black clay. He farmed 320 acres and soon replaced his horses with a tractor. One Sunday, when he spent the day with his parents, he said "I have a new friend named Allis." The author was so happy to hear that her bachelor brother finally had a girl friend. She asked him what her last name was and he replied, "Chalmers."

On the Schott farm there grew a large cherry tree and his sisters went to pick them. They were made into pies or canned. Mama Eva canned some of them with mulberries, which was a delicious combination.

When Adolph had enough money saved to purchase his own combine, he went to Salina, Kansas to get it. Fearing a robbery, he put $640 into his shoe and paid cash for the pull-type combine. He hired a trucker to haul it to his farm. In 1947, he did custom combining throughout Texas and Oklahoma, up into Kansas and by then, the crop was ready in Nebraska. Adolph always combined wheat for his friends, neighbors and family first, and his crop was harvested last.

Adolph always spoke fondly of his stepmother, Eva, and said, "She was good to we stepchildren. When we bachelors came home on Sunday for Mass and dinner with the family, we took her our laundry and she had a pile of clean clothing waiting for us. Then she'd send along a loaf of homemade bread, a dressed chicken, eggs, cream and whatever she had made for us."

On October 23, 1935, Adolph married Rose Marie Kielian in St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Silver Creek, Nebraska. They had a big "Polish Wedding", with a band playing music all day at Rose's parent's farm home.

The first farm that Adolph and Rose purchased was from A.J. Herman. He paid $120 and acre for it in 1944. Adolph worked hard and saved diligently and has purchased several farms since then.

Adolph and Rose gave birth to Andrew on August 8, 1936. Andrew became sick and died on January 8, 1937. He is buried in the family plot at St. Andrew's Cemetery, north of Osceola, Nebraska.

Rosalie Valerie was born on June 5, 1938. She married Max Gabel on November 7, 1959. Their children are: John and his wife Mary Ann, Steven and his wife La Donna, and Maxine and her husband August Goelz, who have a son, Clinton Goelz.

Raymond Larry Kresha was born on October 1, 1939. He married Carol Smith on October 8, 1960. To them were born Daniel, on August 26, 1961, and Bradley, born on June 9, 1963. Daniel married Rebecca (Codr) on September 17, 1983, and have a son, Brandon, born on August 20, 1984, and a daughter, Brittany, who was born on November 30, 1986.

Romona D. was born on June 5, 1942. Ramona married Ronald D. Smith on November 25, 1961. They gave birth to Randy D., on March 5, 1962, Roger D., on February 5, 1975, and Rhonda D., on September 15, 1964. Rhonda married Fred Simpson on April

14, 1984, and have a son, Travis Simpson, born on August 22, 1984.

Kathleen Sophia was born on June 6, 1945. Kathleen married Wayne Grosch on January 21, 1967. To this marriage were born: Pamela Sue, born on September 11, 1970, Gregory Wayne, born on June 17, 1973, and Lori Ann, born on September 20, 1975.

Mary Lou was born on October 2, 1948. Mary Lou married Lee Dunekacke on July 15, 1972. Their children are: Julee, born on October 16, 1976, Jennifer, born on November 14, 1978, and Thomas, born on April 20, 1983.

Joseph Adolph was born on April 27, 1951. Joseph married Lou Jane (Logan) on May 15, 1976. They gave birth to Rebecca Lou, born on February 21, 1977 and James Matthew, born on August 1, 1978.

Bettiann Marie was born on August 29, 1954. Bettiann married Steven Witulski on August 19, 1978. Their children are: Matthew, born on December 14, 1981, Eric, born on June 6, 1984, and Tyler, born on October 21, 1986.

Adolph and Rose raised 7 children. They have 19 Grandchildren and 5 Great Grandchildren.



Adolph and Rose (Kielian) Kresha (L-R, Front), Bettiann, Rosalie, Romona, Mary Lou and Kathleen, (Back) Raymond Larry, and Joseph Kresha.



Adolph Kresha



Adolph and Rose (Kielian) Kresha's wedding. Bridesmaid, Ann Kresha, Best Man, Tony Kielian (Rose's brother), ring bearer, Adrian Kresha, and flower girl, Mary Ann Kielian (Bartusek).



Adolph and Rose Kresha with grandson Travis Simpson.



(L-R, Front) Mary Ann Gabel, Rosolie Gabel, Maxine Goelz, and La Donna Gabel. (Back) John Gabel, Max Gabel, baby Clinton Goelz, August Goelz and Steven Gabel.



Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kresha with Brandon and Brittany.



(L-R, Front) Gregory, Kathleen, Lori and Pamela, and (Back) Wayne Grosch.



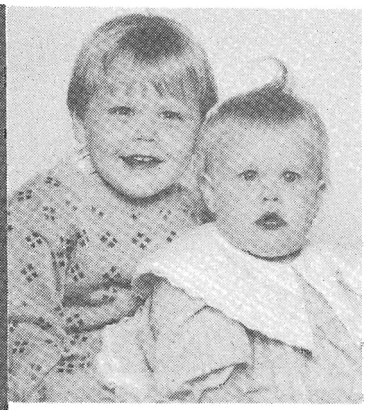
The Smith family, (L-R) Randy, Ronald, Rhonda, Fred, Romona, Roger, (Front) grandson Travis Simpson.



Travis Simpson.



(L-R, Front) Carol Kresha, Raymond (Larry) Kresha, (Back) Rebecca Kresha, Daniel Kresha and Bradley Kresha.



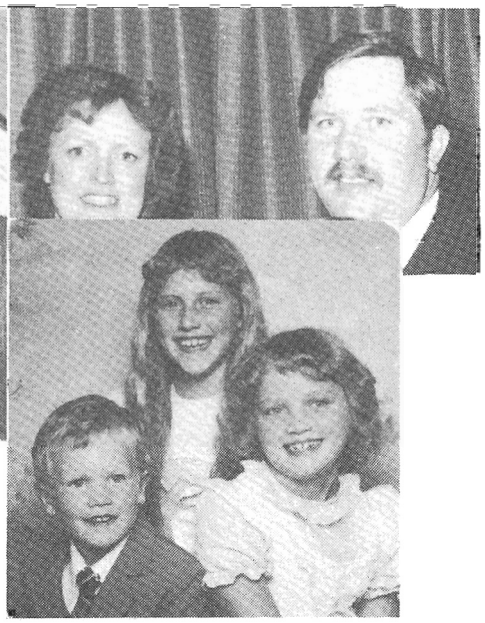
The children of Daniel and Rebecca Kresha, Brandon and Brittany.



Joseph A. and Lou Jane (Logan) Kresha with their family Rebecca Lou and James Matthew.



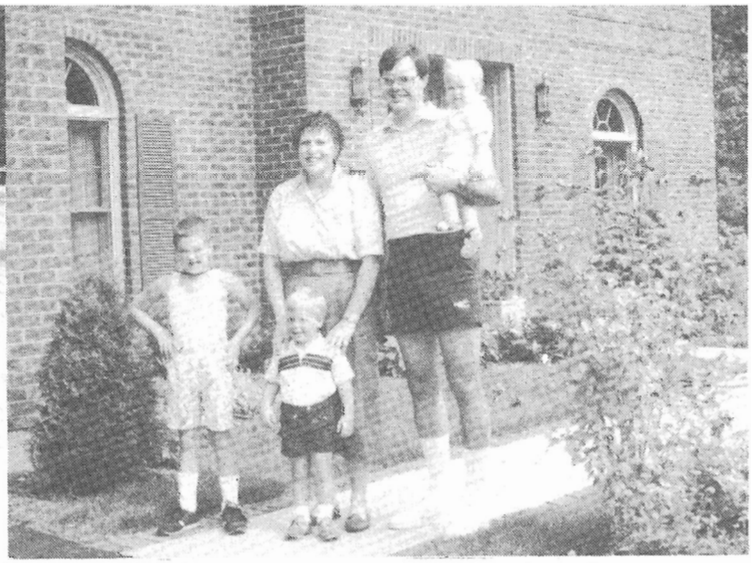
Steve and Bettiann Witulski



Lee and Mary Lou (Kresha) Dunekacke with children Thomas, Jennifer and (Back) Julee.



Sophia, Adolph Kresha and Rose Hilger.



(L-R) Tyler and Eric, Bettiann, Steve and son Steven.



Rose Hilger, Adolph Kresha and Sophia Kresha.

Chapter Twelve

ANN KRESHA

Ann Kresha was born to Adolf and Sophie (Kropatsch) Kresha on July 12, 1908 in their home in Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. She attended rural school District 39 and completed the eighth grade.

Ann stayed at home to help her stepmother, Eva, with the housework and care for the babies that were born. She also worked for neighbor ladies when their babies arrived. When Aunt Mollie (Kuhnel) was ill, Ann worked for her, too.

Papa Adolf offered Ann some piano lessons and the whole family enjoyed her music.

In 1932, when Charles (son) was trying to help by chopping some firewood, he told Wilfred (Bill) to hold the round tree limb so he could split it. The ax hit Wilfred's hand instead and chopped his fingers. One finger was off and just hanging on by the skin. Lillian (daughter) ran to the house for help, and Ann came running to the woodpile with a clean towel. She laid the injured hand and fingers in the towel, folded the cloth over the hand and she went with Wilfred to Osceola to Dr. C. R. LeMar's office to have the fingers stitched. Even the severed finger was saved, thanks to Ann's quick thinking and knowledge of First Aid. Mama Eva treasured Ann's wonderful help

When Ann was no longer needed at home, she went to Lincoln, where she found a job at the Orphanage, caring for the babies. At this time, her sister, Sophia, also worked in Lincoln.

A trip was planned to California in 1937, and Ann decided to accompany her brothers, George and "Mike" and her cousins, Clarence and Lester Kropatsch. She cooked their meals and found work in a hospital nursery as a nurse aid.

Ann and Norman Hensel were married on November 28, 1950. Norman provided a home for them in Reseda, a suburb of Los Angeles.

Ann and Norman came to Nebraska to visit her parents and relatives. They took Papa Adolf, Mama Eva, Mary Kresha (daughter) and Phyllis Kresha (grand-daughter) to Kimball County to see Amelia (daughter) Lukassen, her husband, Dale, and daughter Cynthia; daughter Lillian, her husband, Leo Kosch, Marcia, Mary Lou and Leon. This was the first and last time that Papa Adolf visited in Kimball County, because soon his health began to fail. It was a treasured gift to all concerned, for the Hensel's to take their folks on a trip.

After a serious illness, Norman passed away on June 5, 1972. He is buried at Forest Lawn, Los Angeles, California.

Ann still lives in Reseda, California. She loves to babysit with small children. Her hobbies are operating her player piano, collecting antiques, and enjoying her pet dogs.



(L-R, Front) Amelia Kresha, Lillian Kresha, Ann Kresha, Amelia Drval, Alice Kusak, and Rose Kresha, (Back) Martin Kresha and Adolf Kresha.



Ann Kresha Hensel (1937).



Ann Kresha Hensel and Amelia Kresha in 1945.



(L-R, Front) Marcia Kosch, Leon Kosch, Mary Lou Kosch, and Cynthia Kukessen, (Middle) Lillian Kresha Kosch, Eva and Adolf Kresha, Phyllis Kresha (daughter to Leo and granddaughter to Adolf), (Back) Mary Kresha, Amelia (Millie) Lukasson, Dale and son Steve and Ann Kresha Hensel.

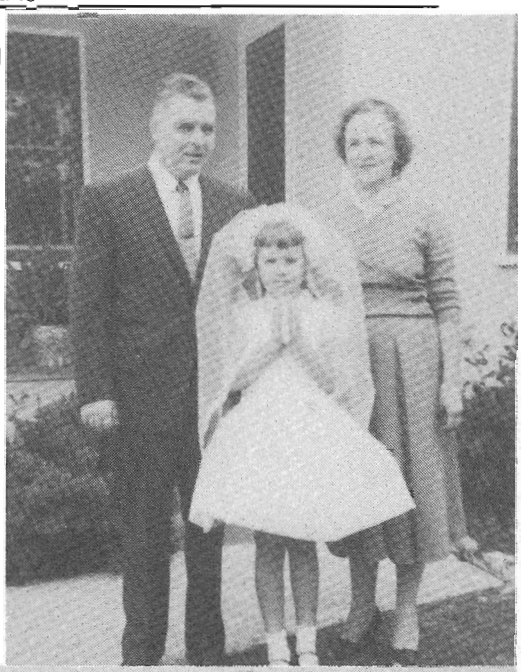


Ann Kresha in 1939.



Wedding of Norman and Ann (Kresha) Hensel in 1950.

Norman and Ann Kresha Hensel with Diane Kresha.





(L-R, Front) Rose Hilger, Ann Hensel, Eva Kresha, Lillian Witulski, Sophia, Leo and Adolph Kresha, (Back) Mary Lukassen, Arthur Kresha, Charles Kresha, Amelia Lukassen and Bill Kresha.



Richard Kresha, Ann (Kresha) Hensel, Michael Kresha and Norman Hensel.



Dolores Nyffeler, Rose Hilger, Ann Hensel, and Sophia Kresha. (1972)



Mike Kresha, George Kresha, Rita Kresha, Ann Hensel and John Kresha.

Chapter Thirteen

GEORGE ALBERT KRESHA

George was born on January 31, 1911 to Adolf and Sophia (Kropatsch) Kresha in their home in Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. He attended rural school District 39 and completed the 8th grade. He attended Osceola High School and graduated from there in 1927.

George rented a farm southeast of Osceola and farmed for several years, and was a close neighbor to his brother, John. This was in 1934. Papa Adolf gave him a good team of horses and he used his brother's machinery. Finding that farming was not profitable due to the drought and suppressed grain prices, George went to California and found a job driving a street car in Bakersfield. When the street car became obsolete, he continued to work for the City of Bakersfield, driving a city bus. He was employed in this capacity for 37 years.

In the early 80's, when Harold and Lillian (Kresha) Witulski visited George and Margaret in Bakersfield, George gave Harold a bucket of bolts and pieces of iron. On his bus route, whenever there was a bolt laying in the street, George would announce to his passengers, "Say, there's a bolt that looks like it may have fallen from the bus." And he'd stop, get out and pick it up. It was his way of keeping the Bakersfield streets

free from road hazards. He was a congenial driver, always trying to please his customers. He had an excellent driving record and was given a safety award by the city.

George served several years in the Army during World War II and was stationed in the Pacific. When he was discharged, the City of Bakersfield had his bus job waiting for him.

George had met Margaret Trausch when she was keeping house for Rev. Francis Lomardi at St. Andrew's Catholic Church. They corresponded during the War and on November 29, 1946, they were married in the Catholic Church in Roseland, Nebraska. They made their home in Bakersfield, California.

George and Margaret gave birth to Diane M. on October 30, 1949. Diane married Donald Chaisson on April 8, 1972. Diane (Kresha) and Donald Chaisson gave birth to Marie Kresha Chaisson on April 25, 1976, and Mark John-Paul Chaisson on October 28, 1978.

On October 15, 1954, George and Margaret gave birth to Jerome Gerard Kresha. Jerome married Rosa Elia Aguilar on July 4, 1987. Jerome and Rosa have one child, Ruth Diane, born on April 5, 1988. Jerome has a painting and remodeling business and also manages a tree nursery.

When George retired, he started doing yard work for his neighbors and friends. He loves to garden and grow things. The banana tree in his front yard was a thing of beauty. George also has orange, lemon and grapefruit trees and grapevines in his yard. But his biggest love is reading books; he is an avid reader.

George lost his Mother (Sophie) when he was only 10 years old. He helped his Papa Adolf all he could. In 1937, when Papa Adolf and Mama Eva wanted to go to Lafayette, Indiana to attend the ceremonies of the enrollment of Sister Mary Norberta (Amelia Kresha) into the Franciscan Noviciate, George came from California and took them to the ceremony.

George and Margaret raised two children and have three grandchildren.



George Kresha and his bus in 1976. George drove the bus for 37 years.



Adolf Kresha with Eva and George, at feeding time in 1949.



Margaret and George Kresha.



George and Margaret with Diane and Jerome.



12th Grade Graduation of Diane Kresha



(L-R, Front) Marie Chaisson, Margaret Kresha and Mark Chaisson, (Back) George Kresha, Donald and Diane Chaisson. (1986)



Donald and Diane Chaisson 1972 Wedding.



Don and Diane Chaisson with children Mark and Marie. (1986)



George and Margaret after 42 years of Marriage in 1987.



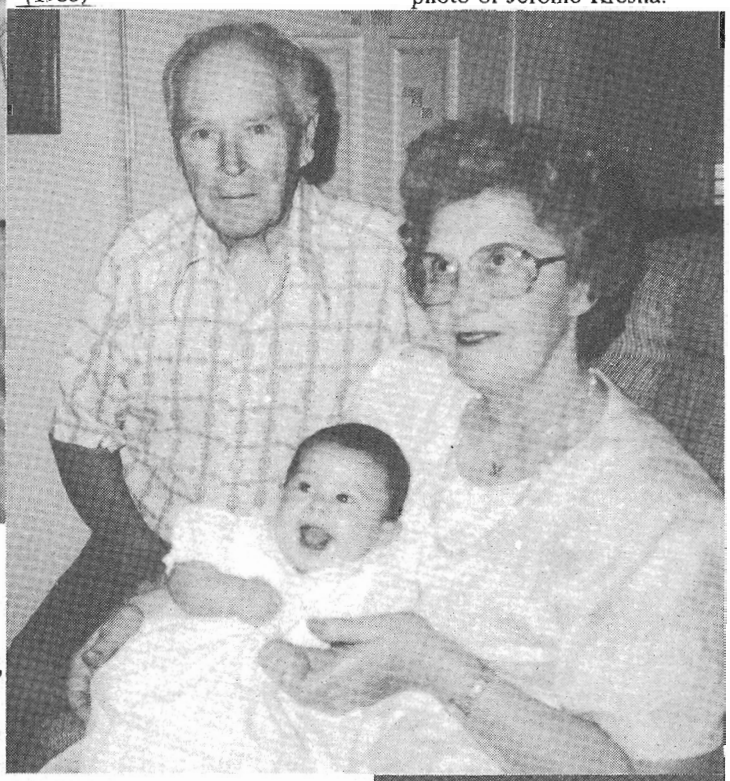
(L-R, Front) Marie and Mark Chaissan, (Middle) George and Margaret Kresha, (Back) Donald and Diane Chaisson and Jerome Kresha.



Jerome and Rose Elia Kresha (1986)



High School Graduation photo of Jerome Kresha.



Four month old Ruth Diane Kresha with grandparents, George and Margaret Kresha.



The 1987 wedding of Jerome and Rose Elia Kresha.



Rose Elia Kresha with Diane Kresha Chaisson.

Chapter Fourteen

ROSE ANGELLA KRESHA

Rose Angella Kresha was born on September 21, 1912 to Adolf and Sophia (Kropatsch) Kresha in their home in Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. She attended rural school District 39, and graduated from the eighth grade. She attended Osceola High School one year and then attended and graduated from Kramer High School in Columbus, Nebraska. She stayed with her sister Cecelia and husband John Smagacz in Columbus. She majored in Normal Training and passed the State Board Examinations, receiving her Teaching Certificate.

Rose signed her first contract and taught in the rural School District 63 in Polk County one year, then taught in rural School District 16 in Platte County. She returned to Polk County and taught in District 16 and 18. The attendance totaled 40 and her salary was $40. It was during this time that the school board asked her to teach the students more music and she took piano lessons to add to her qualifications.

In the summer of 1933, she and Ruth Berger booked a tour to the World's Fair which was held in Chicago. Her Papa Adolf told her that Chicago was a big city full of gangsters, and they might get lost, but they went with a group and had a wonderful time.

In the winter of 1934, Rose met Bernard Hilger at a Catholic Youth Play and Dance at the Opera House in Bellwood.

Rose and Bernard were married on June 8, 1937 at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Osceola, by Rev. Francis Lombardi. Their wedding dance was at Eller's Hall, which was a few miles from St. Andrew's.

Bernard farmed northwest of David City, where he and Rose lived. Bernard was a progressive farmer, and always tried to use new ideas to make his farming more efficient and the soil of his farm more productive. He could make all his own repairs and improved on his machinery's design. He was the first farmer in his community to drill an irrigation well and flood irrigate his corn crop, thus doubling the yields.

Rose and Bernard "Bud" Hilger's first child is Janice "Bonnie", born on October 15, 1940 in St. Mary's Hospital, Columbus. After graduating from St. Mary's High School, David City, she attended the College of St. Mary, Omaha, Nebraska, and Platte College, Columbus, Nebraska. Bonnie married Henry Kobza on October 28, 1961. To this union were born:

John, on February 7, 1963. After High School graduation, he attended Platte College. On January 4, 1986, John married Kim Stara. He made a home for her near Bellwood, Nebraska. Kim graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and teaches in a rural school near Schuyler, Nebraska.

Robert, on August 21, 1964. After completing high school, he attended Southeast Community College in Milford, Nebraska, receiving a Degree in Diesel Technology. Robert was employed at several implement dealer businesses before changing his profession to farming. On April 12, 1986, Robert married Laura Wiese. She received her Licensed Practical Nursing Degree from Platte College and is presently a dental assistant in Columbus, Nebraska. They reside near Bellwood, Nebraska.

Edward, on October 15, 1965. After completing high school, Edward attended Southeast Community College in Milford, Nebraska and graduated with a Degree in Auto Mechanics. He was employed at several auto parts stores, before taking the position as Machinist in the NAPA Store in Schuyler, Nebraska. On August 25, 1987, Edward married Kathy Fleeman. They reside in David City.

Martin, on November 26, 1967. He attended St. Thomas Aquinas High School, receiving several football merits as Defensive Player of the Week. He graduated, receiving a football scholarship to Benedictine College of Atchison, Kansas. He plans to be a Social Studies teacher and coach.

Julie, on March 26, 1969. She was very active in 4-H and received a purple ribbon at the Nebraska State Fair in 1987. Presently, she is attending Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Nebraska, majoring in Business Administration.

Thomas, on January 29, 1976; Catherine, on July 25, 1977; and Anthony, born

on April 14, 1980.

Bonnie and Henry Kobza and their family work together in the auction and real estate business, and also farm. Presently, they live near Bellwood, Nebraska.

Robert was born to Rose and "Bud" on February 24, 1945 in the David City Hospital. He attended St. Mary's Elementary school and graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School. Robert is a member of the David City Rescue Unit. Once he had to swim into a lake where a car was sinking with a small child in it. He broke the back window with a crow bar and rescued the child. Robert married Susan Bolton on September 14, 1968, making a home for her in David City. Susan is a Registered Nurse and works at the David City Hospital. To this union was born Matthew, on August 14, 1974, and Bethany, born on December 14, 1985. Robert is engaged in farming and specializes in alfalfa hay. Presently, they live in David City, Nebraska.

In the David City Hospital, Daniel was born to Rose and "Bud", on May 19, 1946. He attended St. Mary's Elementary School and graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in 1946. He attended the University of Nebraska. Daniel married Mary Jane Turek on June 10, 1957 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in David City. The wedding was scheduled to be in Ulysses, but that town was flooded at the time. Daniel made a home for her on his farm near Bellwood, Nebraska Daniel believes in the regenerative farm system, using very little pesticides and fertilizers. His main crops are corn and alfalfa. He has been a 4-H leader for ten years and received the Bellwood Outstanding Young Farmer Award in 1981, and the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce Family Farm Award in 1983. Mary Jane graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School and attended Central Community College at Columbus, Nebraska. She received a diploma in Word Processing in the secretarial area. She is a 4-H leader. Daniel and Mary Jane gave birth to:

Michael, born on February 24, 1958. He attended St. Mary's Elementary School and graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School. His hobby was go-cart racing, in which he received several trophies. He was a member of the Marietta Livestock 4-H Club and exhibited several times at the Nebraska State Fair. He served in the Nebraska Air National Guard. On February 21, 1987, Michael died in an auto accident, and was buried in the family plot of Presentation Parish near Bellwood, Nebraska.

Michelle, born on June 22, 1969. She graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in David City, Nebraska. Michelle was very active in 4-H, and received the Dairy Award in her demonstration using dairy products. She also received a trophy for sewing the outfit that she modeled at the Butler County and Nebraska State Fairs. She is presently employed as a nanny for a family in Norfolk, Nebraska, while she attends Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

Marcus, born on July 23, 1977. He is attending St. Mary's Elementary School in David City, Nebraska. His interests are in 4-H, swimming, basketball and constructing things. He is a server at Holy Mass at Presentation Parish where he and his family are members.

Bernard built Rose a new home on their farm northwest of David City, where he farmed and raised a few cattle. On Sunday, September 11, 1977 Bud suddenly became sick and passed away. He is buried in the family plot at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in David City, Nebraska.

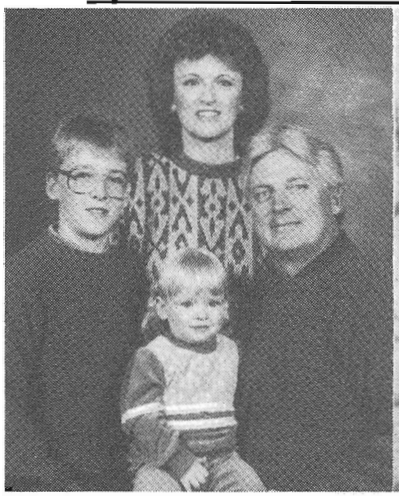
Roses hobbies were growing flowers, gardening and caring for her yard. She was also active in the Senior Citizen's Center in David City and visited the sick and elderly, babysat her grandchildren, and loved to travel. Rose passed away on April 5, 1989 and is buried in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in David City, Nebraska.



(L-R, Front) Phyllis Kresha, Bernard and Rose Hilger, (Back) George Kresha, Pete Birkel, Arnold Hilger, Ann Kresha, Amelia Drval, and Agnes Hilger.



Bernard "Bud" Hilger and Rose (Kresha) Hilger in 1970.



Bob and Sue (Bolton) Hilger with children Matthew and Bethany.



Daniel A. Hilger family (Rose and Bernard Hilger's son). (L-R) Michell, Mary Jane (Turek), Marcus, Daniel and Michael.



Daniel, Rose, Janice (Bonnie), Bernard (Bud), and Robert Hilger in 1977.



(L-R, Front) Tony, Tom, and Cathy, (Middle) Julie, Hank (Henry), Bonnie (Janice), (Back) John and Kim, Ed and Kathy, Bob and Laura, and Martin.

Chapter Fifteen

GAYHART KRESHA

Gayhart "Mike" Kresha was born to Adolf and Sophia (Kropatsch) Kresha at their home in the Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska, on May 27, 1914. His Mama Sophia passed away when he was only 3 years old. His sister Sophia helped her Papa Adolf raise him (as well as his other sisters and brothers).

Gayhart is a German name that was given to him by his Mother. He attended rural school District #39 and completed the eighth grade. He then helped his Papa and brothers in their farming operations.

During the drought and depression years, "Mike" went to California with his brother, George, sister, Ann and their cousins, Clarence and Lester Kropatsch. His first job was in a "filling station". Later, he became the manager of the same gas station. He remarked that many of his customers needed only the free water, air and restrooms! In time, he worked for the City of Bakersfield, driving their bus for 23 years. He was respected for picking up trash along his bus route whenever his schedule allowed.

On September 5, 1938, "Mike" married Lavoda Bates and he made a home for her in Bakersfield, California. To this union was born Michael, on January 1, 1940; and Richard, born on November 27, 1942. "Mike" and Lavoda were divorced on September 9, 1953. Lavoda passed away on February 2, 1976.

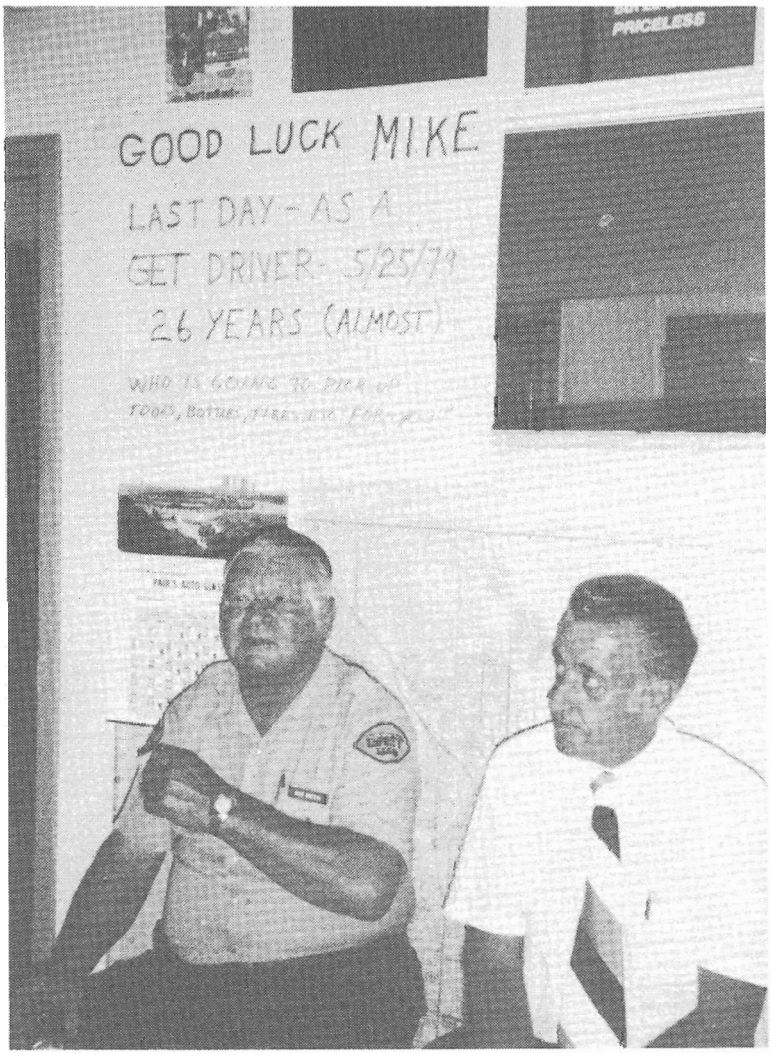
Michael married Dixie Hix on September 12, 1967. Their children are: Troy,

born on March 19, 1968; and Stephen, born on October 31, 1971. Michael and Dixie were divorced in 1986. Michael worked for the Highway Patrol until his health failed. Michael married Cindy Zeilman on April 15, 1988.

Richard married Andrea Scott on March 11, 1963. To this union was born Lisa Kresha, on October 4, 1967. Richard and Andrea were divorced in 1972. Richard married Gale Lewis on December 28, 1973. Gayle's children are: Diana Lewis, born April 25, 1964; and Milisa Lewis, born on April 29, 1967. Richard served in the National Guard.

"Mike" was a "Jack of all Trades", and he loved to buy and sell used articles and antiques, after he refinished or repaired them. He relates that when the first earthquake that he experienced in California happened, he looked out the front window to see his parked car move three feet forward and then three feet back. His car was in "park" and it was 5 a.m.

Gayhart "Mike" Kresha resides at 2705 Norman Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93304.



Gayhart Kresha's last day as a bus driver in Bakersfield, sitting and talking with his boss, Mr. Kaiser, at a party for him after work. Notice the sign! He kept Bakersfield beautiful! "Who is going to pick up tools, bottles, tires and etc. for you?" (Mike picked up more junk along the road as he drove, even money. He found lots of dollar bills.)



Gayhart and Lovoda Kresha with baby Clarence Kresha in 1939.



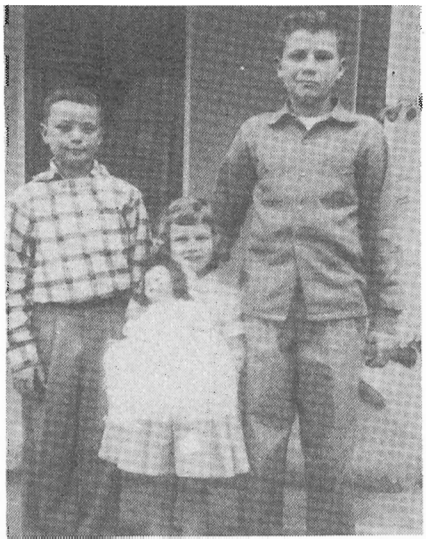
(L-R) George Kresha, Gayhart (Mike) Kresha, Lovoda (Bates) Kresha and bridesmaid.



(L-R) Margaret (Trausch) Kresha, George Kresha and baby Diane, Mike Kresha, Ann Kresha, Richard Kresha, Michael Kresha, and Lovoda (Bates) Kresha. (1976)



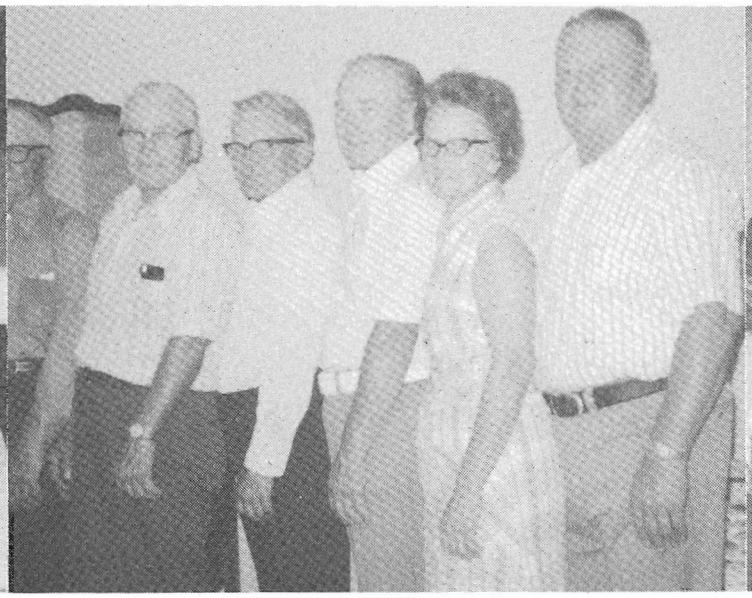
Richard, Diane and Michael Kresha on Christmas Day, 1954.



Gayhart Kresh's sons, Michael and Richard Kresha.



Gayhart "Mike" Kresha.



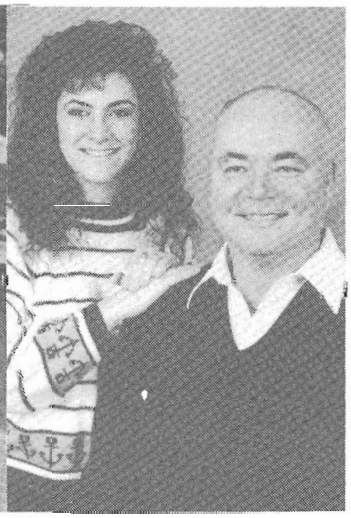
(L-R) John Kresha, Adolph Kresha, George Kresha, Rose Hilger, and Gayhart "Mike" Kresha.



Richard and Gayle Kresha. (1987)



(L-R, Seated) Gayhart Kresha, Richard Kresha, Gail Kresha, Cindy and Michael Kresha, (Standing) Ann Hensel and Lavella Kropack.



Richard Kresha and daughter, Lisa. (1987)



Michael and Cindy Kresha



Graduate Gail Kresha with her four daughters, (L-R) Jennifer, Gail, Milisa, Diana and Lisa. (1987)



Richard Kresha's duaghter, Jennifer Kresha. (1987)

Chapter Sixteen

Adolf and Eva

Adolf met Eva Frances Karges at his sister Anna and her husband Martin Karges' home near Silver Creek and began courting her. On June 24, 1919, they were married at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Duncan where her parents were members. That very day he brought her to his home in Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska to live with him and his children.

Eva Frances Karges was born on December 12, 1892 to Martin and Amelia Scholz, on a farm west of Duncan, Nebraska. She had an older sister who died at birth. Her Mother died from breast cancer when Eva was three years old. Grandma Scholz took care of Eva, who liked to run away from home --- to the neighbors, where there were some playmates.

When Eva's father, Martin, married Cecelia Torczon, a widow who had a son named Frank Torczon, she was happy to be in a family again. Soon, she had Lucy, Frances, Cecelia, Martha and Mary for half sisters, and Adam and Martin for half brothers.

Eva attended St. Stanislaus Catholic School in Duncan, Nebraska and completed the fourth grade. She learned a second language, Polish. By then, she was needed at home to care for her half brothers and sisters.

As a teenager, Eva was in an accident, and lost the sight in one eye. She had aspired to be a Nun, but could not pass the physical, so she found employment in Duncan, at

the Telephone Company, as a switchboard operator.

Adolf and Eva (Karges) gave birth to the following children:

Amelia Cecelia, on July 9, 1920; Martin Oswald, on April 9, 1922; Lillian Veronica, on April 12, 1923; Walter and Arthur Joseph, twin sons, on April 1, 1925; Charles Raphael, on November 4, 1926; Wilfred "Bill" Francis, on March 27, 1928, Patricia Louise on August 31, 1929; Frances Mary, on September 24, 1930; Adrian Frederick, on October 1, 1931; and Rita Agnes, on March 7, 1934.

In 1921, Papa Adolf borrowed a couple thousand dollars to build onto the house to make more rooms for his second family. He also had a Delco Light Plant installed in the house which was wired for electricity. A bathroom was made upstairs for his older children and a water pressure tank was installed in the basement for running water.

He subscribed to telephone service. It was the only one for 7 miles around him. He extended an invitation to all his neighbors to come at anytime to use the telephone. The doors were never locked. (Papa said that if anyone needed what he had more than he needed it, they were welcome to take it). So one night we heard Louis Lisco calling the Doctor in Osceola to come deliver their baby. It was used by all our neighbors until they could afford to pay for their own phone.)

In the summer of 1927, Walter, one of the twins, became very sick and passed away at St. Mary's Hospital in Columbus, Nebraska. He was buried in the family plot of St. Andrew's Catholic Cemetery.[20]

In the fall of the late thirties, Papa Adolf suffered a heart attack and was in the Osceola Hospital for several weeks. Mama Eva stayed in town to be by his side. At home Martin looked after the livestock and farming, while Lillian, who was in high school, cared for the 7 other children who were all in school. He recovered but never could do manual labor again.

In the winter of 1949, Papa's health began to fail. In January he was hospitalized and passed away on February 1, 1950. He died of heart and kidney failure. He was laid to rest beside his first wife, Sophie (Kropatsch) in the family plot that he had purchased in St. Andrew's Catholic Cemetery.

More incidents and details are given about Papa Adolf in the chapter, "Remembering Papa Adolf".

Eva Kresha was a good cook. She canned many fruits and vegetables for her large family. Her help was needed to work and preserve the meat that was butchered for the family table.

She was a seamstress, making the smaller children's clothing from the best fabric remaining from the older children's clothing. She never wasted a scrap. Quilts and

[20] See more about Walter's death in the chapter on "Walter and Arthur".

comforters were made for all the beds.

The family always had a large garden, and Eva loved to work outdoors. One day, when Papa Adolf was too busy to build a small chicken coop for a hen with a batch of new chicks, she took the hammer, saw, square and nails, and made it herself. Was Papa ever suprised! They all were!

Eva was very religious, and led her family in prayers. She was a member of St. Andrew's Church and Altar Society.

After her husband's death, Eva stayed on the farm, keeping house for her oldest son, Martin.

Opportunity came knocking on Eva's door one day, when Rev. John Howe came to see her and ask her to work for him as housekeeper. This job she held for nineteen years.

When Eva's health began to fail and she needed hip surgery, she resigned her job and went to California to stay with her youngest daughter, Rita, and have her surgery. After recovering, she lived in an apartment at Heritage House, in Columbus, Nebraska.

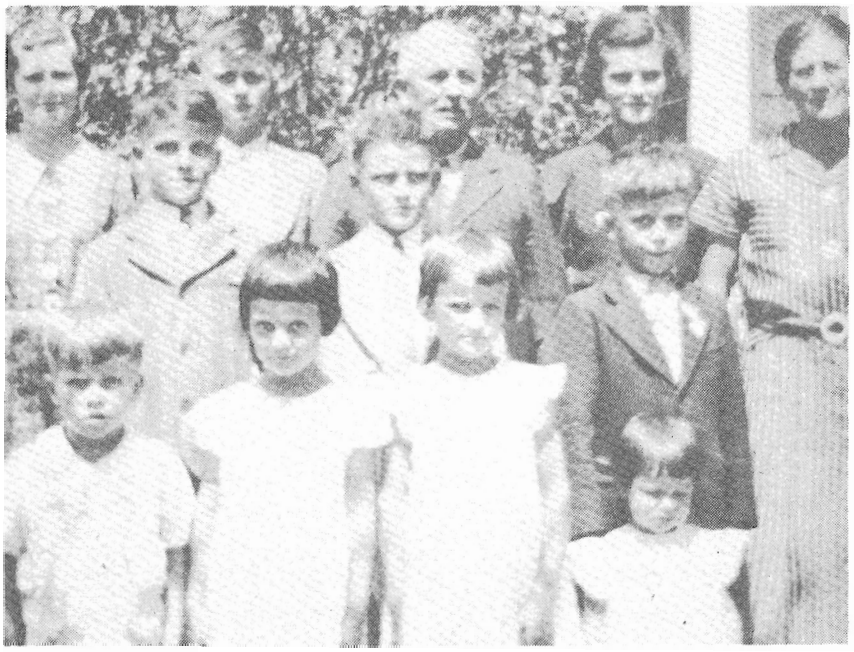
At age 91, Eva could no longer live alone, so she moved to Mory's Haven, in Columbus. At this writing, she is 96, and gets around in her wheel chair. She prays for all her family and attends rosary and Mass daily.



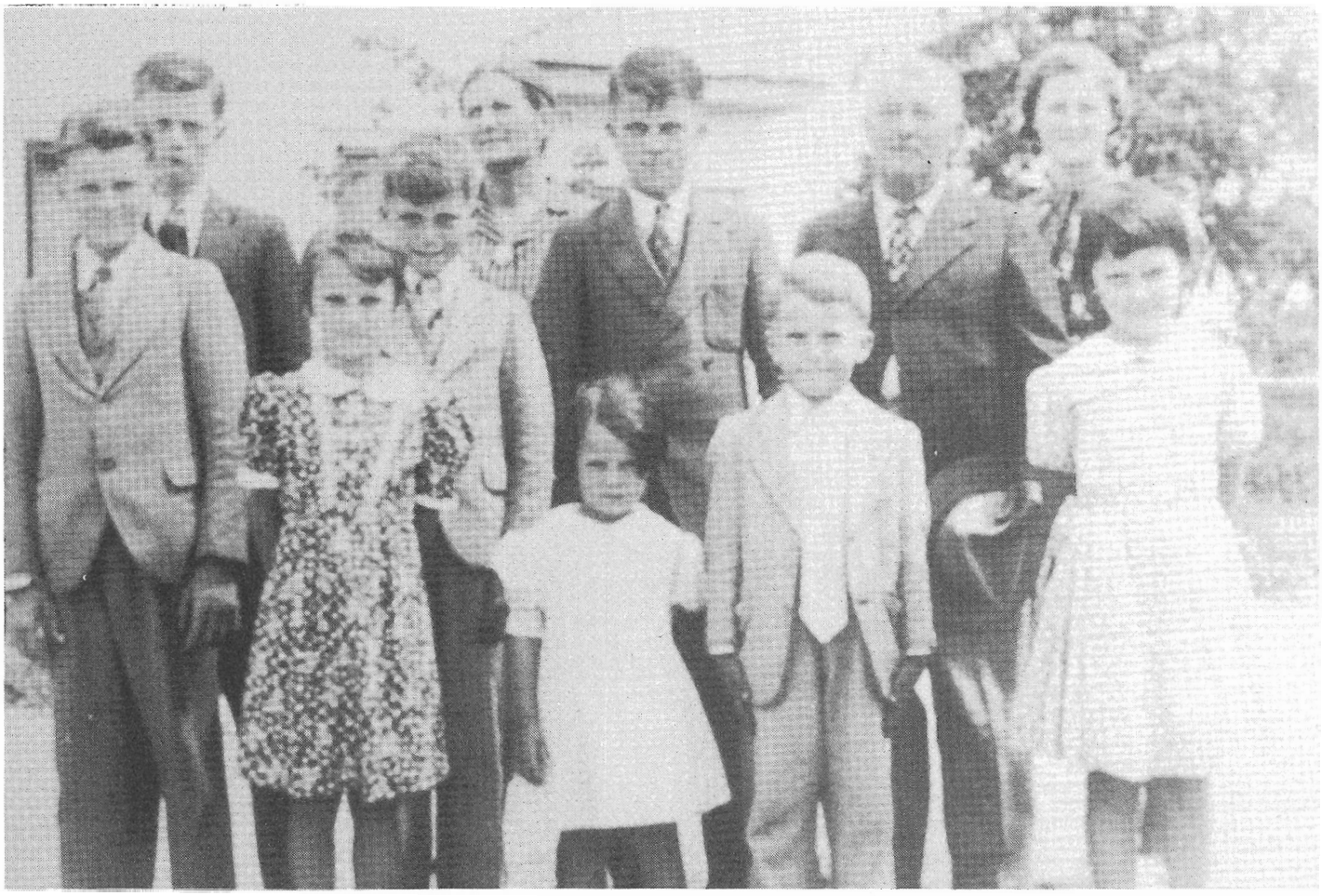
This picture taken in September of 1944 with all 19 children (George was in the service and his picture was added later). Pictured (L-R, Front) Adolf and Eva Kresha. (L-R, Middle) Rita, Ann, Patricia, Mary, Amelia, Rose, Lillian, Cecelia, Leo, and Sophia. (L-R, Back) Adrian, Arthur, Wilfred, Charles, Adolph, Gayhart, John, Martin, and George.



Adolf Kresha and second wife, Eva Karges Kresha, married June 24, 1919.



Adolf's second family taken in August of 1936, shortly before Amelia left for the convent. (L-R, Front) Adrian, Mary, Patricia and Rita. (L-R, Middle) Arthur, Charles, and Wilfred. (L-R, Back) Lillian, Martin, Adolph, Amelia, and Eva.



Adolf's second family taken in 1940. (L-R, Front) Patricia, Rita, Adrian, and Mary Kresha. (L-R, Middle) Charles, Wilfred, Arthur and Adolf. (L-R, Back) Martin, Eva, Lillian. (photo by Gene Thomas)



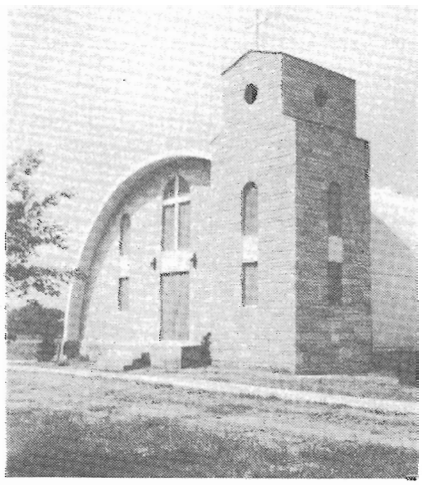
A four generation photo taken at the 1984 family reunion. (L-R) Marcie Etter and Jennifer Strauss with baby Zachary Etter and Grandma Eva Kresha.



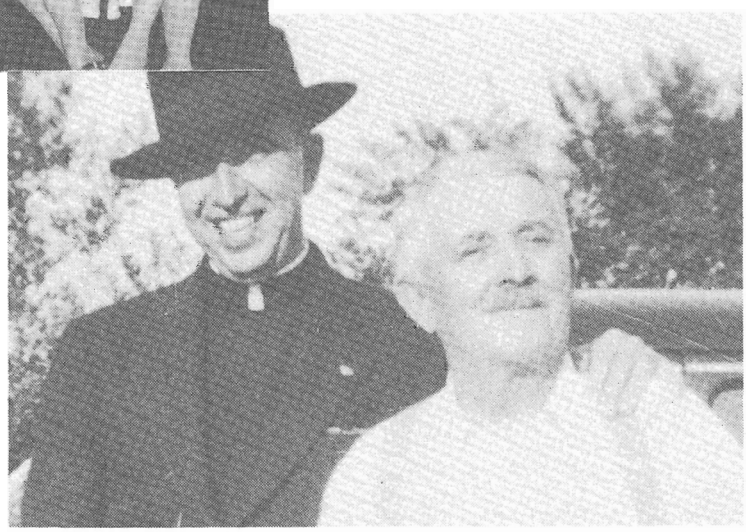
(L-R, Front) Lillian Witulski, Eva Kresha, Amelia "Millie" Lukassen, Mary Lukassen and Adrian Kresha. (L-R, Back) Wilfred "Bill", Charles and Martin Kresha.



The Kresha Family in Kimball, NE in September of 1979. (L-R, Front) Lillian Witulski, Mary Lukassen, Eva Kresha, Sophia Kresha, Rose Hilger and Amelia Lukassen. (L-R, Middle) Ursula Kresha, Patricia Kresha, Irene Kresha, Arthur Kresha, Doloris Nyffeler, and Lucille Kresha. (L-R, Back) Bill Kresha, Gene Thomas, Harold Witulski, Dick Nyffeler, Charles Kresha, Dale Lukassen.



St. Andrew's Church in Osceola, NE in 1950



Reverand Sylvester Wagner and Adolf Kresha in 1935.

A 1944 family photo. Pictured (L-R, Front) Adrian, Papa Adolf, Mama Eva and Rita Kresha. (L-R, Middle) Martin, Amelia, Mary, Patricia, Lillian, and Arthur. (L-R, Back) Bill and Charles Kresha.



In 1988, Eva Kresha celebrated her 96th birthday. Shown here is Lillian Witulski and Eva Kresha.



The 90th birthday celebration of Eva Kresha. (L-R) Helen Karges, Eva Kresha and Mary Van Velkinburg.



Eva Kresha in 1983 on her 90th birthday.

Chapter Seventeen

Amelia Cecelia Kresha

Amelia Kresha was born to Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha on July 9, 1920, at home in the Valley Precinct, Polk County of Osceola, Nebraska. She attended rural school District #39 and completed the 8th grade. She attended Osceola High School in the 9th grade, staying with Magnusons.

In 1936, she entered the Franciscan Convent in Lafayette, Indiana. There, she completed her high school education. When she entered the Noviciate, her Papa Adolf and Mama Eva were there for the ceremony. George Kresha had come from his home in Bakersfield, California, and took them to Indiana.

Amelia took her nurse's training at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver, Colorado. When the time arrived for her to profess her final vows (7 years), she left the convent, went home, and after careful contemplation, decided not to return to the convent. She worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Columbus, Nebraska during 1944. When there were rumors of nurses being drafted in the service, she volunteered, and served for over two years, being stationed in California.

When Amelia received her honorable discharge from the Navy in San Diego, California

in August, 1946, she went to Kimball, Nebraska to live with her sister and brother-in-law, Lillian and Leo Kosch.

On November 26, 1946, Amelia married Dale Lukassen, in her home parish of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Osceola, Nebraska. Dale made a home for her on the farm norhtwest of Kimball. They also lived on a farm near Dix, Nebraska, for a few years before moving to Canon City, Colorado. Dale is a rancher and farmer.

Amelia (Millie) and Dale Lukassen's children are: Cynthia Marie on October 10, 1947. She married John Ehmke in Canon City, Colorado on February 4, 1967. To this union were born: Johnna Marie, on June 30, 1967; and Jason Fredrick, on April 29, 1970. They live in Canon City, Colorado.

Steven Arnold was born on January 6, 1949. He was a blizzard baby and his parents just made it to the hospital before he saw the light of day. He lives in Canon City , Colorado.

Constance Ann Lukassen arrived on April 30, 1950, to Millie and Dale. She married John Palmer on November 28, 1970. To this union were born: Kristina Marie, on January 11, 1974; Kori Ann, on January 13, 1976; Jennifer Lyn, on April 3, 1978; and Jessica Renee, on April 8, 1982. They live in Canon City, Colorado.

Vaughn Lukassen was born on May 13, 1951. He married Teresia Joska on February 16, 1980. To this union were born: Denise Cathleen, on July 14, 1983; and Colby James, on July 16, 1987. They live near Kimball, Nebraska.

Callen Frederick Lukassen was born on August 6, 1952. He married Barbara Bowles (born on January 30, 1952) on July 7, 1973. Their children are: Brandon James, born on June 29, 1976; Sean Robert, on February 18, 1982; and Brooke Ra Anne, on March 23, 1986. They live in Greeley, Colorado.

Timothy Dale Lukassen was born on November 25, 1953. He married Catherine Campbell (born on November 16, 1953) on May 26, 1973. To this union were born: Mandy Lea, on October 8, 1975; and another daughter, Kacey Jean, on May 31, 1978. He lives at Dix, Nebraska.

Bartley Kent Lukassen was born on August 2, 1956. He married Veta Snider on April 11, 1981. To this union was born: Holland Cheretta, on June 26, 1984. They live at Florence, Colorado.

Curtis John Lukassen was born on September 16, 1959.

Evan Michael Lukassen was born on April 30, 1964.

Millie's hobbies were crocheting, gardening, reading, political interests, and helping the elderly, leader of 4-H clubs, Colorado Cowbells and Rebels Riding Club. She also worked as an R.N. at St. Thomas More Hospital and Holy Cross Abbey in Canon City, Colorado.

Millie (Amelia Kresha) Lukassen became critically ill in December of 1984 and passed away on December 22, 1984. She is buried in Lakeside Cemetery of Canon City, Colorado.



Patricia Kresha, Mary Kresha, Amelia and Dale Lukassen, Howard Lukassen, Arthur Kresha and flower girl, Karen Lukassen.



(L-R, Front) Tim, Curtis, Amelia, Callen, Dale, (Back) Vaughn, Steven, Constance and Cynthia Lukassen.



Dale and Millie (Amelia) Lukassen family. (L-R, Front) Cathy (Tim's wife and children Kacey and Mandy) Lukassen, Dale, Millie Lukassen, baby Jenifer Palmer, Conney Palmer, Johnna Ehmke, Kari Palmer, and Kristina Palmer, (Middle) Terrie Lukassen, Cindy Ehmke, John Palmer, Steve and Evan Lukassen, (Back) Jason, Vaughn, Tim, Callen, Curt, Bart Lukassen.



(L-R, Front) Cindy Ehmke, Dale, Millie and Conney Palmer, (Back) Evan, Steven, Vaughn, Tim, Callen, Curt and Bart Lukassen. (1980)



Rose Hilger, Amelia Lukassen, Eva Kresha, Charles Kresha, Patricia Thomas, Lillian Witulski and Mary Lukassen.



Eva Kresha, Sister Mary Norberta (Amelia Kresha) and Adolf Kresha. (1938-39)



Arthur, Amelia and Charles Kresha. (1946)

Chapter Eighteen

MARTIN OSWALD KRESHA

Martin Oswald Kresha was born on April 9, 1922, to Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha, at home in the Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. Martin attended the rural school District 39 and completed the eighth grade. Due to the poor health of his Papa Adolf, he then took over the family farming operations.

In 1933, when Martin's brothers George and Gayhart stalled the family car several miles from home, due to snowdrifts, they proceeded to walk home for a team and wagon. They left Martin, who was eleven, and Arthur, who was eight, alone in the car. After about 30 minutes, Martin succeeded in starting the car, shifted into low gear, and steered the car, while Arthur got down on the floorboard and pushed with his hand on the accelerator. These two little boys kept the car in the snow track, had a corner to turn, and one hill to climb. The older brothers, George and Gayhart, had just arrived home, when the family car was heard chugging up the family driveway, in low gear. Martin and Arthur had quite a bit to talk about when they went to school the following Monday.

Martin had learned to butcher and dress cattle and hogs from his Papa and continued this work, helping any neighbors who needed him. He loved to care for animals and

became an experienced veterinary assistant as a part time job. He made a home for his Mama Eva until she left in 1960 to keep house for Rev. John Howe in Holdrege, Nebraska.

On June 14, 1960, Martin and Elaine Kniefel were married. He made a home for her on the Kresha Family farm.

To his union were born Patrick, on January 1, 1962; Kenneth, on November 21, 1963; Bernard, on October 8, 1964; twin daughters Colene and Jolene, on December 30, 1966; and Lois, on May 17, 1968.

Patrick attended Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska for two years and received an Associate Degree in Drafting. He lives in Boulder City, Nevada, where he is employed as an electrical draftsman at Hoover Dam.

Kenneth attended Southeast Community College at the Milford Campus and received a degree in Diesel Technology. He lives and is employed in St. Edward, Nebraska. Kenneth married Star Loveless on April 16, 1988 at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Duncan, Nebraska. They have one daughter, Kristine.

Bernard is employed at Grosch Irrigation in Silver Creek, Nebraska and also farms the Kresha Estate Farm with his father, Martin.

Jolene Kresha attended Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska and received an Associate Degree in Pre-Medicine. She is employed at Henke Machine Co. in Columbus.

Colene Kresha attended Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska and received an Associate Degree in Pre-Medicine. She now attends Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and is working toward a Degree in Pharmacy.

Lois is attending Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska and is majoring in Child Care.

Martin's hobbies are raising purebred hogs and cattle, bowling, and hunting wild game. He also is very handy at fixing up buildings on the farm and farm machinery, as a mechanic.

In the fall of 1987, Martin and Elaine moved to Columbus, Nebraska, where Elaine is a teacher in St. Isidore's Catholic Schools. Martin is semi-retired, while still overseeing the farming operations that his son, Bernard, is now doing on the Kresha Estate farm.

Martin Kresha made many friends in his veterinarian work. He has the ability to deal with people and is very congenial.



Martin and Elaine (Kneifel) Kresha, June 14, 1960.



Jolene and Colleen Kresha



(L-R, Front) Jolene, Colleen, Lois, (Back) Kenneth, Elaine, Martin, Patrick and Bernard Kresha.



The Martin Kresha family. (L-R, Front) Colleen, (Middle) Martin, Elaine, Jolene, and Lois, (Back) Bernard, Kenneth, and Patrick.



Kenneth and Star (Loveless) Kresha at April 16, 1988 wedding.



(L-R, Front) Lillian Witulski, Eva Kresha, Rita Kresha, (Back) Arthur, Charles, Martin, Bill Kresha and Mary Lukassen.



Kresha Family Reunion: (L-R) Eva, Rita, Adolph, Leo, Bill Kresha, Mary Lukassen, Millie Lukassen, Martin Kresha, Lillian Witulski, Charles Kresha and Rose Hilger.

Chapter Nineteen

LILLIAN VERONICA KRESHA

Lillian Veronica Kresha was born on April 12, 1923 to Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha in the Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. She attended rural school District 39 and Osceola High School, graduating in 1940 with a Teaching Certificate. Lillian taught in rural schools in Polk County for three and a half years. In her last school, she had 23 students and received $75 a month. Lillian also attended Midland College in Fremont, Nebraska.

On January 4, 1944, Lillian married Leo Kosch in St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Osceola, Nebraska. Leo was in the U.S. Air Force at the time and they lived for more than a year in Del Rio, Texas.

To this union was born Marcia Lee, on November 16, 1944.

Leo Kosch was a crew chief on a B-26 and was stationed on a Bomber Training Base during World War II. When he received his honorable discharge in 1945, he moved his family to Kimball, Nebraska, to live on a wheat farm.

On September 14, 1946, Mary Louise Kosch was born. On July 31, 1948, Leon Joseph

arrived. On January 25, 1953, Larry James was born at the Kimball Hospital. All of the Kosch children attended rural school District 30.

In August of 1959, Leo Kosch became seriously ill and passed away on October 8, 1959. He is buried in the Kimball Cemetery.

In November of 1959, Lillian moved with her four children to Lincoln, Nebraska, where they could have a Catholic Education and go to college.

On December 26, 1964, Lillian and Harold Witulski were married in the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. In January, 1965, he moved his new family to a farm near Beatrice, Nebraska, where he had built them a new home.

Marcia Lee Kosch graduated from Lincoln Pius X High School and attended several colleges, graduating from state University of Iowa with a B.S. and B.A. Degree in Special Education. Marcia taught the hearing impaired in Iowa, Washington, and Colorado schools. On April 26, 1969, she married George Strauss in St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Beatrice, Nebraska. On October 1, 1969, a daughter, Jennifer, was born to them in Vancouver, Washington. They were divorced in 1977. Marcia received a Church Annulment of this marriage. On July 18, 1981, Marcia and Murl Etter were married in St. John The Baptist Catholic Church of Longmont, Colorado. Murl made a home for her and Jennifer in Lafayette, Colorado. On July 7, 1983, Marcia and Murl gave birth to Zachary William.

Mary Lou Kosch graduated from St. Joseph High School in Beatrice, Nebraska, and graduated from state University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, with a degree in Special Education. She taught at the Council Bluff's School for the Deaf. She received her Masters Degree in Special Education. On November 15, 1969, Mary Lou married Thomas O'Brien in St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. To this union were born: Katheryn, on July 5, 1970; Matthew, on July 7, 1972; Bethanie, on October 24, 1975; Benjamin, on October 28, 1977; Kelly, on July 29, 1979; and Andrew, on June 14, 1981. Presently, they live at Beaver Lake, near Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

Leon Joseph Kosch attended Lincoln Pius X High School where he played football. Leon graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Beatrice, Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska. He served in the Navy on the U.S. Enterprise as an electronic technician. On November 14, 1970, Leon married Sharon Melton in Oak Harbor, Washington. They now live in Tacoma, Washington. At present, they have two foster children: Christine and Chad.

Larry Kosch attended schools in Kimball, Lincoln and graduated from Beatrice High School. Larry attended college in Fairbury an Peru, graduating with a Degree in Journalism. He also attended college in Council Bluffs, receiving an Associate Degree in Computer Science. Larry now lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Lillian's hobbies are in art, music, writing, gardening and raising exotic chickens. She has been a leader in 4-H clubs, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Fairbury Deanery, Extension Clubs, and Church Women United. Harold's hobbies ar making works of art in metal and on the wood turning lathe. He is an industrious farmer. At one time, he

specialized in raising purebred Yorkshire hogs. Harold keeps up with all the modern farming methods and is the only farmer in his neighborhood with center pivot irrigation. He drilled his own wells and does all his own machinery repairs. Presently, Lillian and Harold live on a farm, southwest of Beatrice, Nebraska.



Lillian Kresha. (1942)



Lillian Kresha and Leo Kosch wedding, January 4, 1944.



Family of Leo and Lillian Kosch, 1959. (L-R) Marcia, Leon, Lillian, Leo, Larry and Mary Lou Kosch.



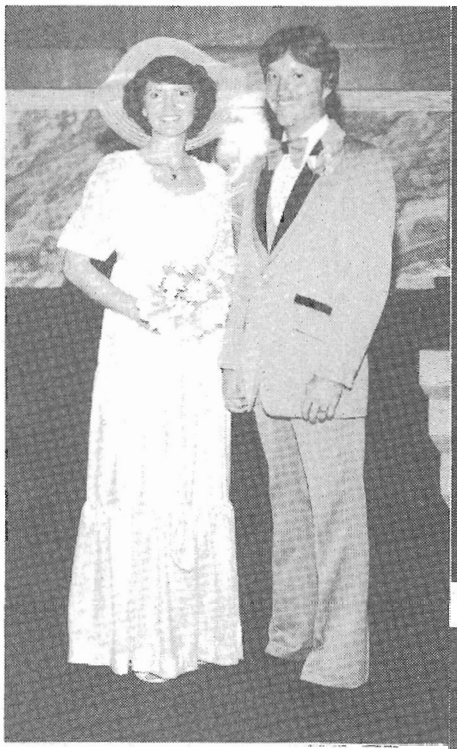
Leo and Lillian Kosch family (L-R) Larry, Mary Lou, Leon and Marcia Lee. (1957)



Wedding of Lillian Kresha Kosch and Harold Witulski, December 26, 1964. (L-R) Larry Kosch, Mary Lou Kosch, Lillian (Kresha) Witulski, Harold Witulski, Marcia Lee Kosch and Leon Kosch.



Lillian and Harold Witulski.



Marcia Kosch Strauss and Murl Etter wedding, July 18, 1981.



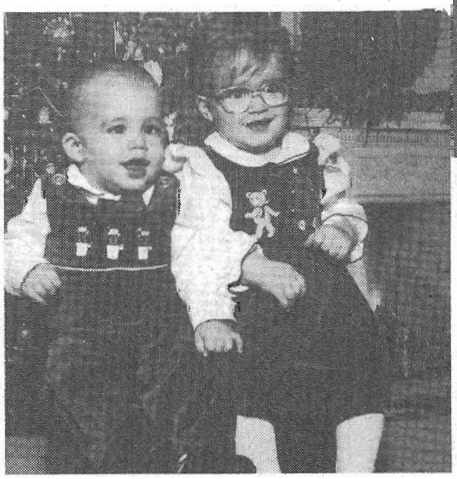
Marcie (Kosch) and Murl Etter with Zachary Etter and Jennie Strauss.



Sharon and Leon Kosch. (1986)



(L-R, Front) Mary Lou, Andrew, Kely and Thomas O'Brien, (Middle) Benjamin and Bethanie O'Brien, (Back) Matthew and Kathryn O'Brien.



Christine and Chad are the foster children of Leon and Sharon Kosch.



(L-R, Front) Katie O'Brien, Matthew, Bethanie, Benjamin and Kelly O'Brien, (Middle) Mary O'Brien, Lillian Witulski, Sharon Kosch, Jennifer Strauss, Marcie and Zachary Etter, (Back) Thomas and Andrew O'Brien, Harold Witulski, Leon and Larry Kosch and Murl Etter.



(L-R) Zachary Etter, Jennifer Strauss, Lillian Witulski, Marcie Etter and Eva Kresha. (1985)



(L-R, Front) Andrew, Benjamin, Kelly O'Brien and Zachary Etter, (Middle) Matthew O'Brien, Jennifer Strauss, Katie and Bethanie O'Brien, (Back) Thomas and Mary O'Brien, Lillian and Harold Witulski, Leon Kosch, Larry Kosch, Murl and Marcie Etter.

Chapter Twenty

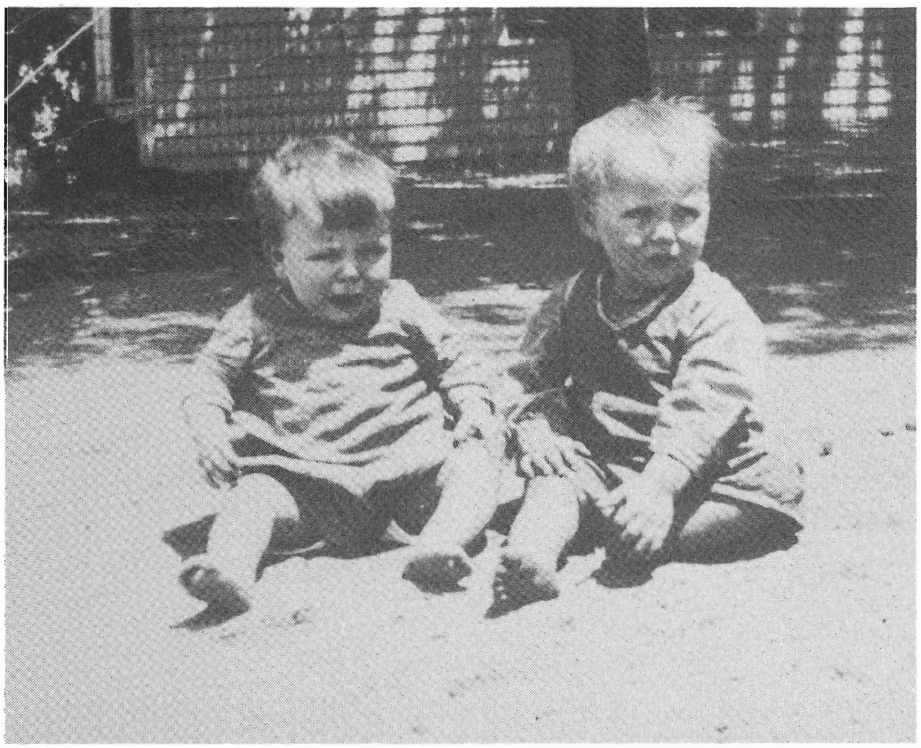
WALTER T. & ARTHUR J. KRESHA

Walter and Arthur, twin sons of Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha were born at home in the Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska, on April 1, 1925. To the April Fool surprise of Dr. C. R. LeMar and the family, no one was expecting twins. Walter, the first born, was of large build and weighed over 7 pounds. He was blonde and blue eyed. Arthur was of small build, just 6 pounds, black hair, and blue eyed. They were the only twins in the neighborhood or in the Catholic Church where the family worshiped.

They were double trouble, too! Lillian remembers in the summer of 1927, Walter and Arthur were just 2 years old, and they caught baby chicks and stuffed them in a half gallon jar, all the while saying, "Help Mama can chickens." She ran into the house to get Mama Eva. Twenty-nine chicks were lost.

In late July, Walter became feverish and very sick. Mama Eva started to bathe him

in a tub of warm water to bring down his fever. Lillian, age 4, was sent out to the field where Papa Adolf was plowing with a team of horses. It was about 9:30 a.m. Lillian said, "Papa, Papa, come quick! Walter is sick and Mama wants to take him to the doctor right away." Papa looked at his watch and remarked that the horses weren't tired yet, and to tell Mama that he'd be home in an hour. Then she said, "But Papa, Walter can't hold up his head and he keeps looking up at the ceiling all the time. Mama is giving him a bath already, before taking him to the doctor!" Immediately, Papa pulled the two bottom plow out of the ground and headed the horses for home. Walter was quickly taken to Dr. C. R. LeMar in Osceola and on the same day moved to St. Mary's Hospital in Columbus, Nebraska where there was a pediatrician to care for him. Walter passed away on July 30, 1927, and was buried at St. Andrew's Catholic Church on Sunday afternoon, July 31, 1927, in the family plot.



Arthur and Walter Kresha at age 15 months.



Walter Kresha, July 31, 1927.

Chapter Twenty-one

ARTHUR JOSEPH KRESHA

Arthur Joseph Kresha, one of twins, was born on April 1, 1925 to Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha at Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. He attended rural school District 39, and completed the eighth grade. Arthur attended Osceola High School and graduated.

While attending Osceola High, Arthur was on the football team. When school was dismissed at 3:30 p.m., the smells of food from the Home Economics room really "bothered" Arthur. Arthur asked the Home Economics teacher, Miss Vida Reckmeyer, if he could take cooking, too. Her answer was "no", but if he could find seven other boys who were interested in signing up for the cooking class, she'd teach them. Arthur has a winning way of convincing his friends, and Miss Reckmeyer had to teach a class of boys how to cook. They loved it--except washing up the dirty dishes afterwards. Many of these same boys ended up as farming bachelors.

Arthur never cared for farming and loved to work with wood, building things and fixing cars and motors. He entered the Army in 1944, and was stationed in the Philippines during World War II. Arthur's job was to keep the generators running in the foxhole where the mortar guns were positioned. After an injury to his hand, he was returned

to the States, and in 1946 received an honorable discharge.

On November 4, 1947, Arthur married Irene Daniekski at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Duncan, Nebraska. He made a home for Irene in Columbus, Nebraska. He was a tavern owner, and built homes and office buildings.

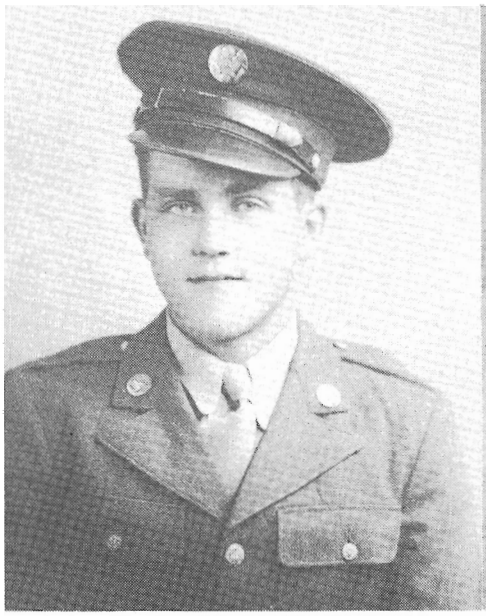
Dian was born to Arthur and Irene on August 26, 1948. Dian married Dr. William Gabriel on August 12, 1968. Their children are: Ross, born on December 7, 1971, and Ty, born on June 9, 1973. They live in California, where Dian is the office manager for her husband. Dian has a teaching certificate from Creighton University.

On February 28, 1950, Linda was born to Arthur and Irene. Linda attended Catholic Schools in Columbus, Nebraska, and graduated from the University of Nebraska with a teaching degree. Linda married Kevin Wibbels on June 4, 1971 at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church, Columbus. To this union was born a daughter, Shelby, on April 16, 1979. Linda resides in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she teaches Real Estate and is a Real Estate broker, and Kevin teaches in the Lincoln school system.

Donna was born to Arthur and Irene, on August 8, 1951. Donna completed her education in the Catholic Schools in Columbus, Nebraska, and graduated from the University of Nebraska with a M.A. Degree in Audiology. Donna married Dr. James Block on January 5, 1973, at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Columbus. They have two daughters, Kyla, born on February 28, 1978, and Nina, born on October 24, 1980. Living in Minnesota, Donna received her Doctorate Degree in Medicine from the University of Minnesota, and is presently doing her internship, while her husband specializes in surgery.

Roberta (Bobbi) was born to Arthur and Irene on April 15, 1954. Roberta completed her education in the Columbus Catholic Schools and graduated from the University of Nebraska, receiving an Associate Degree in Dietetics. Roberta married Mark Wolf on August 31, 1973. Roberta and Mark have a son, Ryan, born on December 16, 1974. They are presently living in Omaha, Nebraska.

Arthur and Irene still live in Columbus, Nebraska. Arthur retired a few years ago due to his health. He is talented as a carpenter and mechanic, and is well versed when making business deals.



Arthur Kresha, World War II photo.



Arthur and Irene Kresha



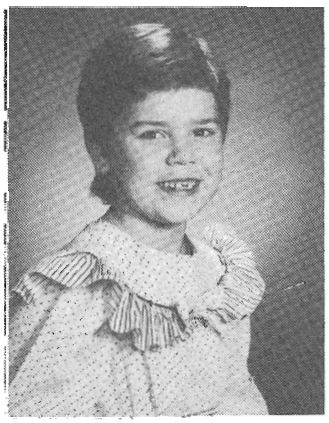
Arthur Kresha



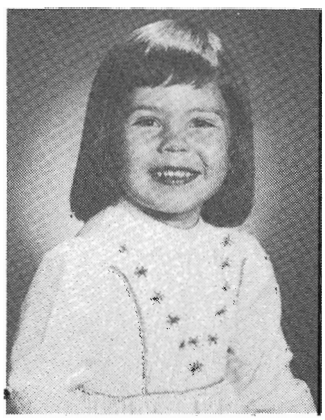
(L-R, Front) Leo Kosch, Dale Lukassen, Amelia Kresha, Lillian (Kresha) Kosch, Charles Kresha, Marcia Kosch and Arthur Kresha.



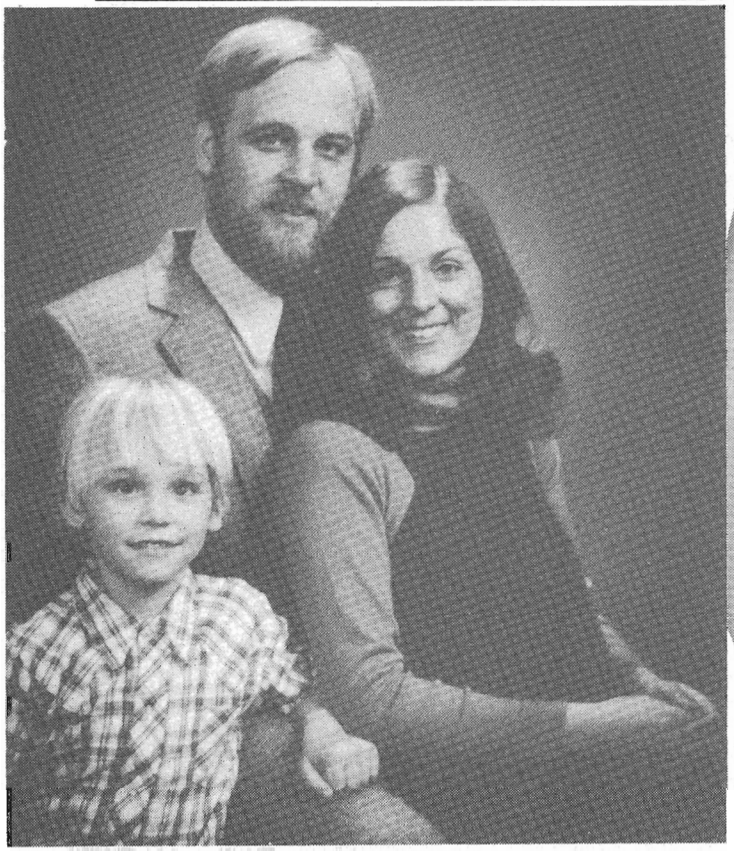
Dr. James and Dr. Donna (Kresha) Block.



Kyla Block



Nina Block



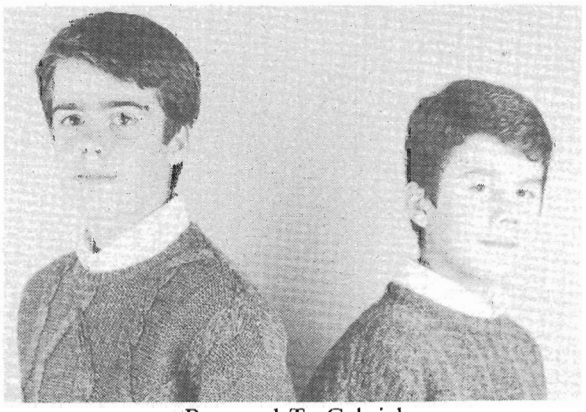
Mark and Roberta "Bobbie" (Kresha) Wolf and son, Ryan. (1982)



Dr. William Gabriel and Dian (Kresha) Gabriel.



Kevin and Linda (Kresha) Wibbels.



Ross and Ty Gabriel.



Shelly Wibbels, daughter of Linda and Kevin Wibbels.

Chapter Twenty-two

CHARLES RAPHAEL KRESHA

Died 4/25/09 Columbus St. Francis Cem.

Charles Raphael Kresha was born on November 4, 1926, to Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha in the Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. He attended rural school District 39, and completed the eighth grade. Charles attended Osceola High School, where he was active on the football and baseball teams, and graduated in 1943.

Charles served in the U.S. Air Force and spent most of his time in Texas, playing baseball on his Squadron's team. After his honorable discharge, he worked for a while in Omaha. Charles then lived at home while he sold waterless cookware. He was a very good cook and gave demonstrations on flavor and vitamin saving techniques. Soon he found a good farm to rent west of Shelby, Nebraska.

On May 14, 1951, Charles and Lucille Danielski were married in St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Duncan, Nebraska. He made a home for her on the farm, west of Shelby, Nebraska. After a few years, they moved to her family farm near Humphrey, Nebraska.

On August 20, 1952, Kathryn was born. Kathryn attended Humphrey High School and Platte Technical College. She married Robert Mausbach on September 2, 1972. Their children are: Tamara, born on January 10, 1975; Jason, born on

December 30, 1976; Robert, born on December 14, 1979; and Angela, born on January 20, 1982. Kathryn is talented in music, singing and playing the piano. They currently live in Phoenix, Arizona.

On November 30, 1953 Jacquelyn was born. Jacquelyn attended Humphrey Public Schools. She was very gifted in music, and was a piano accompanist for the chorus groups in school. Always such a willing worker, she had planned to become a nurse. Jacquelyn lost her life in a farm tractor accident on August 18, 1970, and is buried at Humphrey, Nebraska in the St. Francis Catholic Cemetery.

Edward was born on July 15, 1955. He attended Humphrey Public Schools and Platte College in Columbus, Nebraska. Edward helped his parents in the farming operation and now farms on their home place. He loves sports and is talented in baseball.

On August 4, 1957, Andrea was born. She attended Humphrey Public Schools and Platte College in Columbus, Nebraska. On August 27, 1976, Andrea married Ted Preister at St. Francis Catholic Church in Humphrey, Nebraska. To this union were born: Regina, on December 28, 1976; Jacquelyn, on June 24, 1980; and Nicole on July 6, 1982.

Nancy was born on May 2, 1959. She graduated from Humphrey High School and attended Platte College in Columbus, Nebraska. On September 13, 1980, Nancy married Michael Bender. They have a son, Ross, born on August 19, 1985, and a daughter, Kristen Layne, born on October 23, 1988. Nancy is talented in music, playing the piano and singing.

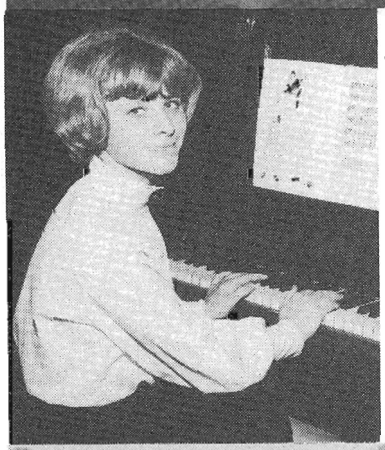
On January 2, 1962, Julia was born. She graduated from Humphrey HIgh School. On July 10, 1980 Julia married Glenn Preister. To this union were born: Joseph, on November 2, 1980; Matthew, on February 19, 1985; and Todd Michael, born on April 19, 1988. Julia has a natural talent for music, singing and playing the piano.

Kristina was born on April 9, 1963. She graduated from Humphrey High School and attended Platte College in Columbus, Nebraska. On November 13, 1982, Kristina and James Becker were married. They have a daughter, Jennifer Lee, born on August 9, 1988.

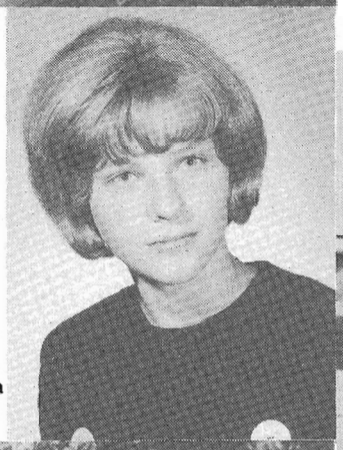
Charles has many talents and hobbies. He loved sports, especially baseball. Charles also loved farm animals and took great pride in his farming operation, but retired due to health reasons. Charles enjoyed card games that he learned at home. Now he enjoys fishing and traveling, and reading, which keeps him well informed in government, agriculture, and nutrition issues. In 1985, Charles and Lucille built a new retirement home in Columbus, Nebraska, where they now reside.



(L-R, Front) Nancy (Kresha) Bender (Michael), Charles Kresha, Lucille Kresha, Kathryn (Kresha) Mausbach (Robert), (Back) Andrea (Kresha) Preister (Ted), Julia (Kresha) Preister (Glen), Edward Kresha, and Kristina (Kresha) Becker (James).



Jacquelyn Kresha.



Jacquelyn "Jackie" Kresha at age 14.



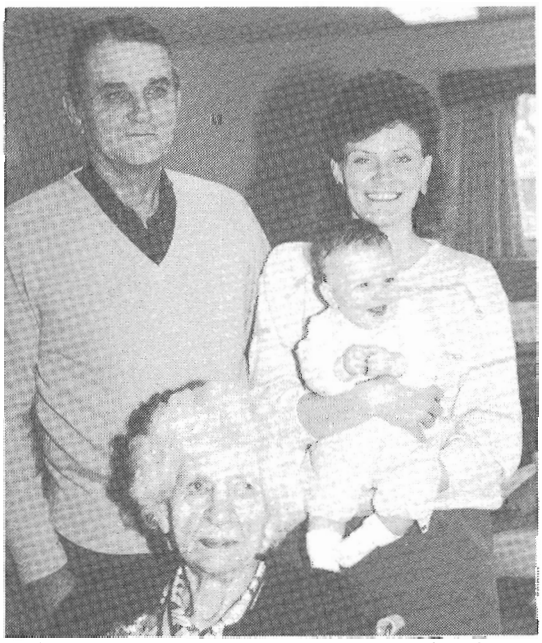
(L-R) Leo, Cecelia Smagacz, Adolph, George, Rose Hilger, Martin, Lillian Witulski, Arthur, Charles and Bill Kresha.



Charles Kresha in 1946.



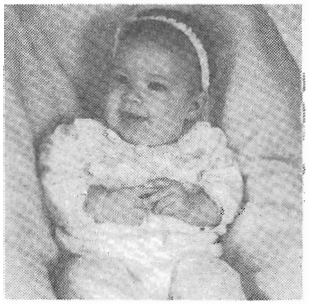
(L-R, Front) Nicole Preister, Jackie Preister, Regina Preister, Tamara Mausbach, Robert Mausbach, (Row 2) Ted Preister, Andrea Preister, Charles Kresha, Lucille Kresha, Joey Preister, Kathi Mausbach and Angela Mausbach, (Row 3) Nancy Bender and baby, Ross Bender, Kristi Becker, Julia Preister and Jason Mausbach, (Row 4) Michael Bender, Edward Kresha, James Becker, Glen Preister, Matthew Preister, Robert Mausbach.



(L-R) Charles Kresha's daughter, Kristi and baby Jennifer Lee Becker with Eva Kresha on her 96th birthday. (1988)



Jennifer Lee Becker, daughter of Kristi and Jim Becker.



Kristen Layne Bender, daughter of Michael and Nancy Bender.



Matthew Preister, Joey Preister and Todd Preister, sons of Julia and Glen Preister.

Chapter Twenty-three

WILFRED F. KRESHA

Wilfred "Bill Kresha was born on March 27, 1928 to Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha at home in Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. He attended rural school District 39 and graduated from Osceola High School in 1945. Bill helped his Papa Adolf and brother Martin farm for several years.

On July 4, 1949, Bill Kresha married Ursula Micek at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Duncan, Nebraska. He made a home for her in Columbus, Nebraska, where he had a trucking job. For a few years his work took him to St. Louis, Missouri, where he moved his family, and then they moved back to Columbus.

To this union were born:

Debrah, on December 19, 1950. After graduating from high school, she attended beauty school and received her cosmetologist license. She now operates her own beauty shop, "The Hair Loft", in Columbus, Nebraska. Debrah attends to her Grandma Eva's hair and givers her a permanent every few months.

James, on February 27, 1952. He attended the University of Nebraska, Lincoln,

receiving a Degree in Business. James is employed at the West Roads Bank of Omaha, Nebraska. On July 31, 1976 James married Sharon Raun in the Holy Family Church of Heartwell, Nebraska. Sharon graduated from the University of Nebraska Law School and is a partner in a Law Firm in Omaha, Nebraska. They have two children, Daniel, born on October 22, 1982 and Robert, born on April 12, 1984. Presently, they live in Omaha.

Joyce, born on December 15, 1953. Joyce graduated from Columbus High School and is employed at Dale Electronics as an Order Entry Clerk.

Michael, born on June 28, 1957. He graduated from Columbus High School and attended Platte College in Columbus, Nebraska. Michael currently lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he is an assistant manager of the "1/2 Price Store".

Constance, born on October 7, 1958. She graduated from Columbus High School and attended Platte College in Columbus, Nebraska. She is the manager of the "Brass Buckle" clothing store in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. On March 6, 1982, Constance married Dan Schwab in the Salem Congregational Church of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Dan made a home for her on his farm south of Gering, Nebraska. His son is Jeffrey Schwab, who was born on February 11, 1973. Dan is engaged in farming.

Bill owns and operates "The Huddles Bar" in Platte Center, Nebraska. They serve homemade soups and sandwiches at noon. Once, the nearby Elm Creek flooded and water came up to the front step of "The Huddles Bar". Bill spent the night there, ready to move out the merchandise. Ursula helps Debrah at "The Hair Loft", and also at "The Huddles Bar".

Mother Eva Kresha chose Bill to take care of her business affairs. He lovingly takes her to the doctor's office and gives her any care that she needs. Bill and Ursula reside in Columbus, Nebraska.



Wilfred "Bill" Kresha and wife, Ursula (Micek), July 4, 1949.

The first family reunion in 1958. (L-R, Front) Arthur Kresha, Eva Kresha, Patricia Thomas, Rose Hilger, Adolph and Martin Kresha, (Back) Leo, John, Bill and Charles Kresha.

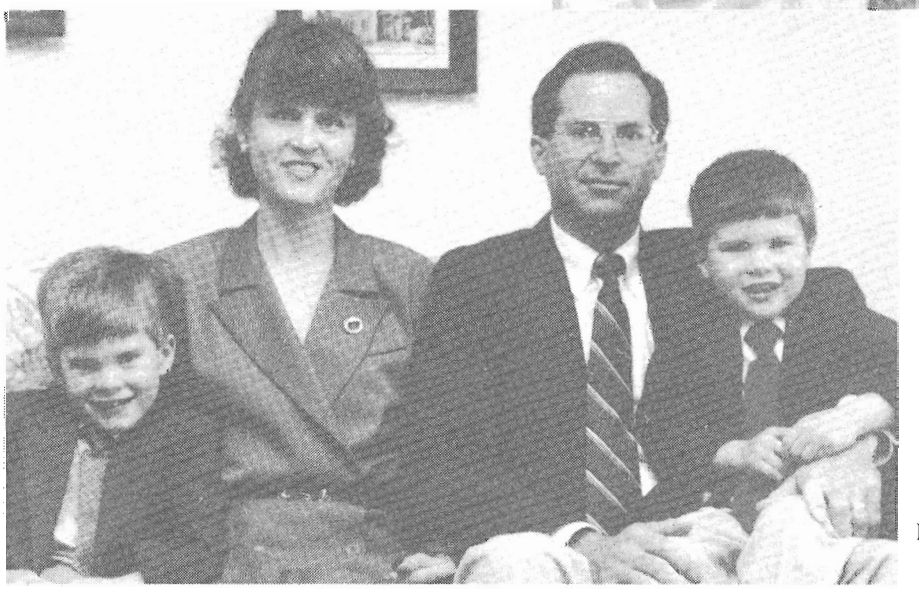




(L-R, Front) Mike, Jim, Connie, Joyce, and Debbie are the chidren of Bill and Ursula Kresha.



Connie, Jeff and (Back) Danny Schwab.



Dan, Shari, Jim and Rob Kresha.

Chapter Twenty-four

PATRICIA LOUISE KRESHA

Patricia Louise Kresha was born on August 31, 1929, to Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha at home in the Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. Patricia completed the eighth grade in rural school District 39. She graduated from Osceola High School with a certificate to teach in rural schools. Patricia taught in the Polk County rural schools for several years before taking an accounting job with a bank in Columbus, Nebraska.

While living at home, one Saturday, as Patricia cleaned the front porch and moved the shotgun out of the corner, she remarked that she was going to shoot that gun someday. When the day came, she took the shotgun out into the middle of the yard, aimed it straight up into the sky, and pulled both triggers. The shotgun had a terrible recoil, and dropped to the ground, with Patricia left holding the hot, smoking barrel. Martin was working behind the farm buildings, and when he heard the shots, came running to her, thinking that she had injured herself. It gave him quite a scare, and when he found that she was uninjured, he bent her over his knee and spanked her, saying, "Don't you ever do that again!" Patricia was a teenager at that time.

In about 1955, Patricia and her girlfriend, Betty Kuta, moved to Grand Junction, Colorado to work in the First National Bank. Patricia attended the Catholic Youth

Organization meetings, and there she met Eugene "Gene" Thomas. He was a printer for the **DAILY SENTINEL** in Grand Junction.

Patricia "Pat" and Gene Thomas were married on May 17, 1956, in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Grand Junction, Colorado. That fall, they moved to Denver, Colorado, where Pat found work and Gene enrolled in college.

Soon they purchased **THE FRUITA TIMES** in Fruita, Colorado. After Gene remodeled the office and increased the circulation, they sold this newspaper and purchased **THE HUERFARO WORLD**, sold it within a year, and moved to Boulder, Colorado, where Gene finished college.

Other newspapers that they owned were: **THE PLEASANT HILL TIMES**, Pleasant Hill, Missouri; **DOUGLAS COUNTY NEWS** and **ELBERT COUNTY NEWS**, in Castle Rock, Colorado; and **THE JOHNSTON BREEZE**, of Johnston, Colorado.

To Patricia and Eugene were born:

Joseph Kresha Thomas, born on March 31, 1958 at Fruita, Colorado. Joseph graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in Pleasant HIll, Missouri. He enlisted in the U.S. Marines, and after an honorable discharge, lives in Denver, Colorado, where he works for an optical company.

Teresia Rose Thomas, born on June 29, 1959. Teresia graduated from Castle Rock High School, and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. On July 31, 1982, she married Scott Boyle, at Lakewood, Colorado. He was in the U.S. Air Force, too, and they spent several years in the service, stationed in Germany. They both received an honorable discharge and Scott made a home for her near his parents home in Maine. They were divorced on May 8, 1985. Teresia now lives in San Francisco, California, where she works on a newspaper. Her plans are to go to college and take some courses in writing.

Karen Marie Thomas was born on May 19, 1961. Karen attended high school in Castle Rock, Colorado. She had helped her parents work on the newspapers, but her main interest was in managing a Vintage Clothing Store. Karen managed one in Iowa, Colorado, and now lives in Seattle, Washington. She married Anthony Shawn Higgins, and they have a daughter, Agave Jade, born on November 9, 1988.

Gloria Jean Thomas was born in Walsenburg, Colorado, on July 2, 1964. Gloria graduated from Nevada High School, Nevada, Iowa, and attended Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, where she received her Bachelors Degree. Presently, Gloria is working on **THE NEVADA JOURNAL NEWSPAPER** in Nevada, Iowa, which her father owns. Gloria's plans for the future are to attend the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, and complete post graduate work.

Patricia was always interested in genealogy, and in 1975, with the help of Gene, and Dolores Smagacz Nyffeler, she printed a record book of the descendants of her father, Adolf F. Kresha.

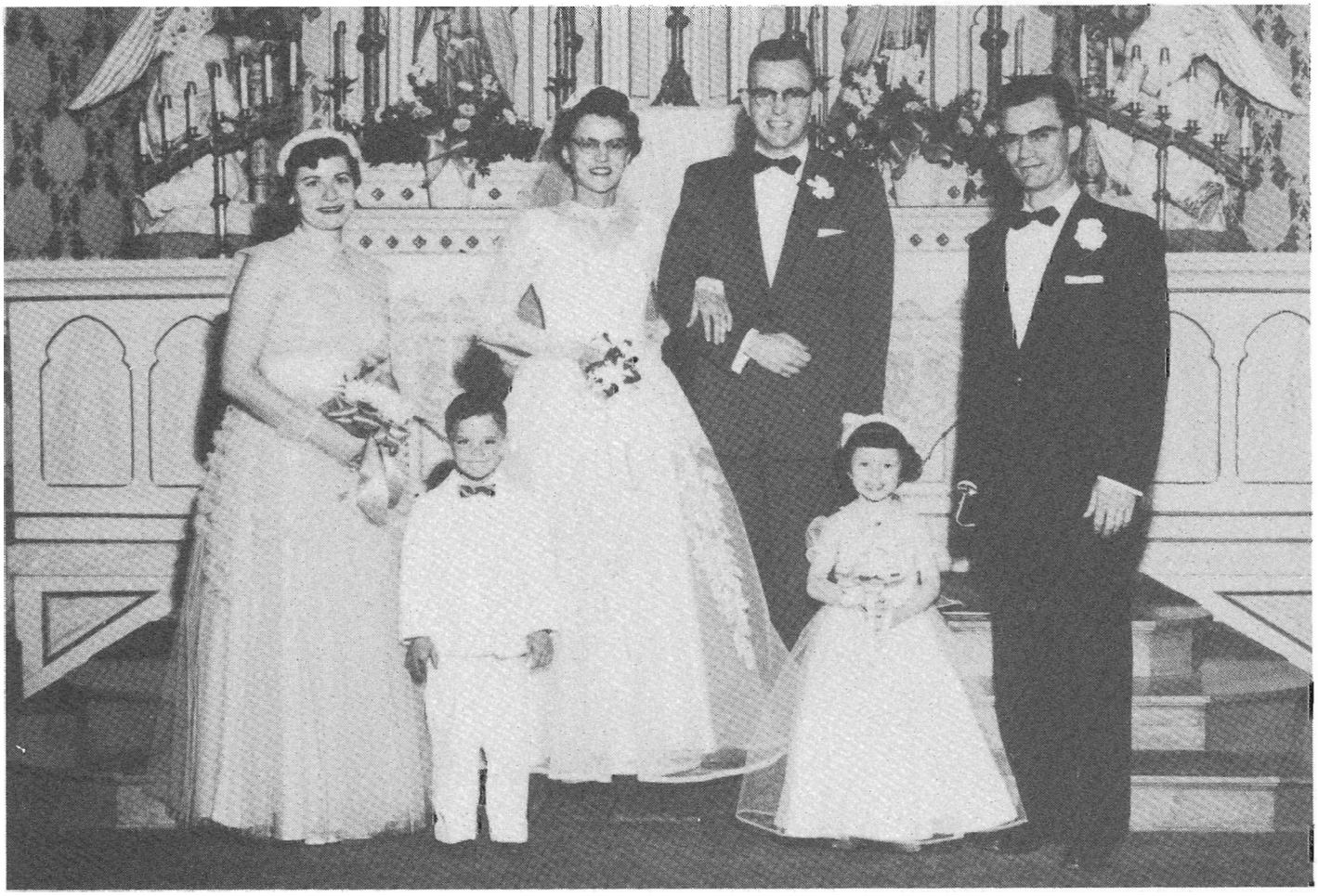
Patricia became seriously ill in 1975 with cancer, and passed away on March 17, 1977 in Lakewood, Colorado. She is buried in the Kresha Family plot at St. Andrew's Catholic Cemetery, of Osceola, Nebraska.

Gene Thomas has been the owner and editor of the **NEVADA JOURNAL NEWSPAPER** for eight years. His plans are to sell it and move to Fruita, Colorado to be near his aged parents. Gene has many talents that are needed to manage a newspaper and meet the public. He can remodel rooms to improve the efficiency and appearance of a newspaper business. Gene is able to perform every phase of the newspaper business. His hobby is gardening and he an Patricia raised a big garden, with fruit trees and grape vines when they lived in Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

Patricia Kresha (1941)



(L-R, Front) Vaughn Lukassen, Debra Kresha (Back) Betty Kuta, Patricia (Kresha) Thomas, Eugene Thomas and Perry Maas.





Gene and Patricia Thomas with their son, Joe. (1958)



Patricia Kresha Thomas and Lillian Kresha Witulski.



(L-R, Front) Karen, Gloria, Terri Thomas, (Back) Pat, Joe, and Gene Thomas.



Gene and Patricia Thomas family. (L-R) Teresia, Gene, Karen, Pat, holding Gloria and Joe. (1967)



Gloria Thomas, Gene Thomas, Rose Hilger and Rosilie Gabel.



(L-R, Front) Leon, Mary Lou, Larry, (Middle) Lillian and Marcia Kosch, Adrian Kresha, (Back) Patricia Kresha, Leo Kosch. (1958)



(L-R) Martin Kresha, Rose Hilger, Arthur Kresha, Rita Kresha, Patricia Thomas, Charles Kresha, Eva Kresha, Lillian Witulski, Bill Kresha and Leo Kresha. (1970)

Chapter Twenty-five

FRANCES MARY KRESHA

Frances Mary Kresha was born on September 24, 1930, to Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha, in their home in Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. When her older brothers and sisters came downstairs in the morning, Papa said, "Come into the bedroom to see your new baby sister, who has lots of black hair." When they went to school that day, all they could talk about was the beautiful baby with all that black hair. Late in the afternoon, Effie Kropatsch came to see the new pretty baby. Soon, everyone started calling her "Mary", because that name suited her perfectly.

Mary attended rural school District 39, and graduated from Osceola High School. She attended Midland College in Fremont, Nebraska. Mary was an elementary school teacher for several years in Polk and Kimball County schools. She also took classes and received her Degree in Certified Food Service.

On May 26, 1951, Mary and Howard James Lukassen were married in the St. Joseph Catholic Church of Kimball Nebraska. Jim made a home for her on the family farm northwest of Kimball, Nebraska.

To this union were born:

Wanda, on June 18, 1952. Wanda attended rural school District 30, and graduated from Kimball High School. She attended the University of Nebraska at Curtis, Nebraska, and received a Degree as a Veterinary Technician. On April 16, 1977, Wanda married Dr. Robert Toombs, DVM, in the St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Kimball, Nebraska. He made a home for her in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, where he has a veterinary clinic. Their two daughters are Kelly, born on May 8, 1979 and Lindsey, born on June 25, 1982. Due to his health, Robert sold the Clinic and he moved his family to College Station, Texas, where he teaches in a Veterinary College.

Nadine, born on June 13, 1953. She attended the rural school District 30, Kimball High School, and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Nadine graduated with a Degree in Horticulture, and was employed in nurseries and greenhouses in Colorado. On September 16, 1979, Nadine married Tom Timmons at the St. Joseph Catholic Church of Kimball, Nebraska. Tom works for the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Their three daughters are: Haley, born on February 21, 1982; Laureen, born on May 15, 1984; and Whitney, born on June 4, 1987. They presently live in Aurora, Colorado.

David, born on December 29, 1954. He attended rural school District 30, Kimball High School, and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. David received an Associate Degree in Agriculture. Presently, he farms the family farm, northwest of Kimball, Nebraska.

Patsy, born on March 27, 1958. She attended rural school District 30, Kimball High School, and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She graduated with a Home Economics Degree. On May 23, 1981, Patsy married John Bauman in the St. Joseph Catholic Church of Kimball, Nebraska. He made a home for her on his ranch near Carpenter, Wyoming. They have one daughter, Kassi, born on March 18, 1987.

Christine, born on December 1, 1961. She attended rural school District 30, Kimball High School, and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln for one year, then she attended the University of Wyoming, graduating with a Home Economics Degree. Christine taught Home Economics at Oshkosh High School, Oshkosh, Nebraska. On September 7, 1985, Christine married Josh Sanders in the St. Joseph Catholic Church of Kimball, Nebraska. Josh is with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Christine and Josh have a daughter, Thea Leigh, born on March 23, 1989. They presently live in Atwood, Kansas.

Martin "Marty", was born on September 16, 1966. He attended the Kimball Elementary School and graduated from the Kimball High School. Marty attended Southeast Community College, Milford, Nebraska, and received an Associate Degree in Diesel Mechanics. Presently, he works for an implement dealer in York, Nebraska.

Jim Lukassen had heavy dirt moving equipment that he used to make field terraces, golf courses, etc. He was talented in mechanics and could fix his own equipment. Jim

loved to farm and raise cattle. Early in 1974, he became seriously ill and finished his heavenly journey on March 21, 1974. Jim was laid to rest in the St. Joseph Cemetery of Kimball, Nebraska.

Mary has carried on with all the farming practices that Jim began. Her hobbies are creating new recipes and working with food. She enjoys needlework and sewing for her grand daughters. Presently, Mary lives on their family farm northwest of Kimball, Nebraska.



(L-R) Charles Kresha, James Lukassen, Wayne Lukassen, Howard, Jim Lukassen, Mary (Kresha) Lukassen, Rita Kresha, Patricia Kresha, Lucille (Danielski) Kresha, Flower girl, Marcia Kosch and ring bearer, Robert Hilger. (May 26, 1951)



(L-R, Front) Patsy Lukassen, Mary Lukassen, Nadine Timmons, Wanda Toombs, and Christine Lukassen, (Back) David Lukassen, Tom Timmons, Bob Toombs, and Martin Lukassen. (1979)



Frances Mary Kresha (1942)



Frances Mary and Jim Lukassen became engaged. They visited her mother, Eva Kresha. (1950)



(L-R, Front)Eva Kresha and Martha Lukassen, (Back) Tom, Nadine Timmons, and Fred Lukassen.



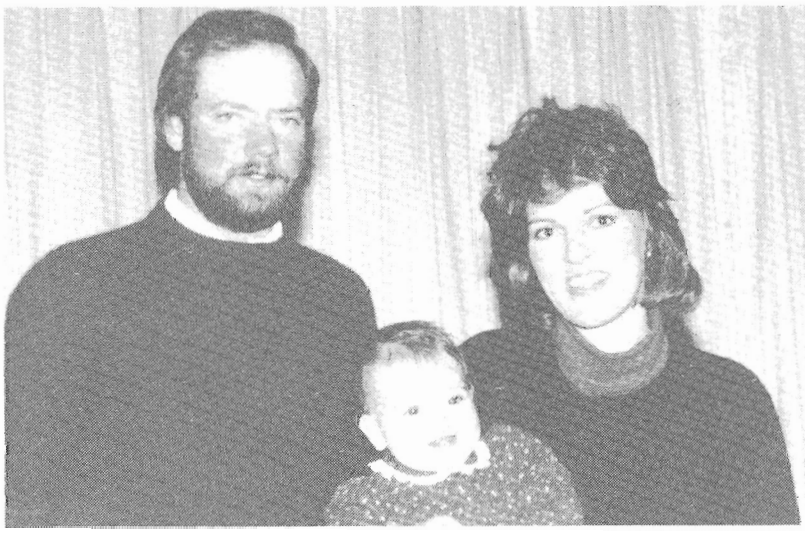
(L-R, Front) Haley Timmons, Lindsey and Kelly Toombs, (Middle) Nadine Timmons, Patricia Bauman, Chris Saunders, Mary Wanda Toombs, (Back) Tom Timmons, holding Laurien, John Bauman, Josh Saunders, Marty, Dave and Bob Toombs.



Nadine and Tom Timmons and three daughters, Haley, Laureen and Whitney (on mother's lap).



Wanda and Bob Toombs with Kelly and Lindsey.



John and Patsy (Lukassen) Bauman and daughter, Kassi.



Christine and Josh Saunders.

Chapter Twenty-six

ADRIAN FREDERICK KRESHA

Adrian Frederick Kresha was born on October 1, 1931, to Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha at home in Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. He attended rural school District 39, and graduated from Osceola High School.

Soon after graduation, Adrian entered the U.S. Air Force. He spent several years on duty in Korea having a desk job. When he received his honorable discharge, on January 12, 1954, he went to Kimball, Nebraska to live.

Adrian's first job was running the projector and showing movies in the new outdoor theatre. He also managed the Elmwood Cafe for several years. When Adrian found employment with an oil drilling company, they trained him as an oil well perforator. He enjoyed this work immensely, and kept this job permanently.

On May 25, 1963, Adrian married Patricia Hoffman at St. Joseph Catholic Church of Kimball, Nebraska. To this union were born:

Pamela Ann, on March 12, 1964. After she completed high school, she found employment at a craft store in Aurora, Colorado. She loves to create pretty

things with her hands, and is also very talented in music.

Andrae Frederick, on January 17, 1965. After high school, Andrae went to trade school and studied auto mechanics. On September 4, 1987, he married Rebecca Lee Lamb. They have one child, Aaron Frederick, born on March 14, 1988. They currently live in Lafayette, Colorado.

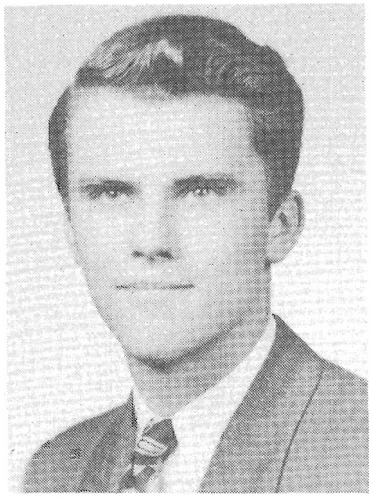
Thomas Anthony, on August 3, 1966. After completing high school, Thomas studied auto mechanics at a trade school. He currently is employed as a mechanic in Brighton, Colorado.

Daniel Mark, on May 2, 1973. Daniel is presently enrolled in Brighton High School and is very talented in music. He is a member of the high school band.

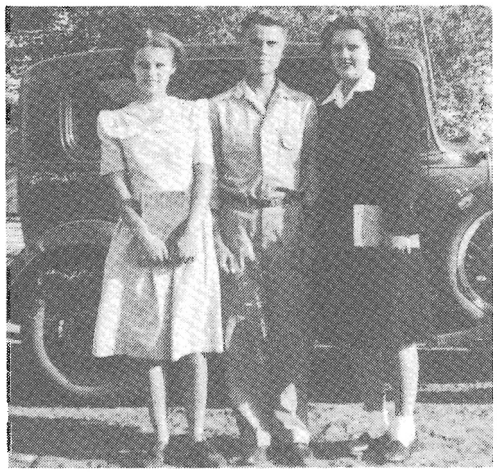
Adrian moved his family from Kimball, Nebraska to Brighton, Colorado, where his company relocated him. On February 27, 1977, Adrian suddenly became very sick and passed away from a brain aneurysm. He was laid to rest in the Brighton Catholic Cemetery in Brighton, Colorado.

Adrian had many talents and hobbies. He was a natural mechanic and loved to plant a garden for his family. He also was a coin collector.

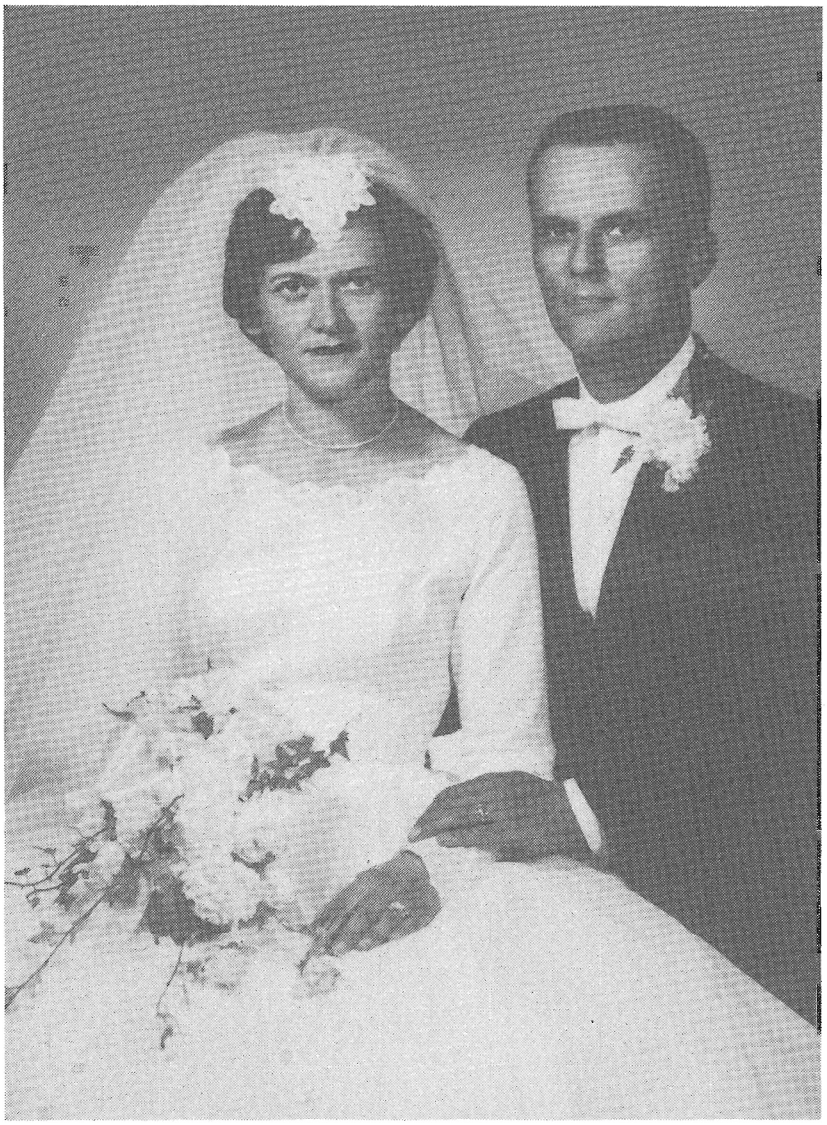
Patricia is talented in art and painting. She loves to create lovely objects with her hands. Presently, she is employed in the Brighton School system, helping handicapped students.



Adrian Kresha (1943)



Patricia Kresha, Adrian Kresha and Mary Kresha. (1944)



Adrian and Patricia Kresha, wedding May 26, 1963.



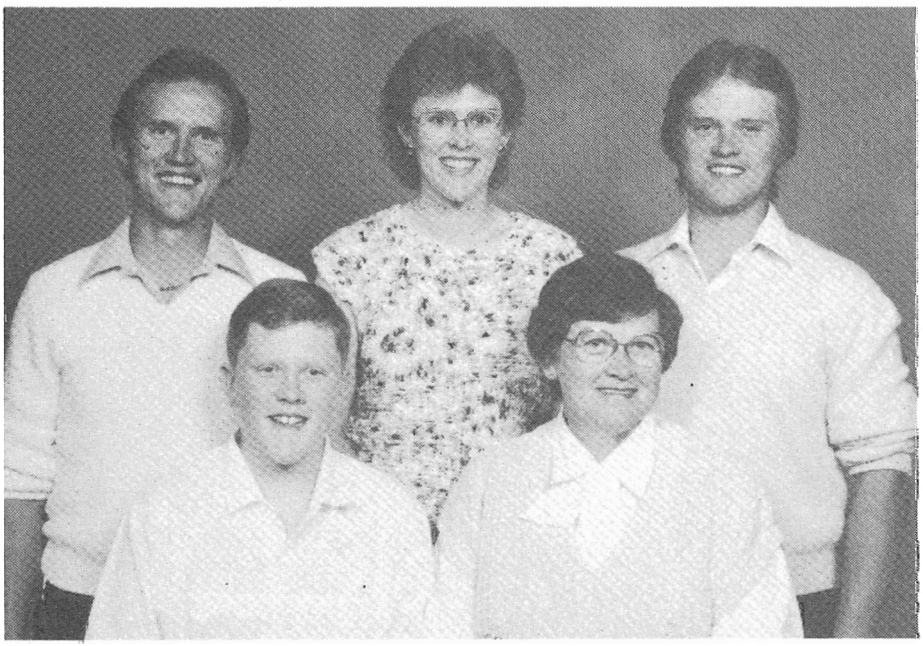
(L-R, Front) Patricia and Daniel, (Back) Pamela, Adrian, Andrae and Thomas Kresha.



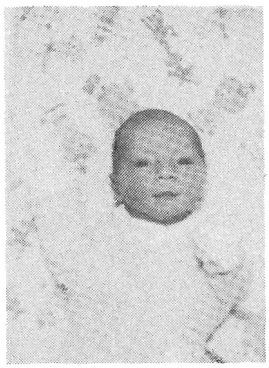
Taken of Adrian Kresha while he was in the service.



(L-R, Front) Daniel Kresha, (Back) Pamela, Andy, Thomas and Patricia.



(L-R, Front) Danny and Patricia Kresha, (Back) Tom, Pam and Andy Kresha.



Aaron Kresha, son of Andrae and Rebecca Kresha. (1988)



Andrae and Rebecca Kresha (1987)

Chapter Twenty-seven

RITA AGNES KRESHA

Rita Agnes Kresha was born to Adolf and Eva (Karges) Kresha on March 7, 1934, at their home in Valley Precinct, Polk County, Osceola, Nebraska. She was the last child to be born to them.

Rita attended the rural school District 39. While attending Osceola High School, she played trumpet in the school band. Upon graduation, she received a scholarship to be used in furthering her education in the nursing profession. Rita attended the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing and received her R.N. Degree. She then enrolled in a college in Chicago, Illinois, where she received her Degree in Anesthesiology.

Rita Kresha moved to Sacramento, California, where she found employment. When her Mama Eva was having pain in her hip and needed hip surgery, Rita invited her to Sacramento, to her home and took personal care of her during surgery and in the six weeks of her recovery. She gave Mama Eva loving care, as only her youngest daughter could give.

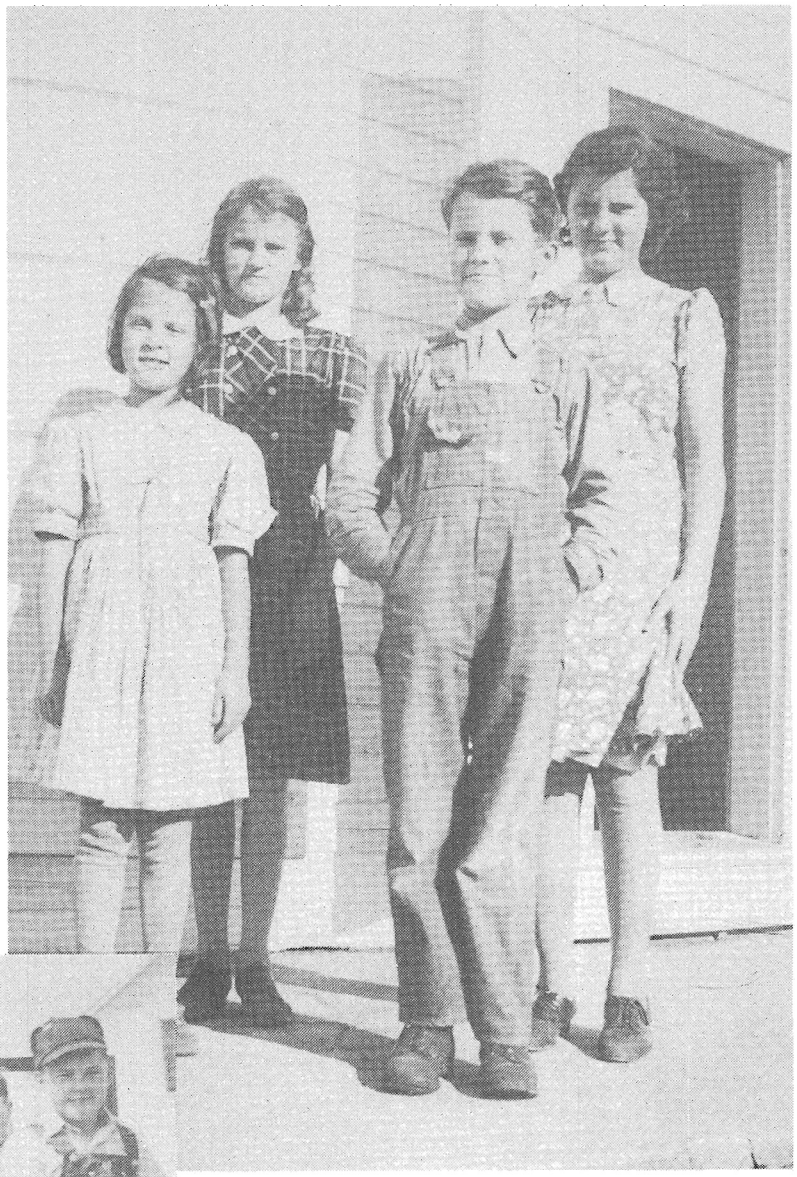
Rita's hobbies are raising natural food, and she has a large garden spot, a few chickens for laying fresh eggs, and a hive of bees for pure honey. She possesses a green thumb

for growing redwood trees from seed. Rita belongs to the Audubon Society and has identified more than 500 different species of birds. She is active in the Catholic Church and volunteers her help with many church activities.

Presently, Rita resides in Sacramento, California.



(L-R, Front) Rita and Adrian, (Middle) Patricia, Mary and Wilfred "Bill", (Back) Arthur, Charles, Lillian, and Martin Kresha. (1936)



(L-R, Front) Rita Kresha, Adrian, (Back) Patricia and Mary Kresha at District #39 school. (1942)



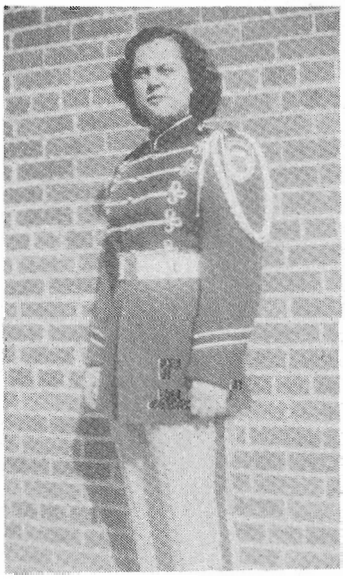
Kresha kids having fun. (L-R, Front) Patricia, Mary, Rita and Paul, (Middle) Glenn, Adrian, Martin, (Back) Allan, Arthur, Bill (in car), and Charles Kresha.



Rita Kresha with her dog.



Surviving sisters in the second family. Lillian Witulski, Rita Kresha, and Mary Lukassen.



1951 Osceola High Band Uniform worn by Rita Kresha.



(L-R, Front) Adrian, George, Martin, (Back) Eva Kresha, Amelia Lukassen, Lillian Kosch, Patricia Kresha, Mary Lukassen, Rita and Sophia Kresha. (1950)



Rita Kresha receives her nurses cap.



Eva and Rita in Sacramento, California.

Chapter Twenty-eight

Remembering Papa Adolf

In the first few years when Papa Adolf and Sophie were newly married and she was sick in bed, Papa had to milk the cow in the evening. The cow took one look at him and kicked, so he went to the house to tell Sophie that the cow would not let him get near her. So she told him to put on her old dress and sunbonnet and then try again. This time when the cow looked, she thought it was Sophie and let Papa milk her. The children never tired of hearing Papa tell about the time he had to wear a lady's dress.

Papa loved to tell his children stories. Mary (daughter) Lukassen remembers that he would hold Adrian and Rita on his lap and tell the whole family a story or two. They'd put out the lights and only the flicker of the wood fire thru the isinglass of the stove door would light up the room. Sometimes he'd tell the story he had read in his German paper, THE DAILY TRIBUNE. If they didn't like the way a story ended, he'd tell it again and with a happier ending. They loved to hear the sound of their Papa's voice. He worked all day and they didn't have a chance to talk to him. Story time was great!

Papa's Gardens

Papa knew how to grow just about everything. He'd plow the garden spot in the fall, which was about 1 block south of the windmill. All the vegetables that weren't canned, were stored in the potato cave, just south east of the house. It was a well ventilated cave with a pipe coming out on top of it. The door faced south and sometimes in the winter, he would open the door for several hours to refresh the air in it. Cabbages with their roots in tact, pumpkins, Hubbard squash, beets, and a couple of wagonloads of Irish Cobbler potatoes would fill the cave for our winter supplies. Papa ate every vegetable except turnips. He had eaten too many of them in the "Old Country".

When it was kraut making time, Papa would hitch up the horses to the wagon and drive to the garden. Cabbage heads would be cut off, trimmed and put into the wagon. When the wagon was full, it was packed up to the front gate. Papa would cut a head open and slice out the heart. Mama Eva would shred the cabbage with the kraut cutter, take it to the kitchen by the cook stove, put it into a clean 50 gallon wooden barrel, sprinkle on a handful of coarse salt, then with the kraut stomper that he had made from the ash tree by the shanty (wash house), she would pack the cabbage down tightly. That process would continue until all the cabbage was used. Then Mama Eva would cover the cabbage with a clean cloth, lay on the kraut boards (made of fruit wood), and then weigh down the boards with a big kraut rock (saved for only that purpose). The warmth of the cook stove would help the kraut to ferment and cure. That odor could be smelled all over the house and into the front yard, if the window was open. When daughter Amelia and Dale Lukassen were married on November 26, 1945, she ordered that kraut barrel taken to the basement before her wedding day! To move that 50 gallen barrel, Mama Eva would fill every dish pan and roasting pan with kraut, until the barrel was empty enough to carry down to the basement. Then she refilled it and covered the whole thing with a clean cloth. Kraut was our only source of vitamin "C". It was delicious served for breakfast with liver wurst.

Papa took his best vegetables to the Polk County Fair and won many ribbons and prize money. In 1925, he had the largest pumpkin, which was then taken to the Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln.

Papa raised watermelons and cantaloupe to sell. Every summer he'd plant a big patch west of the house in a low place, where the soil was rich. He'd advertise in the OSCEOLA RECORD that he was having a FREE Watermelon Festival with all the melon a person could eat. Then he'd sell them some to take home, too. On Saturday, the cattle tank was scrubbed, then the windmill pumped it full of fresh cold water. Several wagonloads of watermelons and cantaloupe were picked, and placed in the tank to cool. On Sunday afternoon the crowd would start coming. Ladies ate their melon on a plate, with fork. Men ate their melon in their hand, spitting out the seeds. Lillian (daughter) remembers one lady saving seeds in her handkerchief from the sweet Black Diamond melon. Papa had striped ones, too. He liked Rock Ford cantaloupe the best.

Here is the story about Papa's melon patch: Young boys, out for a night of fun, would raid Papa's melon patch and trample the vines, break open ripe melons and just eat out the heart, and break open green ones, too. So, he'd take the shotgun, a pocket full of shells and go out to the patch and "watch" until about midnight. Soon he'd hear a car

stop on the other side of the hill. When he heard the fence squeak, he'd pull the trigger on the shotgun. If he didn't guard the patch, the next morning he'd find pocket knives, ball caps, and once even a pair of socks full of sandburrs abondoned in the patch. The children never fell asleep until they heard the sound of the screen door and knew that Papa had come home safely to bed. The older boys decided to put a stop to Papa's shooting, so they made up a story that a neighbor boy had to have buckshot taken out of the back of his legs the next morning. Papa believed them and he never took the shotgun out to the patch again.

Mary (daughter) remembers Papa taking melons to town to sell, when he went to buy groceries. Everyone knew that his melons were the sweetest. His secret was the manure tea that he fed to the plants.

When Papa planted potatoes, he'd purchase a 100 pound sack of seed potatoes at first. He'd cut out the eyes in the morning and after school, we children would plant them. He used a walking plow and would cover them with two passes, then we'd plant another row. The potatoes were so big that there always was part of them left to cook for supper. Papa planted Early Ohio because they matured faster--before the summer drought arrived. It was the children's job to go on "Bug Patrol". When all the potato beetles were shaken into the old buckets, Papa would use a bit of kersene to exterminate them.

Papa Adolf loved to plant trees. We had crab apple, cherry, mulberry, black walnut, 14 peach trees, and grape vines. But the time he purchased 100 catalpa trees that were supposed to grow into fence posts in just a few years, proved to be a fiasco. They were planted in a low place west of the house. The blossoms were lovely and so fragrant. The big leaves provided a cool place for the children to play in the summertime. But in 20 years, those trees still weren't big enough for fence posts. Cedar trees and boxelder trees came up volunteer. During the dry Thirties, the big boxelder trees that shaded the front of the house died. He replaced them with hardy elm trees. In 1987, the elm trees were no longer hardy.

Our Depression Years

by Lillian Witulski

It was in the thirties--the depression years.
The times were hard and it caused some tears.
The crops dried up from lack of rain.
Our family had some grief and pain.

Each morning our Dad would look down south
To the withering corn, its tassels all about.
"Go chop the stalks for the cows," he said,
"They give more milk when they're well fed."

For supper we had some milk and bread.
"Then carry some water to the garden," he said.
The cabbage was growing to make the kraut.
There's vegetables to last all winter, no doubt.

Each night we knelt and prayed for rain.
Clouds came over, but all in vain.
The big trees died, the plains were bare.
The sun spots caused the arid air.

When snow was deep, Dad drove us to school.
With a team and wagon, that was his rule.
He sat up high on the wagon seat.
"Rabbits for supper," he said, "We'll eat".

Rabbits were shot by the pasture fence.
There's meat for the table, Dad made good sense.
Fur was saved to make warm coats.
The team was rewarded with a bag of oats.

The depression gave us grief and strife,
To make us stable for the rest of our life.
Food and clothing were handled with care.
Who says life has to really be fair?

In the winter of 1934, when the roads were clogged with snow, Papa would take the children to school with a team of horses and wagon. He shot a wash tub full of jackrabbits on the trip. For supper, the family had rabbitburgers.

During the Thirties there was a terrible drought. If a few clouds were seen in the sky, Mama Eva would have all her children kneel down around the dining room table and pray the Rosary. In 1937, the summer temperature rose to over 100 degrees for 37 days in a row.[27] In the morning Papa would look south out of the kitchen window and remark that today, he would start chopping the corn stalks on top of the hills for the cattle to eat. It was still green and it had some nutrition remaining in it. The children went with him to the field. With a machete, he chopped off each stalk. The children carried the stalks to the corral and tossed them over the fence to the hungry cattle. Sometimes, the cows were herded along the road because in the bottom of the grader ditch grew little green weeds. The pastures were brown and the supply of hay was gone.

The cows were milked before breakfast and the milk was used immediately. The winter supply of ice was exhausted. At 4 P.M. the cows were milked. The milk was cooled by setting it into a large dishpan of cool well water. For supper Papa liked a bowl of cool milk with homemade bread broken into it, then a spoonful of sugar sprinkled on top. Mama Eva would grind a quart jar of home canned beef, add some onion and dill pickle, and make beef sandwiches to eat with our fresh milk. It was too hot to eat much food.

When Mama Eva couldn't sleep at night, because of the heat, she'd sprinkle her bed sheets with water to cool down her bed.

When the crops failed, Papa Adolf found a job as Road Overseer in the Valley Township. It was an elective office, so in October he started to electioneer. He planned to personally call on the voters, soliciting their votes. The first afternoon, when he came home, he was asked how many people he had seen. His answer was only one, because this family had come from the "Old Country" too, and they talked over old times, with a bottle of home brew, of course! The older sons admonished him and said that if he drank beer and people smelled it on his breath, they would think that he might drink on the job too, and then they wouldn't vote for him. He agreed with them and promised that he would refuse any liquor that was offered. He ran on the Democratic ticket and won. John Lees was one of the County Commissioners at that time. He was Papa's boss. Papa could build wooden bridges, grade up roads, fix wash outs, replace worn planks, etc..

The road grader was pulled by 3 or 4 head of horses. Papa always parked it on the west edge of the yard. The children loved to play on it. Large round wheels were used to raise and lower the big blade. Every Monday, when Papa would be ready to work, the grader blade would be resting on the ground! Papa would say, "Those miserable kids were playing with my grader again!"

When supplies were needed, Papa would drive a team and wagon to Osceola to get

[27]Taken from the K.F.O.R. Farmer's Almanac.

them. He'd bring long planks, and kegs of nails. One day Arthur and Charles decided to play with the 5" spikes. They pounded them into the sandy soil under the big cottonwood tree. They made neat railroad tracks! The very next day, Papa noticed that his spikes were gone and began asking his children about them. Lillian spoke up and said that she knew where they were. He made his sons pull every spike out of the ground and put them back into the keg. The spikes were beginning to rust, already.

When the 2 year term of office was over, Papa ran for Road Overseer, again, but was defeated. He was devastated. His family needed that income. One of his sons told him that Nebraska voted Republican that year. So at the next election time, Papa ran on the Republican ticket and won. His sons George and Gayhart, sometimes worked with him on the roads, but they never kept their paychecks. They knew that Papa needed the money.

Once when the men were filling dirt in beside a bridge with a fresno, the handle came back suddenly and hit Papa in the chin, but most importantly, it broke Papa's new pipe, which he always carried in his mouth. When he came home, he took the old pipe and cleaned it out with his pocket knife, so he could have a good smoke. Papa smoked Prince Albert. Sometimes he purchased a hickory blend, which he used once in a while. He smoked all his life after he started in his late teens. The only time he smoked cigars, was when his son-in-law Jack Smagacz gave him Cuban Havannas at Christmas time.

For recreation, Papa loved to play horse shoes. The stakes were pounded into the ground under the big cottonwood tree. Sometimes Papa would challenge his visitors. If he was walking across the yard, he'd throw the shoes to the opposite stake--just to keep in practice. Papa also enjoyed the baseball games that were held in John Gabriel's pasture, just 1/2 mile east of the house. There was a natural shaped baseball diamond in the pasture and people in cars could park up on the hills to get a good view. The games were on Sunday afternoon and the boys would leave for the game, right after dinner. The girls washed the dishes and then walked to the game. George and Gayhart were on the team.

On Sunday evening, Papa liked to play cards. The game that was popular was called Schoffscope. The nickname for this game was "Sheep's Head" or "Buck". The loser always got the "buck". By the time his children were 10 years old, they could play this game with Papa after the supper dishes were finished. Card parties were held on Sunday nights and as many as 32 people would be invited to the party. When Papa played cards with his children, sometimes he'd cheat--just to see if we were paying attention to which cards were played! Playing cards kept Papa's mind sharp and his memory good.

When the World Series of Baseball would be on the radio, the children would listen to see how many home runs Babe Ruth had made. If Dizzy Dean was pitching, they'd count how many "strike outs" he threw. Once, the radio ran on the car battery and the battery got so weak that the car wouldn't start on Sunday for going to church. Leo and Pauline Kresha had to come by and take some of the family, and Sophia Kresha came from Osceola to give the rest of the family a ride to church. Car batteries were recharged at a "filling station" (Gas Station) in town.

The big trees that Papa Adolf had planted in the yard and on the south side of the house, died during the drought. On July 25, 1936 the high temperature was 114 degrees.[28] The dead trees were piled near the corncrib. In the fall the men in the neighborhood would come to help saw firewood. A buzz saw was powered by a tractor and all day the saw would sound, "zing, zing". When finished the wood pile would be 2 stories high. Then some of the wood for the kitchen cook stove had to be split. If the supply of firewood didn't last all winter, Papa would drive a team and wagon to Duncan, Nebraska to purchase some coal. He'd put on his bear skin coat, fur gloves and a muffler, a fur cap with ear flaps, and leave for Duncan at 10 A.M.. When he arrived home in the afternoon, it would be 4 P.M. and Papa would have icicles on his mustache. The horses would have frosty noses. Papa would always purchase a small bottle of whiskey to "keep him warm" on the way home. Coal was hard to ignite, but if there were live coals in the stove already, then the coal could burn easily. There were three wood stoves in the downstairs part of the house. Once, when corn was about 10 cents a bushel, Papa said that it was cheaper to burn ear corn than to purchase coal as he put it into the heating stove. Mama Eva said that it was a sin to burn good food (corn) when people were starving all over the world.

Sometimes, when Papa's bones were aching, he'd take a motion to soak in a 50 gallon barrel of hot water. Water was heated on the stove and poured into the barrel. Cold water was added for the correct temperature. More water was heated, again, because it had to be added later. Papa would soak for about an hour. The barrel was placed in the laundry room. He needed a chair to climb into the barrel. Papa was 5'3" tall. If it was October, Papa would put on his winter underwear. When Mama Eva washed his underwear in the winter, she'd hang it outdoors on the clothes line to "freeze dry". Then it would finish drying inside the house. Papa wore his winter underwear until May first.

When it came to shoes, Papa never had oxfords. His dress shoes were brown, size 8 and AAAA. They came to above his ankles and were very expensive. He hated those brown shoes because brown faded unevenly. His daughters polished his shoes every Saturday afternoon. When the brown shoes wore out, he purchased a black pair. His work shoes were of natural leather.

Papa never wore short sleeved shirts. In the heat of summer, he'd wear blue chambray long sleeved shirts and bib overalls. For dress wear, he liked only white shirts with his dark suit. On wash day, Mama Eva would have 7 or 8 white shirts to iron.

In the summertime, Papa wore a straw hat to protect his face and ears from the rays of the sun. He never had age spots on his skin.

Papa like his mustache, but once in the 1940's he shaved it off. When he went to town to do the marketing, no one knew him, until they recognized his voice. That did it! He let his mustache grow back again. Papa never was bald, but he said that his hair started turning gray when he was 21 years old. He went to town for his haircut,

[28]Taken from the K, F, C, R, Farmer;s Almanac.

but he had a clippers and special comb to cut his sons' hair. As he grew older and had to wear his reading glasses on the end of his nose to see to cut the hair, although he didn't do an even job. Secretly, Lillian would even out the edges of her brother's hair cuts. When his sons started to high school, they received haircuts in the barber shop. Mama Eva cut her daughter's hair.

During Prohibition Days, Papa made his own beer. He used 10 pounds of sugar, one quart of Blue Ribbon Malt (hops), and some yeast. Then the 20 gallon crock was filled three-fourths full of warm water, a clean cloth tied over the top and it would start to brew. In May, he made enough beer to last all summer. It needed warmth to brew, then, after it was bottled, it needed to age. The quart bottles were washed by the windmill. If there was sediment in the bottom of the bottle, a few fine rocks were swirled in it to make it come clean. One time, the County Commissioners were coming to see Papa Adolf and the 2 wash tubs of bottles had to be hidden. A rubber hose was used to siphon the beer into the bottles. A capping machine was used to crimp on the bottle caps. Then all the beer was taken down to the basement. Papa used a hydrometer to test the beer for alcohol content. He enjoyed warm beer.

One hot summer day in 1931, Amelia, Martin, and Lillian decided to have a beer party. They went to the basement where the beer was aging, and Amelia put a quart of it insider her bloomers, then, holding her dress at the waistline, the three of them ran across the hot sandy yard to the orchard where an old abandoned car was parked. They played "Intermission at Eller's Dance Hall" (dancers weren't allowed to drink inside the hall). Martin couldn't get the cap off the bottler of beer, but he had a shingle nail in his pocket. With a rock, he hammered several holes in the beer cap, and they all took turns letting the beer squirt into their mouth. It foamed after being shook up, and soon Amelia had a headache, so the the three went to the house. Amelia said, "Mama, I have a headache." Martin said, "I have a headache, too." Mama Eva said, "What have you kids been up to?". She didn't need to ask, as they all reeked of homebrew.

One time a friend gave Papa a recipe to make some good wine. It took 3 pounds of raisins. He mixed it up in a crock, in the shanty house. When it began to ferment, it could be smelled all over the yard. Then a telephone call came from the County Commissioners, saying that they were coming out to see Papa. Papa was working on the road somewhere. So his sons dumped all the wine out into the hog trough. The sows came running to drink it. Soon all of those hogs began to stagger and fall over. The whole yard smelled just like the hog pen! Papa came home at 4 P.M. as usual, and the County Commissioners also came at 4 P.M.. After their business was finished and they left the yard, George told Papa what he and Gayhart had done. Papa said, "Didn't you even save one cupful?" The next day, the sows had recovered.

Papa Adolf went on a vacation once with O.J. Kropatsch, and his sons, Bill and Emery. They wanted to see some land that was advertised for sale in Newcastle, Wyoming. The highlight of the trip was going thru the Badlands. Papa brought back some sandstone balls that he thought the Indians might have used in playing baseball! The other trip was to Lafayette, Indiana to be present at his daughter Amelia's (Sister Mary Norberta) Novitiate in the Order of St. Francis. Son, George, had driven from Bakersfield, California to see his parents, and he took them to the ceremony, in 1937. Papa and Mama Eva had a nice trip to Kimball, Nebraska, to see their daughters

Amelia and Lillian and their families, when Norman and Ann Hensel took them out west. Papa said that crossing the Atlantic Ocean was enough traveling for him.

Papa Loved Music

Austria is known internationally as "The Land Of Music", with two opera houses in Vienna being built in the 18th century. Famous composers came to Austria to play their music.

Papa loved to sing and he had a clear tenor voice. He sang to his children as he rocked them. "Pony Boy" was their favorite.[29]

Rose (daughter) remembers that Papa Adolf would sing as he walked across the yard carrying feed to the livestock and chickens. He could whistle too and was never "off-key". He was happy in his career as a farmer.

Papa tried to teach his children to sing in German. Soon Lillian (daughter) learned the beer drinking song, "The Lauderbach". After she sang it to the German speaking guests, Papa would say, "Now Lillie, get your bank so they can put some money in it."

The Lauderbach Jingle

In Lauterbach hab ich mein Strumpf verlor'n
Und ohne Strumpf geh ich nicht Heim....
So geh ich halt wieder nach Lauterbach hin
Und kauf mich ein Strumpf Fur mein Bein

When his daughters were old enough to take piano lessons, Papa Adolf gave them a choice of going to high school or taking piano lessons. Sophia and Ann played the piano. That made Papa very happy because he had music in his home every day.

At 7 A.M. , when the farm markets came on the radio, which was run with Delco Battery power and later with a car battery, Papa Adolf would listen to WNAX, Yankton, SD a bit early because the theme song was a stirring (band) March. After the markets, the remainder of the March was played. In 1888, there were 150,000 Marching Bands registered in the United States.[30]

When a group of friends would come to our house on Sunday or a holiday, Papa would invite John and Amelia Kropatsch, too. He'd say, "John, bring along your squeeze box (button accordian)." John could play polkas, waltzes, and marches.

During Mass on Sunday, Papa would say that he couldn't pray in church because the choir sang so beautifully. When they sang "Mother Dear Oh Pray For Me", Papa would

[29]Mary Lukassen remembers.

[30]From the book "Strike Up The Band" 1800-1920, by Margaret Hindle Hazen and Robert M. Hazen.

sing with them, even tho' it was not the custom for the congregation to sing with the choir. He loved to sing "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name".

When his daughters, Patricia, Mary (Frances), and Lillian would wash the supper dishes, they'd sing in 2 part harmony. Once Papa came out to the kitchen and said, "Don't make so much noise with the pots and pans. I can't hear your pretty music." He liked to hear "Whispering Hope", "My Grandfather's Clock", and "I've Been Working On The Railroad".

When there was a wedding dance at Ellers Hall, which was about 4 miles east of our home, Papa Adolf and Mama Eva would dance the polka. At the end of the song, Papa would give a yell and at times step back and stomp his foot. This is typical of German dancers. Mama was always worried that Papa would stomp on her toes!

Tho' Papa loved music, he never learned to play an instrument.

Papa slept in his own iron tube bed. Usually the next to the youngest child slept with him. Mama Eva had a solid walnut bed where she slept and the baby always slept with her, because she nursed all her babies. In the west bedroom slept Amelia, Martin, and Lillian. Lillian was a light sleeper, and one night she was awakened by a squeaking noise. The noise just kept coming, so she called out into the night, "Who is squeaking the bed all the time?" The next day, Lillian and her clothing were moved upstairs to her own little bedroom.

In late spring, Papa loved to eat fried spring chicken. Mama Eva would light the incubator and set about 100 eggs. It was heated with kerosene. She'd turn the eggs over several times a day. Towards the end of the hatching period, the eggs were sprinkled with warm water to give the shells needed moisture. After the chicks were all hatched, she would put them in the brooder house which was also heated with a kerosene stove. If we were lucky, there would be fried chicken for dinner on Mother's Day.

Papa Adolf and his sons built an Ice House in the trees, where it would be shaded from the sun. The hole was dug about 8 to 10 feet deep, and filled with thick chunks of ice in the winter. Ice was cut from the creek or pond. Then it was covered with straw for insulation. If the family was lucky, the ice lasted until the 4th of July, when the traditional homemade ice cream was made. After the ice was all melted, chickens had to be dressed early in the morning and the meat cooled in fresh well water. Later, ice was delivered by truck from Osceola. When we were wired for rural electricity life became very easy!

After rural electricity came to Papa's house, he listened to the radio more often. He liked "Amos and Andy", "George and Gracie Allen" and "Fibber MaGee and Mollie". Dennis Kresha remembered his father (John Kresha) telling him that if company stayed too late, Papa used to say, "Mama, let's go to bed, so these people can go home." 'Wonder which program he "lifted" that expression from?

Papa's favorite Sunday morning breakfast was diced chicken livers, slowly fried in butter with a lid on the frying pan, then he'd count how many of his children were in the

kitchen for breakfast, and he'd scramble that many eggs into the livers. Mary Lukassen calls it a gourmet dish. But that isn't the only thing that Papa liked to cook. He'd take cottage cheese and melt it, and then let it ferment in the pantry. Soon, Mama Eva would say "Get that stinky cheese out of my house," and Papa would put it out on the porch, until he had eaten all of it. No one cared to taste it! It smelled like Limburger Cheese.

Papa raised beef cattle and had milk cows. The steer calves were sold at the Columbus Sales Pavilion. If he had a large herd to sell, he'd ship them to the Union Stockyards in Omaha, Nebraska. Then Augustine Trucking would come down from Shelby, Nebraska, to truck his cattle to market. Rarely did Papa feed a steer for slaughter, because that took about 2 years. He liked pork the best.

One spring, Papa Adolf butchered a beef. He made beef and pork sausage, which he smoked in the 6' x 9' smokehouse. About six dozen balonies were hung from the rafters and a slow smoltering fire was started in the special smoker stove. He used fruit wood and sometimes hickory chips. One day, as the children walked home from school, they noticed that there was no smoke coming from the rafters of the smokehouse, so they gathered all the dead wood they could find, and stoked the stove for Papa. As he walked across the yard, he smelled cedar smoke. He grabbed a pail of water and ran to the smokehouse to put out the fire. He said, "Those miserable kids put cedar wood in my smoker stove." He saved all the baloney, but he taught all the children a lesson.

Papa raised Poland China, Hampshires, Chester Whites and Duroc hogs. He ground the grain and put a few buckets of it into a barrel to ferment before feeding it to the hogs. That wasn't possible in the winter time. Papa butchered hogs three times a year.[31]

When Papa butchered a hog, he'd shoot it first, then cut its throat to bleed it. Once he saved the blood and made barley blood wurst. No one liked it so, he never made it again. He would heat the water over an open fire for scalding the dead hog in a metal barrel and with a hoist, he'd dip the carcass into the hot water. With sharp knives, the hair would be scraped off. The head was cooked in the wash boiler until the meat was tender. This meat, along with the liver was ground up for the liver wurst. On butchering day, the brains and kidneys were always eaten at the noon meal. Five loaves of homemade bread were soaked in water, 2 cloves of garlic were crushed in 1/2 cup of coarse salt, 1/4 cup of black pepper, some nutmeg and other spices were used to make the filling for the natural casings. Mama Eva would tie the ends with string, as Papa turned the crank on the sausage stuffer. The fresh liver sausage was gently lowered into the simmering broth of the wash boiler and when cooked, laid out on a table leaf to cool on the porch. The first person to get a gift of sausage was the Catholic Priest. Dolores (Smagacz) Nyffeler remembers her Grandpa Adolf bringing them some of his liver wurst. First he'd open a newspaper, lay on a piece of waxed paper, then wrap up the sausage, tying it with a string. This was in pre- brown bag, pre-scotch tape days.

[31] Adolph remembers helping Papa butcher the hogs.

Mama Eva would can meat in quart jars in the oven, doing 20 jars at a time. Some of the meat (pork) would be fried and placed into an open crock jar, covered with hot lard covered with a lid and stored in a cool place for several months. We always had plenty of meat to eat.

One day when Papa was feeding the chickens, he noticed that Mama Eva's geese had made the chicken's drinking water dirty by playing in it. Then the chickens wouldn't drink the water. The result would be that they wouldn't lay any eggs. So Papa threw the empty bucket at the geese. They flew squawking, across the yard. Mama Eva heard the ruckus, and came out the door. Papa said, "Your miserable geese dirtied the chicken's drinking water." She said, "If you kill my geese, you won't have down feather pillows or a feather quilt on your bed." Papa never cussed or swore in front of his children, but he did use the word "miserable" many times! He liked roast goose at Christmas and New Years. The irony of it all was, Papa was allergic to feathers and suffered from "night asthma".

St. Andrew's Catholic Church was the country church where the family worshipped. Papa helped build and support 3 churches. The first church was struck by lightning and burned down in 1908.[32] The second St. Andrew's Church was built in Section 12, Township 15 of Valley Precinct. Papa helped with the carpentry work as well as with the finances. His late wife, Sophie (Kropatsch) was the first one buried in the new cemetery.

Now the parishioners had the problem of two cemeteries. When Grandma Anna Kropatsch died, she was buried in the new cemetery. Her husband John was buried in the old cemetery. In the late thirties, at the insistence of Sophia (daughter), her Grandpa's grave was moved to the new cemetery and placed next to his wife (Anna). Sophia paid for the $10 permit. O.J. Kropatsch and Papa Adolf, in the presence of mortician, Raymond Kepner, dug up the grave, placed the remains into another coffin for transferring to the new cemetery. On top of the remains was a shiny gold cross from Grandpa's rosary. Mr. Kepner handed it to O.J. and said, "Do you want to keep this cross as a remembrance?" O.J. hesitated, then said, "I guess so." Papa Adolf said, "O.J., you gave your Papa that rosary when you buried him. Don't take it away now." So O.J. tenderly placed the gold cross on top of the remains again. This chore took all morning. At noon when Papa came home, he was quite subdued and said,"I wouldn't be a party to robbing a grave."[33]

On February 19, 1946, the St. Andrew's parishioners lost their second church by fire. Services were held in the rural school District 68, across the intersection from the church, until Bishop Kucera was convinced that with the insurance money, and a Grant from the Extension Society Missions, they had enough money to rebuild their church.

On Monday, June 13, 1948, just 2 years before Papa's death, St. Andrew's third church was dedicated by Most Reverend Bishop Louis Kucera, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

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[32]Records taken from the booklet, "Faith, Flag, Freedom", a Commemorative of the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska.

[33]As related to daughter Lillian Witulski.

The Diocese of Lincoln had a contest to find the largest Catholic family in this area. The Adolf Kresha's won the first prize, which was $50 worth of clothing from Gold's Department Store in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ann (daughter) was working in Lincoln at the time, and she gave the store all the sizes of clothing that the children needed to wear to school. Even Papa received some everyday chambray shirts. There were 19 living children in the family. Second prize went to a family with 17 children. Bishop Louis Kucera was serving the Lincoln Diocese when this took place.

Papa raised his own work horses. He had six or eight head, so when one team was tired, he could hitch up a fresh team. One night "Fannie" got loose in the barn and stuck her head into the oats bin and ate too much. She floundered, never to work again, and when Lillian asked George what was wrong with "Fannie", he said, "She has the HeeBee-JeeBees." This expression was used in the comic strip "The Katz Per Jamer Kids" in the '30s.

One Christmas Eve it was snowing and blowing. The family decided to drive to Midnight Mass at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, which was about four miles away. Lillian was appointed to babysit, and the eight other members of the family left the house warmly dressed and with two snow scoops. It was 10:30 p.m., so they had plenty of time. The car became stuck on the corner of the driveway, so George and Gayhart scooped it out. A quarter of a mile further east, they became stuck in a drift. When they finally got the car backed out of that drift, Papa decided that the family was going home. The car got stuck in the driveway again, so they walked the rest of the way home. Lillian was sitting in the old rocker, watching the three wood stoves, when she heard loud thumping on the porch. She was too old to believe in Santa, as her heart skipped a beat. The clock showed only 12:15 a.m.. She asked, "Didn't Mass last very long?" There was more snow in the "thirties".

The family car was saved for good weather driving. In the winter, Papa would fill the lumber wagon half full of fresh straw, then the school children would crawl in, with their lunch pails. Papa would cover their heads with a buffalo robe, to shield them against the wind and cold. Mary Frances said, "You have never lived until you ride to school in a wagon, with it pitching and bumping over every rut in the road." Papa saved gas and wear and tear on the car, too.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "No matter how much work there was, or how much grief there was, you should always try again." That was Papa Adolf's philosophy. He was a hard worker and never became discouraged.

Chapter Twenty-nine

Anna Kresha Karges

Anna Krehsa (Kressy or Kresser) was born on March 14, 1871 to Theodor and Cecilie (Perikovske) of Hradci, in House Number 33 and her birth was assisted by Sister Barbara. She was baptized in the Parish at Markerdorf according to St. Laurentium, the Martyr, in the Archdiocese was Olmutz and the deanery, M. Neustat.[34] After she completed her schooling at 15 years of age--as prescribed by law, she found work as a domestic helper with neighboring families. She saved her money for the trip to America.

On August 31, 1888, Anna, her sister, Amollia and baby Louis, and her brother Adolf went on board the S.S. Wieland in the seaport of Hamberg, Germany, and sailed for the Land of Freedom--America.[35]

To receive her passport, she had to have a job waiting for her in America. It was with the Anton Bitt family in Columbus, Nebraska.[36] As the ship crossed the Atlantic Ocean,

[34]Information taken from passport and birth certificate.

[35]See Anna's name on the S.S. Wieland passenger list.

[36]Name taken from Anna's passport.

it passed through a big storm and everyone on board was very seasick.[37] When the immigrants arrived on Bedloe Island and fulfilled the 2 weeks of quarantine, they boarded the train for Columbus, Nebraska, where their brother Theodor lived and worked.

While Anna worked for the Anton Bitt family, she was "treated like a slave" and was very unhappy with them.

Martin Karges was born on July 4, 1844, to John Karges and Catherine Bender in Hornau, Germany. He was a member of the Dukedom of Nassau.[38] Martin Karges left for America on April 11, 1868 with members of his family. He arrived in Columbus, Nebraska on October 28, 1869.

In about 1872, Martin Karges married Anna Sohn, a widow with a young daughter, named Rose, whom he adopted. Anna died on December 22, 1888. No children were born to this marriage.

Anna met Martin Karges when he came to visit his sister who was a neighbor of the Anton Bitt's.

On April 15, 1890, Anna Kresser and Martin Karges were married in St. Bonaventure's Catholic Church in Columbus, Nebraska. Best man was Adolf Krehsa and the bridesmaid was Eva Scholz. The priest that married them was Rev. Pacificus Kohnen. Martin made a home for Anna in Columbus for a short time and then they moved to a farm in Merrick County between Silver Creek and Clarks, Nebraska.

Anna and Martin Karges had the following children: Martin, born in 1891 and died in 1979; John, born in 1893; Joseph, born in 1895; Frank, born in 1897, died in 1954; Ann, born in 1902; Margaret, born in 1903 and died in infancy; George, born in 1905; and Marie, born in 1911.

> John's wife's name was Alice and they had two sons named Eugene and Keith Karges, who are still living today in Silver Creek, Nebraska.
>
> Joseph Karges was educated in the Merrick County schools of Nebraska. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I. On February 4, 1920, he married Clara Meyer at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Silver Creek, Nebraska. They farmed in the Clarks area. To this union were born: Eileen (Mrs. Art) Gabriel of Osceola, Nebraska; Alnetta (Mrs. Robert) Topinka of Columbus, Nebraska; and Doris (Mrs. Joseph) Jaworski of Lincoln, Nebraska.
>
> Clara Meyer Karges passed away on May 4, 1968. Joseph Karges died on September 16, 1984. He was survived by his three daughters and their husbands, twelve grandchildren, and seventeen great grandchildren.

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[37] As relayed to the author by Anna's daughter, Ann Karges Serio.

[38] See statement of Dwelling.

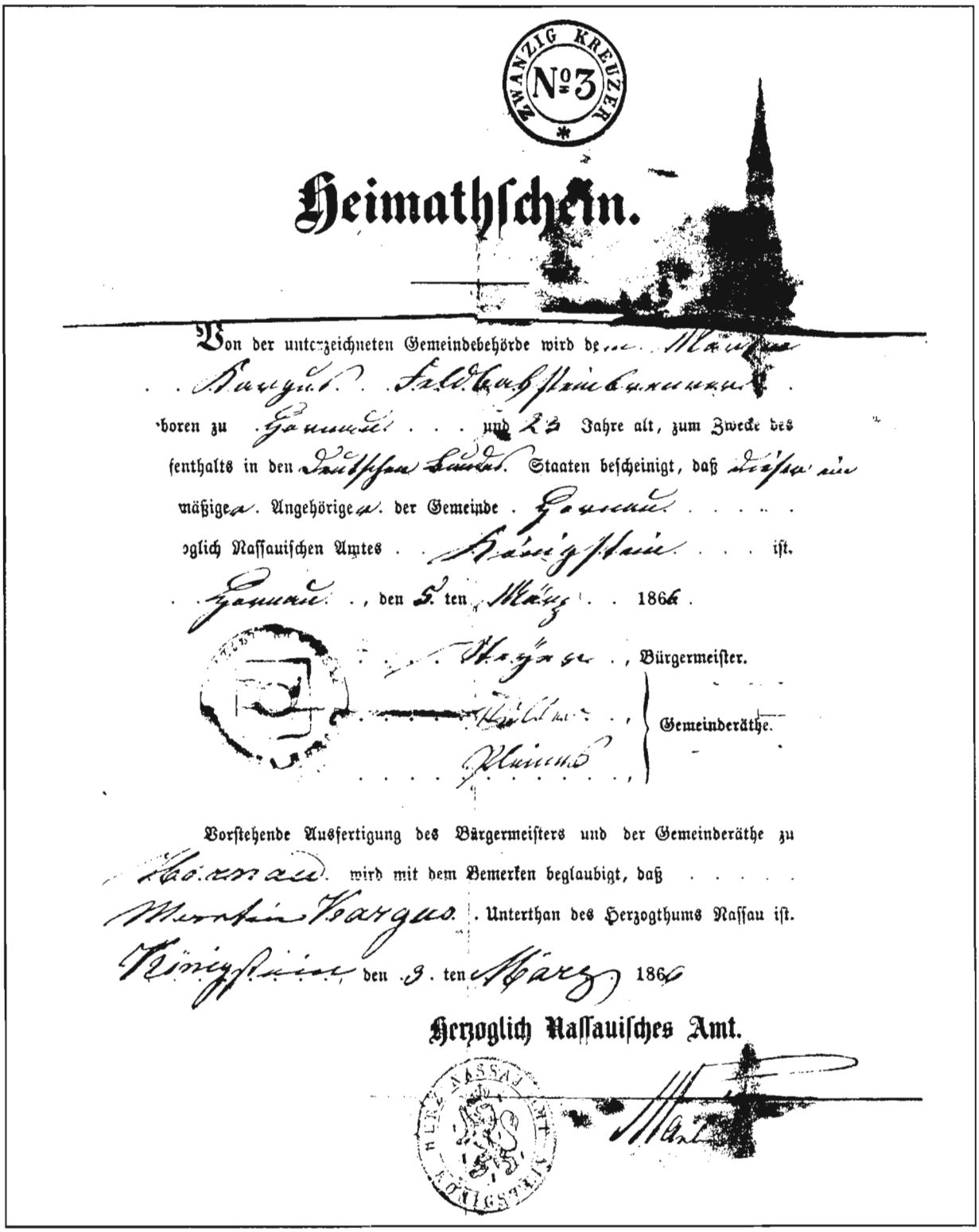
Joe Karges wrote in the KRESHA KRONICLE of June 1981, that when he was 14 years old in 1909, his father Martin and he loaded a box car with farm equipment and went to Canada to farm. After 13 days and nights, they arrived in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. They farmed there for only 3 years, due to a drought. He was very happy to get back to Nebraska.

George Karges married his first wife, Katherine. They were divorced. His second wife was Maxine (Brewer). They had Marsha and Daniel Karges. George has passed away. His son Daniel passed away on Dec. 27, 1978 at the age of 29. Daniel is survived by his wife Betty Karges, and sister, Mrs. Tom (Marsha) Penington all of Columbus, Nebraska.

Ann Karges married Leonard Serio and they made their home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Leonard died on November 10, 1979.

Marie Karges married Clarence Geiger on May 13, 1942. To this union were born: Sandra, in 1942; Marilyn, in 1944; and Betty, in 1951. Clarence passed away in 1960. On August 1, 1979, Marie married Everett Baars. They live in Milwaukee , Wisconsin. Marilyn married Frederick Borak, Sr.. To this union were born: Stephen, on April 20, 1966; James, on August 27, 1968; Michael, on March 22, 1975; and Frederick, on November 17, 1976. Sandra Kuchma's children are: Anthony, on October 18, 1967, and Jennifer, on August 18, 1971. Betty Bradford's children are: Eddie, on July 23, 1949; Betty on November 19, 1951; Shellie, on August 3, 1970; and Wendy, on November 30, 1973.

Martin Karges, Sr. died on May 25, 1927 and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery of St. Peter's Church, Clarks, Nebraska. Anna lived on the farm with her sons for many years until she was offered a housekeeping job with her brother-in-law, Adolf Kuhnel. Adolf's wife, "Mollie" had passed away and he was all alone. She lived and worked for him near Shelby for many years until her health failed. She passed away on December 20, 1957, at the age of 86, and was buried in St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery beside her husband, Martin Karges.



ZWANZIG KREUZER
No 3

Heimathschein.

Von der unterzeichneten Gemeindebehörde wird dem Martin Kargus Feldbahnsteinbrenner

boren zu Hornau und 23 Jahre alt, zum Zwecke des

fenthalts in den Deutschen Bundes Staaten bescheinigt, daß dieser ein

mäßiger Angehöriger der Gemeinde Hornau

oglich Nassauischen Amtes Königstein ist.

Hornau, den 5. ten März 1866.

Steyer, Bürgermeister.

Müller, Gemeinderäthe.

Kleinmann

Vorstehende Ausfertigung des Bürgermeisters und der Gemeinderäthe zu Hornau wird mit dem Bemerken beglaubigt, daß Martin Kargus Unterthan des Herzogthums Nassau ist.

Königstein, den 3. ten März 1866

Herzoglich Nassauisches Amt.

HERZ. NASSAU AMT KÖNIGSTEIN

Martin

Statement of Dwelling

Heinatschein--Statement of Dwelling

From the community as signed below, Martin Kargus (German spelling)had the right to live in Feldbachsteinbrunnen born in Hornau and was 23 years old. They verified that he had the right to live in the German Bundestatten. That he was by right from the community of Hornau which belonged to the Capitol, Konigstein.

Hornau, the 5th of March, 1866.

Steiner, Mayor

Hiller
Councilors

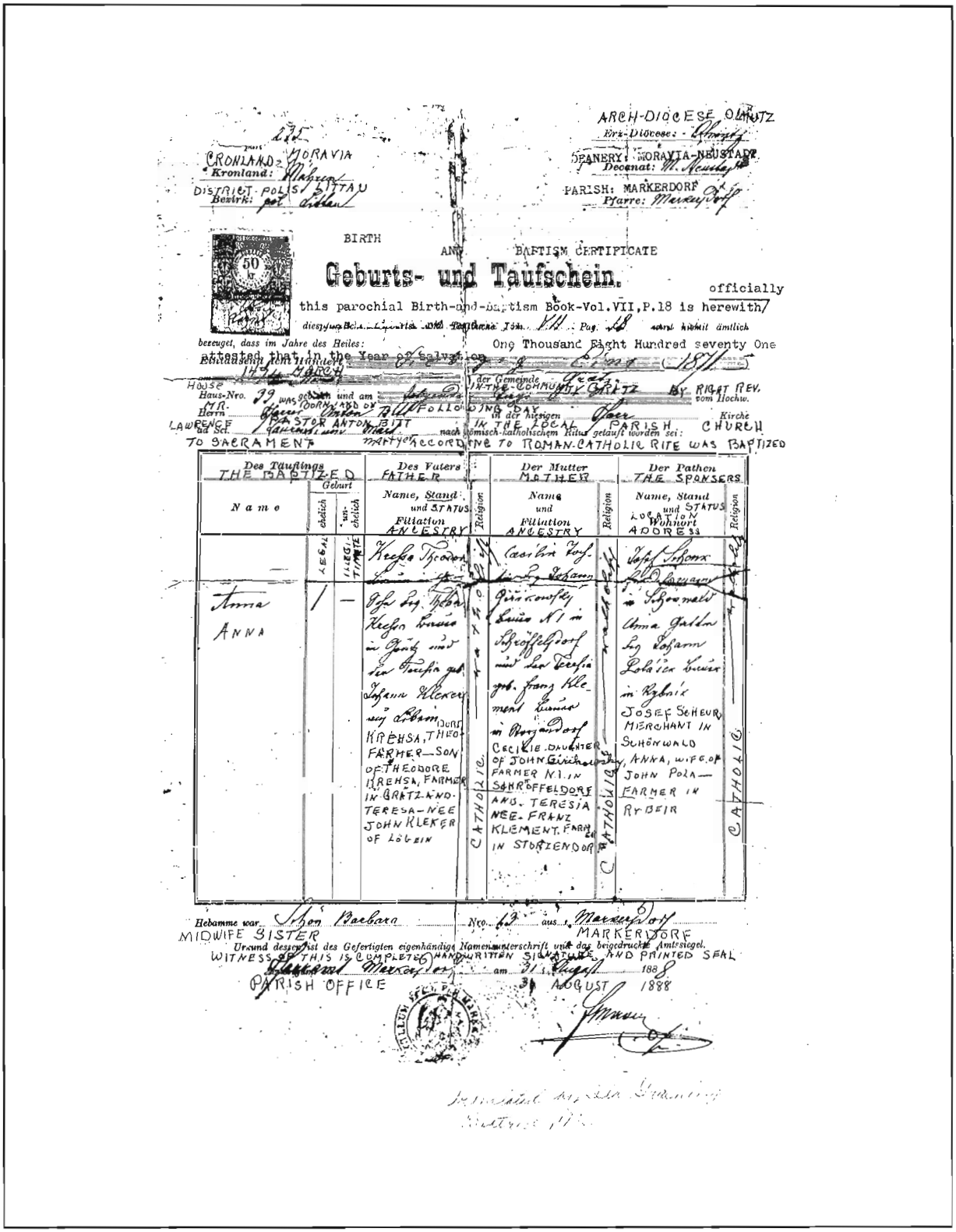
Pleinus

The above statement from the mayor and the councilors of Hornau attest that Martin Kargus was a member of the dukedom of Nassau. Given in Kongigstein on the 3rd of March, 1866.

? Duke--Capitol--Official Post
(Duke ruled over the Kingdom at this time.)

Signed_____
(Unreadable)

(English translation was provided by Mrs. Ida Graening, Beatrice, Nebraska.)



ARCH-DIOCESE OLMUTZ
Erz-Diocese:
CRONLAND: MORAVIA
Kronland:
DISTRICT: POLIS / ZITTAU
Bezirk:
DEANERY: MORAVIA-NEUSTADT
Decanat:
PARISH: MARKERDORF
Pfarre:

BIRTH AND BAPTISM CERTIFICATE

Geburts- und Taufschein.

officially this parochial Birth-and-baptism Book-Vol.VII,P.18 is herewith/
bezeuget, dass im Jahre des Heiles: One Thousand Eight Hundred seventy One
attested that in the Year of Salvation
House Haus-Nro. 39 was geboren und am ... by ... in the Community ... By Right Rev. vom Hochw.
Mr. Herrn ... Pastor Anton Bitt ... in der hiesigen ... Kirche
LAWRENCE ad Sct. ... nach römisch-katholischem Ritus getauft worden sei: ... CHURCH
TO SACRAMENT ... according to ROMAN-CATHOLIC RITE WAS BAPTIZED

Des Täuflings THE BAPTIZED	Geburt		Des Vaters FATHER		Der Mutter MOTHER		Der Pathen THE SPONSERS	
Name	ehelich	unehelich	Name, Stand und STATUS Filiation ANCESTRY	Religion	Name und Filiation ANCESTRY	Religion	Name, Stand und STATUS LOCATION Wohnort ADDRESS	Religion
	LEGAL	ILLEGITIMATE						
Anna ANNA	/	—	Josef Leg. Ehel. Kresha Inwohner in Gritz und Theresia geb. Johanna Klekner Leg. Ehel. Dorf KRESHA, THEO FARMER—SON OF THEODORE KRESHA, FARMER IN GRITZ-AND-TERESA-NEE JOHN KLEKER OF LÖBEIN	CATHOLIC	Cäcilie Josef Leg. Ehel. Tochter des Johann Girkowsky Inwohner Nr.1 in Schroffeldorf und der Theresia geb. Franz Klement Inwohner in Storzendorf CECILIE DAUGHTER OF JOHN GIRKOWSKY FARMER NO.1 IN SCHROFFELDORF AND TERESIA NEE-FRANZ KLEMENT FARMER IN STORZENDORF	CATHOLIC	Josef Scheur Kaufmann in Schönwald Anna Gattin Leg. Ehel. Tochter des Lobler Inwohner in Rybnik JOSEF SCHEUR MERCHANT IN SCHÖNWALD ANNA, WIFE OF JOHN POLA— FARMER IN RYBEIR	CATHOLIC

Hebamme war Schon Barbara Nro. 12 aus Markerdorf
MIDWIFE SISTER MARKERDORF
Urkund dessen ist des Gefertigten eigenhändige Namensunterschrift und das beigedruckte Amtssiegel.
WITNESS OF THIS IS COMPLETED HANDWRITTEN SIGNATURE AND PRINTED SEAL
Markerdorf am 31 August 1888
PARISH OFFICE 31 AUGUST 1888

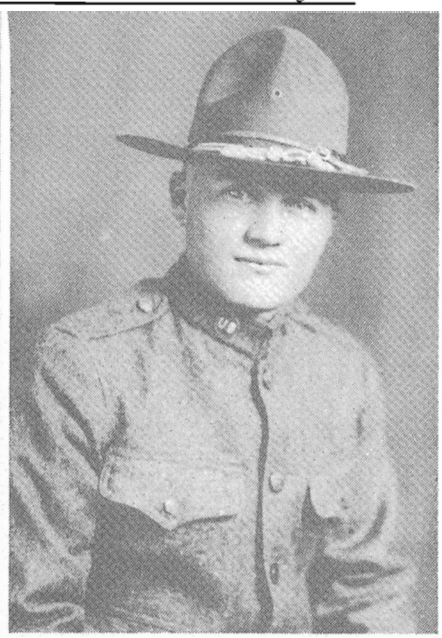
Birth and Baptism Certificate of Anna Kresha (Karges).



Wedding picture of Anna (Kresha) Karges and Martin Karges in April 15, 1890, in St. Bonaventure's Catholic Church, Columbus, NE.



Anna (Kresser) Kresha.



Joe Karges, son of Martin and Anna Karges.



Eva Kresha, Anna Karges and Frances Gerber.



Ann Karges



John Karges, son of Martin and Anna Karges.



Martin Karges and Anna Kresha Karges. (1908)



Eddie and Betty Bradford, with daughters, Shellie and Wendy. (Marie Karges' daughter)



Anna and Martin Karges duaghter, Marie and husband Evertt Baars.



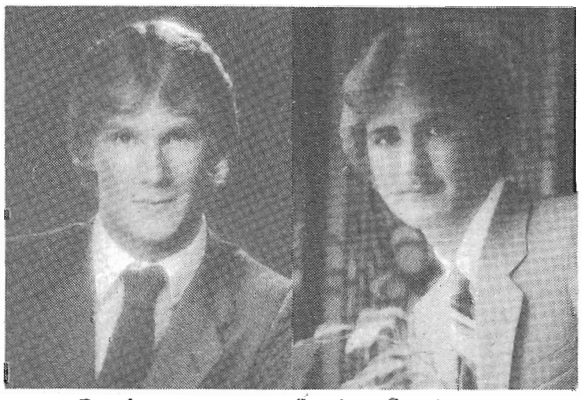
Leonard Serio, Ann Karges Serio and her sister, Marie Karges Baars.



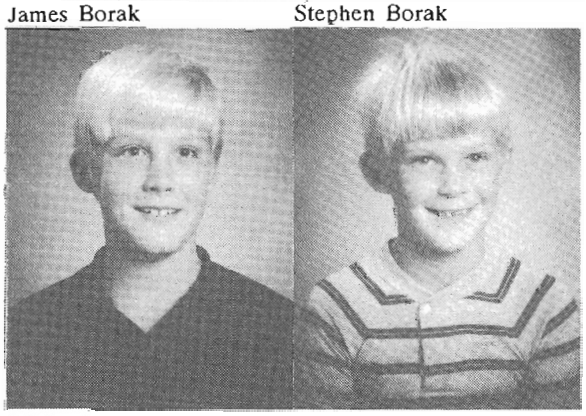
Joe and Clara (Meyer) Karges.



Marilyn Borak, daughter of Marie Karges Baars.



James Borak Stephen Borak



Michael Borak Frederick Borak

Chapter Thirty

Amelia (Amolia) Kresha (Kuhnel)

Amelia Krehsa was born on July 10, 1866, to Theodor and Cecilie (Perikovske) Krehsa (Kresser) in Hradci, near Graetz, Moravia, Austria, in House Number 33, the Archdiocese of Olmutz, deanery of M. Neustadt, and was baptized in the parish at Markerdorf. After completing public school, she helped her parents with the farming and was hired to do housework for friends and neighbors. She saved her money to come to America.

All the arrangements were made, passports obtained, birth certificates copied, and Amolia and baby, Louis, Anna, and Adolf traveled by train to Hamburg, Germany, to the seaport where the S.S. Wieland was waiting to sail to America. The Captain's name was Athars.[39] It was 234th ship to sail from the Hamburg, Germany seaport in 1888. Her passport was dated August 31, 1888. They arrived on September 8, 1888, and disembarked on September 9th, at Bedloe Island, where they spent 2 weeks in

[39]Information researched by Mrs. Joyce Kuhnel.

quarantine. The passenger list[40] read that they all came from Girsig, Austria.

Amelia and baby got off the train at Schuyler, Nebraska, where she had a job waiting for her. The train travelled west to Columbus, Nebraska where Adolf and Anna had employment.

Adolf Kuhnel was born on February 24, 1866 at Neustadt, near Graetz, Moravia Austria. He was the son of Frank and Mary (Schwarzer) Kuhnel. His grandparents were John and Victoria (Helvert) Kuhnel. When Adolf came to the Krehsa home to ask for one of their daughters in marriage, Theodor said, "Amolia is the oldest now, she gets married first." Adolf came to America in 1866, and then sent money for Amelia and their son Louis to come to be with him. He had dated her in Austria, before he sailed.

Feeling the need to have their marriage legal in America, according to the marriage license, Amelia and Adolf were married by a judge in Colfax County, Nebraska. It is dated December 31, 1889, Schuyler, Nebraska.

Amelia, Adolf, and Louis lived at Richland Nebraska, where he had employment on the railroad. Amelia did laundry for the railroad laborers.

Adolf purchased his first team of horses in Columbus, so he could earn more money on the railroad.

Adolf Kuhnel Junior was born around 1890 in Richland, Nebraska. As a toddler, he was critically burned when he pulled a hot pot of coffee down upon himself. He is buried at Richland, Nebraska.

After earning enough money on the railroad, Adolf and Amelia moved to near Silver Creek, Nebraska, where they purchased a farm.

Adolf Edmond Kuhnel Junior was born near Silver Creek, Nebraska, on July 18, 1892; Mollie Kuhnel was born on February 6, 1895; Frank Kuhnel was born July 23, 1901.

In 1905, the family moved to a farm northwest of Gresham, Nebraska. At this farm, Alfred Herman Kuhnel was born on October 9, 1906. Emery Kuhnel was born on January 4, 1911.

In 1918, the family moved to a farm near Shelby, Nebraska, where they lived for many years.

[40]Copy obtained by Lillian Witulski.

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

STATE OF NEBRASKA, COLFAX COUNTY, } Office of the County Judge.

LICENSE is hereby granted to any person authorized to solemnize marriages according to the laws of said State, to join in marriage

Mr. Adolph Kuhnel and Miss Amelia Kreksa — *of the County aforesaid, whose ages, residence, &c., are as follows:*

NAMES OF PARTIES.		AGE	COLOR	PLACE OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE	FATHER'S NAME	MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
Adolph Kuhnel	Groom,	24	White	Austria	Bentow Colfax Co Neb	Frank Kuhnel	Marie Schwalzer
Amelia Kreksa	Bride,	24	White	Austria	Bentow Colfax Co Neb	Theodore Kreksa	Cecilia Peckooska

And the person joining them in marriage is required to make due return of the annexed certificate to the County Judge of said County within ninety days of the names of the parties, time and place of marriage, and by whom solemnized.

(Seal)

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at my office in Schuyler, in said County this 31st day of Dec A. D. 1889

Geo. H. Thomas Judge.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

TO THE COUNTY JUDGE OF COLFAX COUNTY, NEBRASKA:

THIS CERTIFIES, *That on the* 31st *day of* Dec *A. D. 18*89

at Schuyler *in said County, according to law and by authority, I duly* Joined in Marriage,

Mr. Adolph Kuhnel *and* Miss Amelia Kreksa *and there were present as*

witnesses Matt Becker, S.B. Allen & others all of Colfax Co Neb

Given under my hand the 31" *day of* Dec *A. D 18*89

Geo H Thomas

County Judge

Marriage License of Amelia and Adolf Kuhnel.

Children of Amelia and Adolf Kuhnel

Louis Walter Kuhnel lived at Crawford, Nebraska where he was a farmer and rancher. He married Florence Cook; Mamie Wright; then Lucille B. Pollard. His children are: Earl Henry, Orville Glen, Louis Neal, Raymond Boyd, Charles Adolph, Merna Marie (Maus, Mrs. Emil) and Louis Walter. Louis Kuhnel and his family moved to California where he found carpenter work. He died on September 24, 1971.

Adolf Edmund Kuhnel Jr. married Caroline Lanspa. They lived on a farm near Gresham, Nebraska, for 6 years, then moved to a farm near Shelby, Nebraska. Children born to them are: Robert Joseph, Paul Jerome, and Rita Mae (Mrs. Leo Lenihan). Adolph Kuhnel Jr. passed away on January 28, 1971.

Mollie (Amelia) Kuhnel, third child of Adolf and Amelia Kuhnel, married George Hasselbalch. They farmed north of Shelby, Nebraska. To this union were born: Lester George; Elaine Marie (Mrs. Richard Thelen); Virginia Ann (Mrs. Myron Callagher). Mollie Kuhnel Hasselbalch passed away on February 17, 1965.

Alfred Herman Kuhnel married Esther Gabriel on May 14, 1926, at Fullerton, Nebraska. They farmed north of Osceola, Nebraska. To this union were born : Eldon Joseph, Marilyn Amelia (Mrs. Wm. Monroe), Janelle Ann (Mrs. Darrel Schachenmeyer), and Vernon Kuhnel. Vernon married Joyce Elene Oppliger on September 29, 1967. They live on the Alfred Kuhnel homeplace after Alfred and Esther retired and moved to Osceola, Nebraska. Vernon and wife Joyce farm and own a Construction Company. Their children are: Jeffrey Todd, born September 22, 1963; Kraig Vernon, born April 28, 1968; and Krista Joy, born on August 29, 1975. Alfred Kuhnel passed away on April 3, 1981.

Emery Theodore Kuhnel, the last child born to Adolf and Amelia (Kresha) Kuhnel, was married to Margaret Gabriel. To this union were born: Kathleen Ann (Mrs. John Marsh); Janet Marie (Mrs Gereld Johnson); Kenneth Emery; LaVerne David; and Michael Lee. Emery Kuhnel died on July 4, 1972.

Amelia Kuhnel's health started to fail because of high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries. The doctor had put her on a strict diet. She said, "If I can't eat all the foods I like, such as saur kraut, liverwurst, and sweets, why go on living?" Ann Kresha (daughter of Adolf Kresha) was sent to the Kuhnel home to help Amelia with the housekeeping. Amelia Kuhnel passed away after a stroke on August 7, 1932, at the age of 66. Adolf Kuhnel Sr., her husband, passed away on July 23, 1956. They are buried in the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery of Shelby, Nebraska.



Kuhnel family group, (L-R, Front) Mother Amelia, Alfred, Emery, and (Back) Adolph, Mollie, Frank and Adolph.

Chapter Thirty-one

Joseph Ferdinand Kresha

Joseph Kresha was born on Febraury 13, 1876, to Theodor and Cecilie (Perikovske) Kresha (Kresser) in Hradci, Gratz, in House Number 33 in the Archdiocese of Olmutz, Ddeanery of M. Neustadt, and was baptized in the parish of Markerdorf. He was their youngest child.

He attended school until the age of 15, as prescribed by law.[41] Joseph immigrated to America in the summer of 1891, accompanied by his parents. They had plans of staying here to live, but it was so hot, that they decided to go back to their homeland. Joseph was employed by farmers in Merrick County, Nebraska, where his sister Anna and husband Martin Karges and Amolia and Adolf Kuhnel farmed.

Joe met Laura Reed, who was born on March 5, 1884. Her father's name was John Reed. Joe and Laura were married at St. Lawrence Catholic Church of Silver Creek, Nebraska.

[41] This statement is presumed. Proof had not been established at this time.

Joe and Laura Kresha's children are: Irene Lerinda, born on March 31, 1903; and John Kresha, born on September 16, 1904. Joe and Laura were farmers. They moved to Cozad, Nebraska where they farmed. Laura became very sick and was hospitalized at Kearney, Nebraska, where she died of cancer, on May 1, 1909 at the age of 25. She is buried in the Cozad Cemetery.

Joe Kresha married Ruth Eastman on January 1, 1911. They lived and farmed near Cozad for a time, then moved north into South Dakota. To this union were born: Glen, in 1912; and Ruth, in 1914.

I. Irene Lerinda Kresha married Charles (Jack) Hudson Frye on September 25, 1921. Charles Frye was born on May 21, 1899 in Vinita, Oklahoma (Indian Territory).

To this union were born:

1. Josephine Belle Frye, born in 1922. She died in 1924, in Colorado Springs.

2. Sherrill Hudson Frye, born on June 6, 1924, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He married Helen Blackford (born on November 30, 1926) on December 19, 1946. There Children are:

A. Lloyd Hudson Frye, born on October 30, 1947. Wife: Joyce English. Married on April 24, 1976.

B. Rochelle Helene Frye, born on April 16, 1947. Married Jerry Marrs (born on July 13, 1948) on June 5, 1983.
C. Jasmin Campbell, Born on October 1, 1979.

D. Irene Laurine Frye, born on March 25, 1929. Married Gordon Cahill (born on January 16, 1925) on June 27, 1947. Their children are:

1. Linda Cahill, born April 15, 1946. She married Alfanso Salutregui (born on May 17, 1945) on July 20, 1966. Their children are:

a. Scott Ramon Salutregui, born on August 19, 1968.
b. Jeff Blair Salutregui, born on May 20, 1970.

2. Steven Stanley Cahill, born May 1, 1973 and married Kathy Elaine Copley (born on January 19, 1951). Their children are:

a. Tonya Irene Cahill, born April 19, 1979.
b. Julie May Cahill, born March 3, 1981.
c. Jackie Cahill (female), born on December 25, 1951. She married Gary Dee Shields (born on November 28, 1949) on September 4, 1970. Their children are:

i. Tamara Michelle Shields, born January 17, 1974.
ii.Ryan Dee Shields, born August 13, 1976.

3. Allan Cahill, born April 16, 1955.
4. Tab Cahill, born February 2, 1961.

E. Jeneane Cheryl Frye, born January 30, 1955. She married Leslie Warren Bingham (born on December 25, 1951) in 1983. They have one child:

1. Marty Lyn Bingham, born on February 4, 1983.

F. Wilbur Frye, born on December 15, 1933. He married Arlene Patricia Decker (born on March 19, 1932) on September 26, 1952. Their children are:

1. Christopher Donnald Frye, born on November 4, 1953.
2. Joell Janice Frye, born on January 19, 1956. She married Robert Todd Smethers (born on September 11, 1948) on August 30, 1987.
3. Jeffery David Frye, born on January 2, 1957.
4. Pamela Jean Frye, born on May 5, 1959.
5. Charles Decker Frye, born on April 8, 1962.



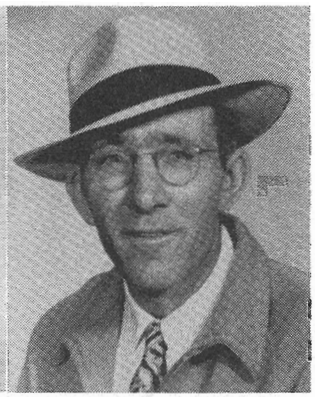
Josph Kresha and his second wife, Ruth Eastman.



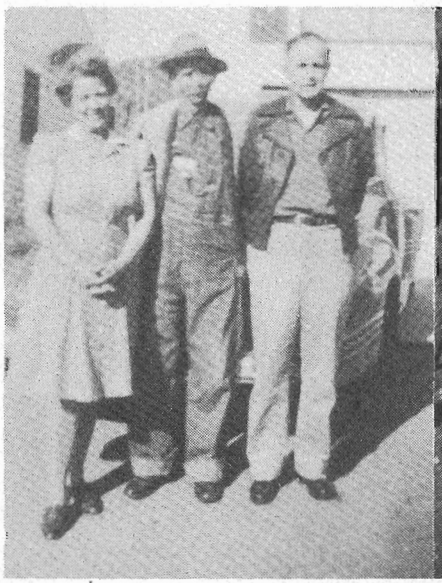
Irene Lerinda Frye, eldest daughter of Jeseph Kresha.



Ruth Kresha, daughter of Joseph and Ruth (Eastman) Kresha. (1930)



Glen Kresha, son of Joseph Kresha. (1950)



Irene Kresha Frye, Joe Kresha and unidentified man, taken in Martinez in 1945.



Joseph Kresha and grandchildren, (L-R, Front) Frank Kresha, Wilbur Frye, Irene Single, Sherrill Frye.

Joseph Kresha in 1930



Irene Frye and Jack Frye family, (L-R, Front) Sherrill, Irene, Jack, Wilbur, and Irene (Laurine) Frye. (1943)





Joseph Kresha and first wife, Laura Reed.



Glen Kresha



(L-R, Front) Todd Smathers (Jo-ell's husband), Jo-ell Frye Smathers, Danny Roche (son of Jo-ell), Doug Roche and Ryan Roche (son of Jo-ell), (Back) Pamela Frye, Jeffery Frye, Christopher Frye, Wilbur Frye, Arlene Frye, Charles Frye and Lisa Chang (friend).



Dr. Sherrill Frye, Irene Lerinda Frye and Wilbur Frye.



Dr. Sherril Frye, John Kresha, Arlene Frye, and husband, Wilbur Frye.



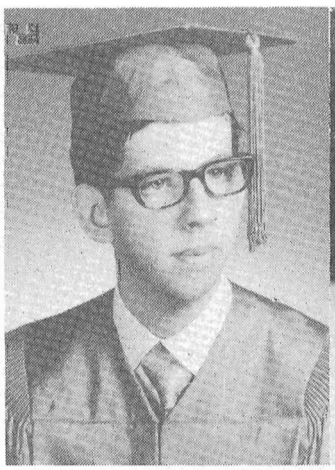
Sabrian Kresha



Donald Pritchard



Wilbur Frye, and grandsons, Doug Roche, Ryan Roche, Danny Roche, with wife, Arlene Frye.



Donald Gordon Pritchard, grandson of John and Inez Kresha.



Darrell Pritchard

II. John Kresha, born on September 16, 1904. He married Inez Newman on November 18, 1933. Their children are:

1. Irene Single (step daughter). She married Prichard on August 15, 1930. Their children are:

A. Donald Prichard.
B. Darrel F. Prichard.

2. Frank Joseph Kresha, born on December 28, 1934. He married June Mathilda Gettings (born on February 3, 1932) in 1954. Their children are:

A. John Joseph Kresha, born on December 25, 1955. He married Nancy House (born on May 30, 1962) on April 30, 1983. Their children are:

1. Joshua Joseph Kresha, born on March 19, 1980.
2. Matthew West Kresha, born on June 22, 1984.

B. Ralph Jeffery Kresha, born on February 19, 1957. He married Patricia Ann Mullins (born on September 19, 1959) on May 19, 1982. They have one child:

1. Jeffery Blake Kresha, born April 21, 1983.

C. Sabrina Jo Kresha, born on March 2, 1960.

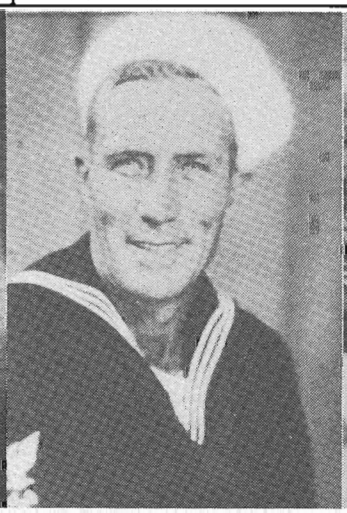
III. Glen Kresha, born in 1912. His parents are Joseph and Ruth (Eastman) Kresha. He lives in a Health Care Center in California.

IV. Ruth Kresha, daughter of Joseph and Ruth (Eastman) Kresha, was born in 1914. She married Mullin, and lived in Wyoming. They have a son and daughter.

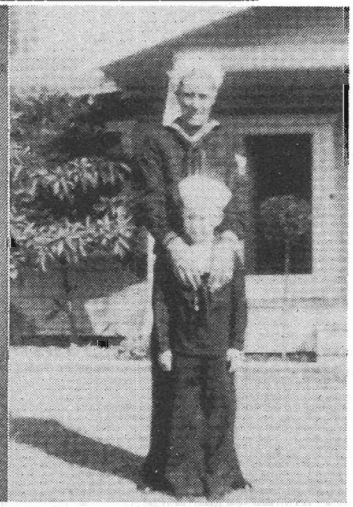
Joseph Ferdinand Kresha was ill with cancer in his later years and lived with his oldest daughter, Irene Lerinda Frye, in Martinez, California. He died in 1945 and is buried at Martinez. He lived to an age of 69.



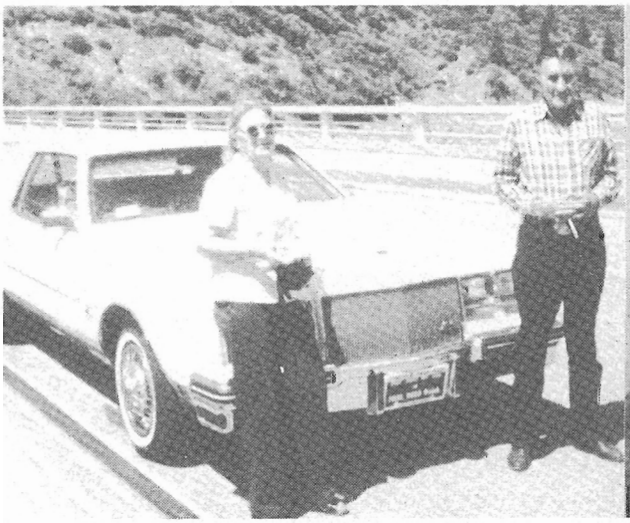
John Kresha, Wilbur Frye, Ines Frye, Frank Kresha. (1986)



John Kresha (1943)



John Kresha and Frank Kresha. (1943)



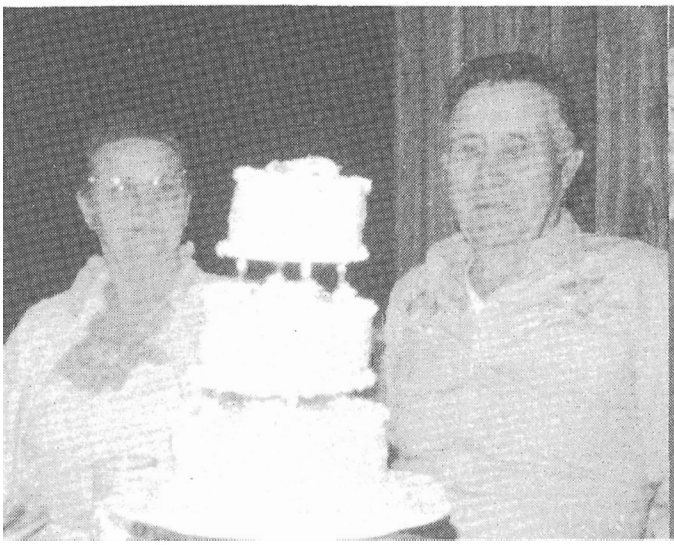
Inez Kresha and her husband, John Kresha.



Frank Kresha (1937)



Frank Kresha, grandsons, Joshua Kresha, Jeffery Kresha and Matthew Kresha.



John and Ines Kresha on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1983.



Frank Joseph Kresha and June Kresha.



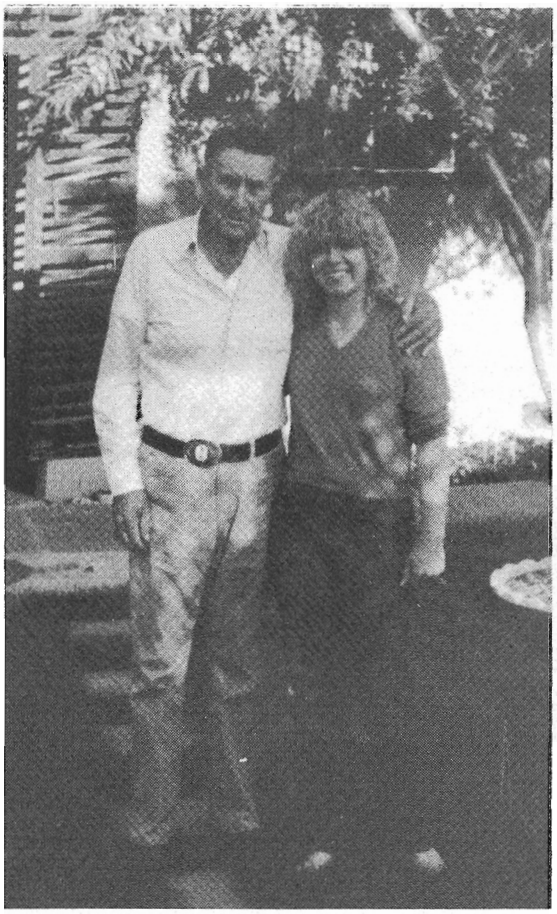
Alva I. Pritchard, granddaughter of John Kresha.



Ralph Jeffery Kresha, Patty Kresha, Jeffery Blake Kresha.



Joshua Joseph and Matthew West Kresha, son of Joseph and Nancy Kresha.



John Kresha and Sabrina Kresha, his grand daughter.



Great grandson of John and Ines Kresha, Jeffery Blake Kresha.

Chapter Thirty-two

Papers from the Black Box

Papa Adolf had a strong box that was made of wood and painted a shiny black color. It held all his important papers. He stored it on the top shelf in the closet. Some Sunday afternoons, he'd examine all his treasures and read his German letters from "The Old Country". Here are the papers from the "black box" which held the most interest.

The Condensed Translation of the German Letters by Ida Graening

(In order of calendar dates where given)
(This brown sheet appears to be a continuation of the letter which Theodor wrote on January 3, 1916). The writer in reply to Adolf's question as to "money" states that he, Theodor, had returned one day to the Hotel in order to change his clothes. The Proprietor had come to his room and suggested that Theodor give him his money for safe keeping. (He must have agreed to this). From the Hotel he walked to the Hospital and inquired of the Superintendent about employment. The Supt. said he was too old to work there. He suggested that Theodor seek work from a Mr. Henry Drake (farming) and Henry Drake did hire him for $5.00 cash per month and his board. He wishes the Adolf Kresha Family a Happy New Year.

The letter marked #1. The date is not clear but appears to have been late in 1915. It is addressed to "Dear Sister and Brother-in-law". A sister writes that "Father has died on the 12th of November". Some discussion about the money in the estate is included. A request that a reply to several letters be forthcoming as she had heard nothing in a long time.

Letter #2 is dated November 26, 1916. It is addressed "To Uncle". The letter expresses deep sympathy as the writer had received the letter from America stating that Adolf's wife had died. Quoting Scripture the writer states: "It was God's will to permit this wound but He also heals all wounds". The family's reaction to the sad news is described. Then the writer..(a niece assumed) describes her family and what each child is doing. One has become a gardener's apprentice and then was called into Military service, etc. Her mother's health is frail.

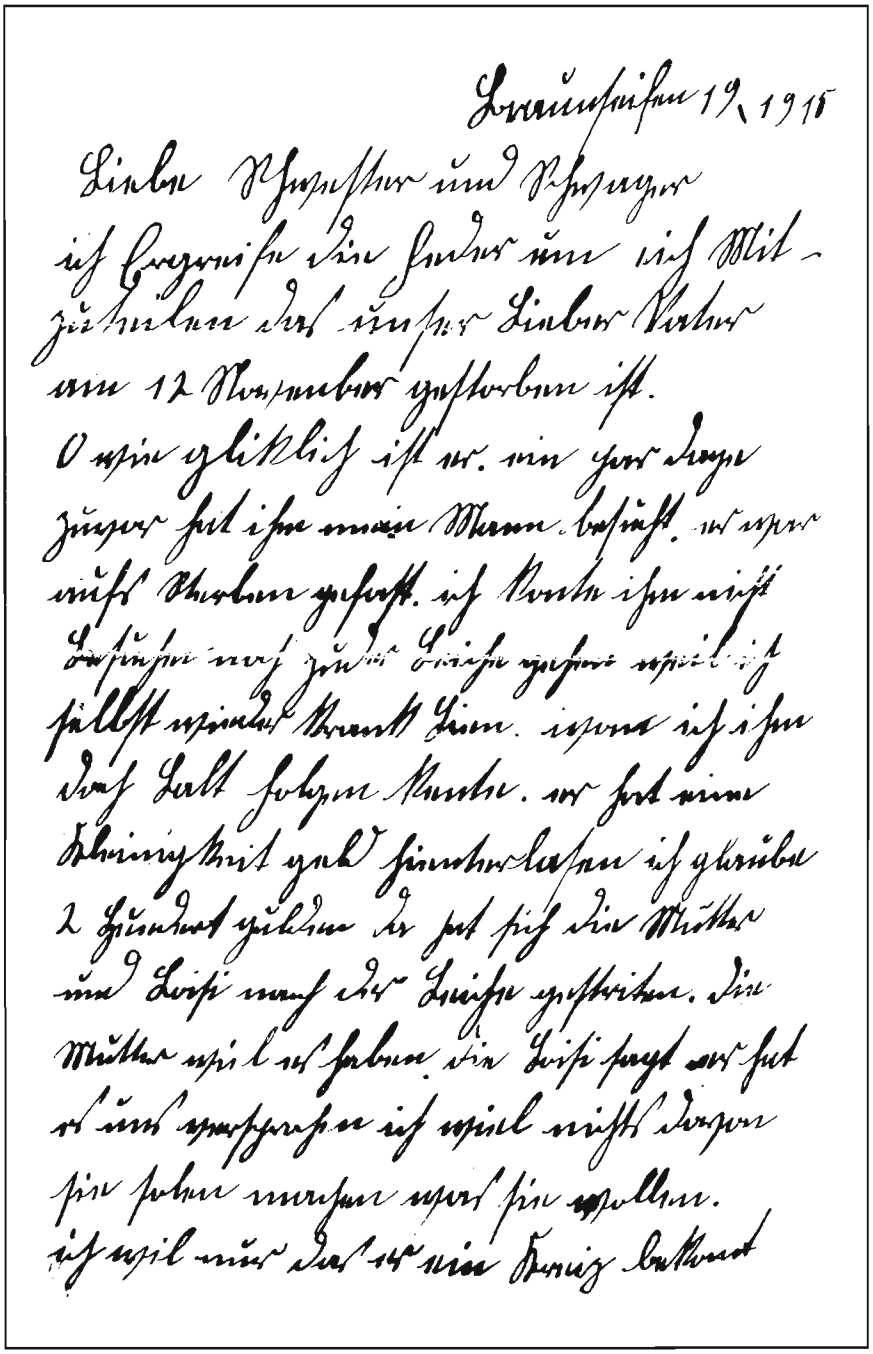
Letter #4 is dated December 20, 1926 and is from Theodor Krehsa. Written in Tunnell, New York, it may have been mailed from another post office. He refers to the fact that he has a new job as helper to a farmer named Henry Stahl, Tunnell, New York. He had visited some friends in Binghamton who had stated that a letter had been sent to them from Osceola, Nebraska, but he failed to receive it when they forwarded it. He sends greetings to all in the Nebraska family.

Letter #5 is missing the first page and date is not available, but seems to be an appeal for help. They spoke of their good situation and financial condition until the war and now it was necessary to ask for help of any kind. Funds which had been set aside for the youthful members of the family to use for education had to be used for daily livelihood. A prompt answer was requested, and good wishes were sent. Signed by Anna Riedl..residing in the USA zone of Germany.

Letter #6 is dated February 23, 1947. It is also a request for aid. Also the address of a ADOLF Pansmal (the poor handwriting makes it difficult to translate exactly)...This

family had no heating appliance for three months but conditions were improving for which they thanked God. Greetings were added from Alfred, Maria and Mitzi, with the hope they would soon receive a reply.

Letter #7A is dated November 27, 1947. It is written by Anna Riedl who begs for a response to correspondence. She appeals for a CARE PACKET as conditions have been distressful for her. Her husband had died just as the European war ended. Since she was writing so near Christmas, she wished the family in America a blessed holiday. A postscript is added to the letter stating that Anna Riedl's daughter was writing the letter because her mother (Anna R.) was unable to user her hands for writing.



This is a sample of the German letters (Letter #1) that were in the black box of Papa Adolf.

Letter 7B is dated February 23, 1948. This was written by Sophie VINZIMS and Walter Schaffasch (spelling in question. Signatures are impossible to translate correctly). They seem in dire distress and also were appealing for assistance. They were niece and nephew of Adolf Kresha (their mother was a sister to Adolf). They speak of the "present great need", etc. The war had destroyed their entire lifestyles and the sad state of affairs forced them to seek whatever help was possible. Other nieces in the family also wrote in this letter and appealed for aid.

Letter #8 dated February 17, 1948. Sending greetings and a wish for a joyous Easter.

Also very needy. They had written before but received no reply. Acknowledged that perhaps the Kresha family was not prospering. (I give up on the signature of this one, Alfred is the first name.)

Letter #9 dated March 15, 1948 is from a daughter of Aloisa Krehsa, sister to Adolf. She also describes their former days as having been happy ones, but the war had changed everything. They lost most of their clothing when the bombing of their area began. Had been compelled to move to Germany and were living in the USA zone. Her name was Aloisia.

Letter #10 dated April 4, 1947 was written by the step-daughter of Adolf Kresha's brother. Also displaced as a refugee in Germany, her plight is described. The distress endured by all of the family must have been almost unbearable.

Letter #11 has an incomplete date. It was written on August 13th but the year is not stated. This was also written by a niece of Adolf Kresha and relates the circumstances under which she has had to live. Her husband was a prisoner of war in Russia for four years. The letter appears to be incomplete..last page is missing. No name of writer is listed.

Letter #12 written June 13, 1948 is postmarked Heimershausen. Sophie Schaffarsch writes her needs. There was nothing to buy in the stores. She writes in the hope that she may receive an answer and hoped that Adolf Kresha might find it possible to visit Germany and come to their aid. Her handwriting was clear and easy to read.

Translators comments:

The heartache described in these letters was almost depressing. I think Mr. Kresha saved the letters hoping that some day in someway he could help these dear people, who through no fault of their own, had been deprived of everything. Some of the men were well educated and held official positions, but the war destroyed any standing they may have had, and their families suffered deprivations as a result. It is my sincere prayer that wars never come again. The terrorism now rampant in several places cannot be solved by nations going to war. Nuclear warfare would only destroy the entire civilization..and God be merciful..it is time all of us acknowledge our sinful natures and pray for more understanding. A visit to Europe and meeting people where they live would help immeasurably. Don't tour with a group in fancy hotels, meet the people where they live, in Russia, in Ireland, in Iran as well as western nations of Germany, France and Switzerland, etc.

NATURALIZATION RECORDS

STATE JOURNAL CO., Blank Book Makers, Stationers and Printers, Lincoln, Neb.

AFFIDAVIT OF APPLICANT FOR NATURALIZATION.

The State of Nebraska, } ss.
Polk County.

Adolf Kresha, being first duly sworn, on oath says that on the 22nd day of March, 1902, before the District Court of Polk County, Nebraska, a court of record, having common law jurisdiction and using a seal, he declared on oath that it was bona fide his intention to become A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and to renounce forever all allegiance to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Emperor of Austria, of whom he was heretofore a subject; that he has resided within the territory of the United States continuously for the term of five years next preceding this application, without being at any time during the said five years out of the territory of the United States, and has resided within the State of Nebraska for one year; that during the time aforesaid he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; that he does not disbelieve in and is not opposed to all organized government, and is not a member of or affiliated with any organization entertaining and teaching such disbelief in or opposition to all organized government, and does not advocate or teach the duty, necessity, or propriety of the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers, either of specific individuals or of officers generally, of the government of the United States or of any other organized government because of his or their official character, and has not violated any of the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, entitled "An act to regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States."

Affiant further says that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he does absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Emperor of Austria

Adolf Kresha

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 25th day of September 1906

(Seal) Lou Campbell
Clerk of District Court.

AFFIDAVIT OF WITNESS.

The State of Nebraska, } ss.
Polk County.

John Kautzer of said County, being first duly sworn, on oath says that he is well acquainted with Adolf Kresha an applicant for naturalization, and has known him for 10 years last past; that said Adolf Kresha has resided within the territory of the United States continuously for the term of five years next preceding this application, without being at any time during the said five years out of the territory of the United States, and has resided within the State of Nebraska for one year; that during the time aforesaid he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; that he does not disbelieve in and is not opposed to all organized government, and is not a member of or affiliated with any organization entertaining and teaching such disbelief in or opposition to all organized government, and does not advocate or teach the duty, necessity, or propriety of the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers, either of specific individuals or of officers generally, of the government of the United States, or of any other organized government, because of his or their official character, and to the best of affiant's knowledge, information, and belief, has not violated any of the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, entitled "An act to regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States."

John Kautzer

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 25th day of September 1906

(Seal) Lou Campbell
Clerk of the District Court.

AFFIDAVIT OF WITNESS.

The State of Nebraska, } ss.
Polk County.

Albert Ryan of said County, being first duly sworn, on oath says that he is well acquainted with Adolf Kresha an applicant for naturalization, and has known him for 6 years last past; that said Adolf Kresha has resided within the territory of the United States continuously for the term of five years next preceding this application, without being at any time during the said five years out of the territory of the United States, and has resided within the State of Nebraska for one year; that during the time aforesaid he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; that he does not disbelieve in and is not opposed to all organized government, and is not a member of or affiliated with any organization entertaining and teaching such disbelief in or opposition to all organized government, and does not advocate or teach the duty, necessity, or propriety of the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers, either of specific individuals or of officers generally, of the government of the United States, or of any other organized government, because of his or their official character, and to the best of affiant's knowledge, information, and belief, has not violated any of the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, entitled "An act to regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States."

Albert Ryan

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 25th day of September 1906

(Seal) Lou Campbell

Adolf's application for naturalization.

NATURALIZATION RECORD.

STATE JOURNAL CO., Blank Book Makers, Stationers and Printers, Lincoln, Neb.

United States of America.

The State of Nebraska, } ss.
Polk County.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That at a Term of the District Court in and for said County, holden in Osceola *therein, on the* 25th *day of* September, *in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and* Six, *present the Honorable* B. F. Good *sole presiding Judge,* Wm. Shiels *Sheriff of said County, and* W. Campbell *Clerk of said Court, the following proceedings among others were had and done, to-wit:*

Adolf Kresha, *a native of* Austria *and at present residing within said State, appeared in open Court and made application to be admitted to become*

A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that he had declared on oath before the District Court of Polk County, Nebraska

a Court of record having common law jurisdiction and using a seal, at least two years before this application, that it was bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce forever all allegiance to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Emperor of Austria, *of whom he was heretofore a* subject; *and said applicant having declared on oath before this Court that he would support the Constitution of the United States, and that he doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatsoever and particularly to the power above named; the Court being satisfied from the affidavits of said applicant and of* John Kaulzer *and* Albert Ryan, *his witnesses, now on file, which are hereby ordered to be entered of record, and from careful inquiry of said applicant and his said witnesses in open Court, that said applicant has resided within the territory of the United States for the term of five years next preceding this application, without being at any time during the said five years out of the territory of the United States, and within this State one year at least; and it further appearing to the satisfaction of this Court in the manner aforesaid that during the time aforesaid he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same, and that he does not disbelieve in and is not opposed to all organized government, and is not a member of or affiliated with any organization entertaining and teaching such disbelief in or opposition to all organized government, and does not advocate or teach the duty, necessity, or propriety of the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers, either of specific individuals or of officers generally, of the government of the United States or of any other organized government because of his or their official character, and has not violated any of the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, entitled "An act to regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States."*

Whereupon it is Ordered by the Court, *That the said* Adolf Kresha *be and he is hereby admitted to become a Citizen of the United States.*

Adolf's naturalization papers.

I, Adolf Kresha do declare, on oath, that it is bona fide my intention to become a Citizen of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and to renounce and abjure forever all allegiance and fidelity to all and any foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Emperor of Austria, of whom I was a subject.

Adolf Kresha

Sworn and Subscribed to before me, at my Office, this 22 day of March A. D. 1902

Emma Campbell
Clerk of the District Court for Polk County, Nebraska.

(Seal)

By ..... Deputy Clerk.

Adolf Kresha's citizenship record.

Warranty Deed

C. E. Perkins et al } Filed for Record Aug. 11, 1902 at 9 A.M.
To
Adolf Kresha } J. W. Gillman
County Clerk

In Consideration of the Payment
of Twelve Hundred Dollars, We C. E. Perkins, of the City
of Burlington, Iowa, and Edith F. Perkins, his Wife,
by C. E. Perkins her attorney in fact, hereby sell and
convey to Adolf Kresha the following described Real
Estate situate in Polk County, State of Nebraska, to
Wit: The North West Quarter of Section No. Eleven (11)
in Township No. Fifteen (15) North of Range No. Two
(2) West of the 6th P. M. (N.W.¼ 11-15n 2w) and We War-
rant the title thereto against the lawful claims of all
persons whomsoever, except as to the Taxes of the year
1899 and thereafter.

Witness our Hands. This 9th day of August A. D. 1902.

C. E. Perkins
Edith F. Perkins
By C. E. Perkins, Atty

Witness:
W. S. Westland

(OVER)

State of Iowa }
County of Des Moines } ss On this 9th day of August A.D. 1902 before me personally appeared L.E. Perkins and Edith F. Perkins, his Wife, by L.E. Perkins, her attorney in fact, to me known to be the person named in and who executed the foregoing instrument: And to me known to be the person who executed the foregoing instrument in behalf of Edith F. Perkins; and acknowledged that he executed the same as his voluntary act and deed and the voluntary act and deed of the said Edith F. Perkins.

W. F. McFarland
Notary Public in and for said County.

W. F. McFarland
Iowa Notarial Seal

I, Dale Frizzell, the duly elected and qualified County Clerk of Polk County, Nebraska, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the instrument on record in my office.

COUNTY CLERK OFFICIAL SEAL POLK COUNTY NEBR

Dale Frizzell, County Clerk
Polk County, Nebraska
By Ruth M Stromberg Deputy

WHEN SATISFIED

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d Abstractor.
P. M.
Abstractor.
P. M.
Abstractor.
M.
Abstractor.

CERTIFICATE OF ABSTRACTOR.

STATE OF NEBRASKA, } ss.
COUNTY OF POLK.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have carefully examined the title to the lands described herein, to-wit: Northwest quarter (NW¼) of Section 11, in Township 15 North, of Range 2 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, in said County, and that the within abstract, consisting of one sheet and 9 entries, numbered from No. 1 to No. 9 both inclusive, is a full and complete abstract of all instruments on record or on file in the office of the County Clerk of said County that in any way affect the said lands; that the same are properly executed, and properly indexed, and contain no conditions, limitations, recitals, or unusual covenants, except as noted; that there are no Mechanics' Liens on record or on file against the lands or parties herein named, except as shown herein, and that I have compiled the within abstract from the records of said County, and not from the indexes. Witness my hand this 17" day of October 1921, at Osceola, Nebraska, 3 o'clock P. M.

J. Lindlie Heald Bonded Abstractor.

Re-examined, and above Certificate extended to cover entries No. 1 to No. 10 inclusive, this 27" day of October 1921 2 P. M.

J. Lindlie Heald Bonded Abstractor.

Re-examined, and above Certificate extended to cover entries No. 1 to No. 11 inclusive, this 17" day of April 1925 3 P. M.

J. Lindlie Heald Bonded Abstractor.

Re examined, and above Certificate extended to cover entries No. 1 to No. 12 inclusive, this 20" day of April 1925 10 A. M.

J. Lindlie Heald Bonded Abstractor.

Above Certificate extended to cover entries 13 to 20, both inclusive, this 2nd of July 1946 - 9 A.M.

By Phillip Nolberg

RE-EXAMINATION CERTIFICATE.

I certify that I have carefully re-examined the title to the within described lands and find that the mortgage from ..... to ....., dated ..... 19..... for $..... and shown at No. ....., is a First lien against said lands. Dated this ..... day of ..... 19.....

..... Abstractor.

ABSTRACT OF TITLE

TO

Northwest quarter of

Section 11

Township 15 North

Range 2 West 6th P. M.

County of Polk, State of Nebraska.

Compiled by
J. Lindlie Heald
Bonded Abstractor.

FROM THE OFFICE OF

J. P. HEALD

ABSTRACTOR.

LOAN AND INSURANCE AGENT.

REAL ESTATE.

GOOD FARMS FOR SALE.

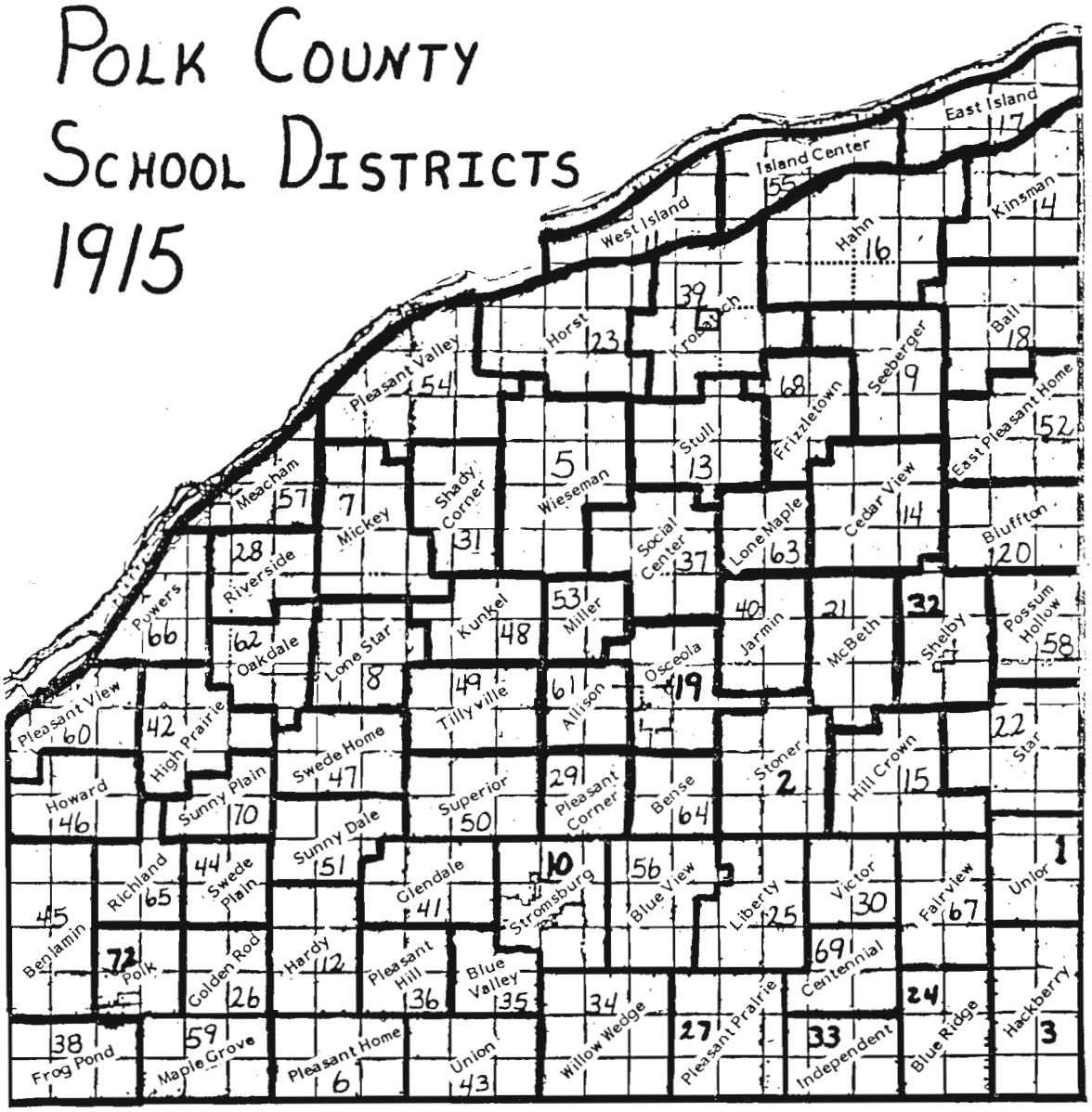
TAXES PAID FOR NON-RESIDENTS.

OSCEOLA, NEBRASKA.

GEO. D. BARNARD & CO., PRINTERS ST. LOUIS.

Abstract of Kresha Family Farm in Polk County, Nebraska 1921.

April 6, 1889



NE¼ Sec 3, T15N, R2W

John S holze

Map of Polk County, Nebraska School Districts. Kresha Family Farm in small box in District 39.

Chapter Thirty-three

Centennial Edition of the Kresha Kronicle

Reproduction of the Kresha Kronicle, the family newsletter, as it was produced in June, 1988 in celebration of the Kresha Centennial.

Kresha Kronicle

Centennial Edition



1888 ☆ 1988

KRESHA CENTENNIAL

1888  1988

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

"Semper 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 ..... Rebbeca 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 Serio, 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

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 Kropatsch. 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



ADOLF AND EVA 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 researching the family history and thought it would be a good idea to have a cenntenial 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 cenntenial 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 hestitate 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.

Article used with permission. Columbus Telegram June 5, 1988



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 Kuhnel; Lester and Barb Anderson; Leonard Kropatsch; Martha Jaax; Gregg, Denice, 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

PLATTSMOUTH--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 Kuhnel; 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 Altmanshofer, 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, (

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.

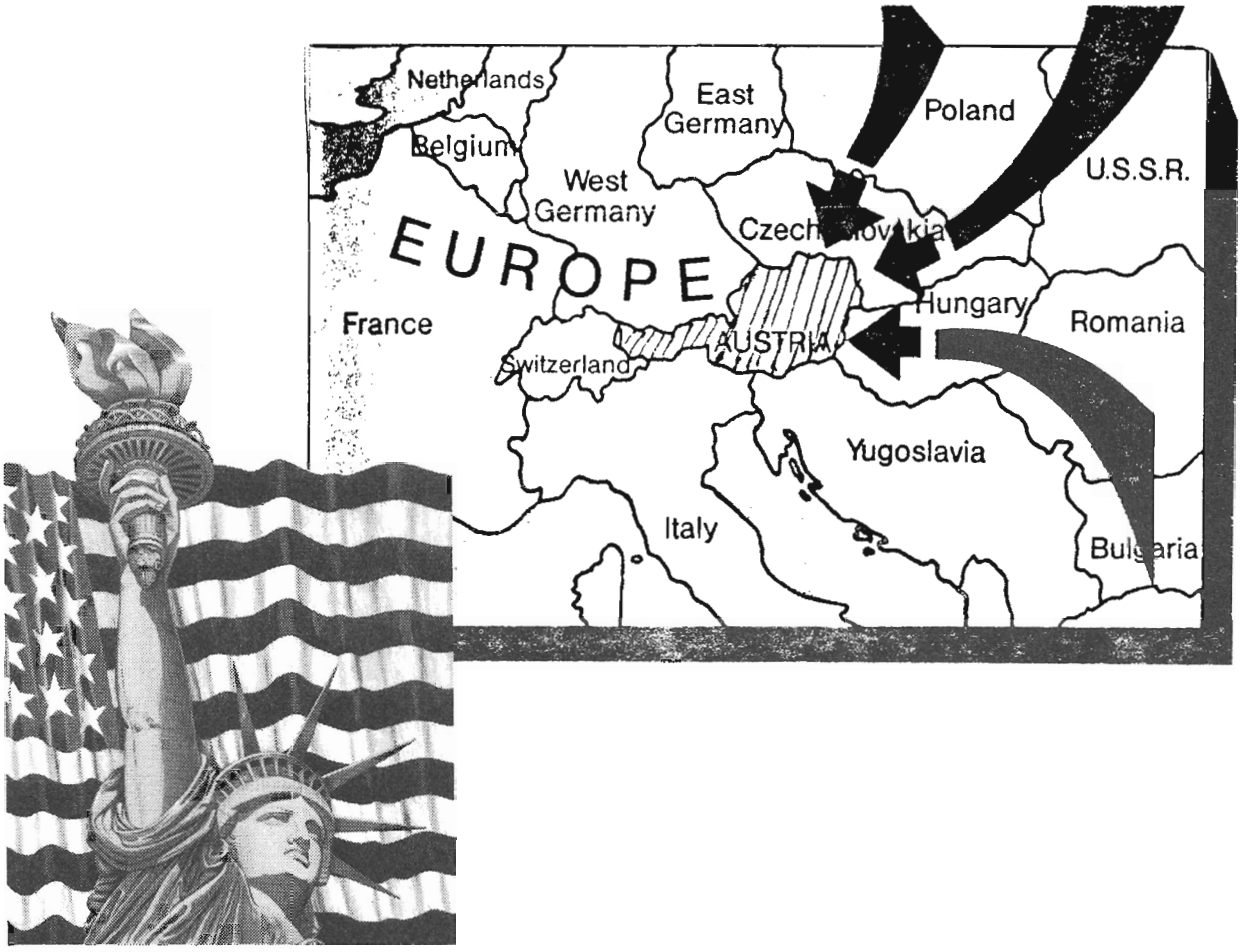
Thank you for the many blessings, which the Kresha families have received, in establishing their homes, and giving birth to normal, healthy, children.

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 curiousity, 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 helf 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 sough 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 Etter, Lillian Witulski, Murl Etter
Zachary Etter

Marcie, Murl and
Zachary Etter

1965 Stonehenge Dr.
Lafayette, CO 80026

(303) 665-9369

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.

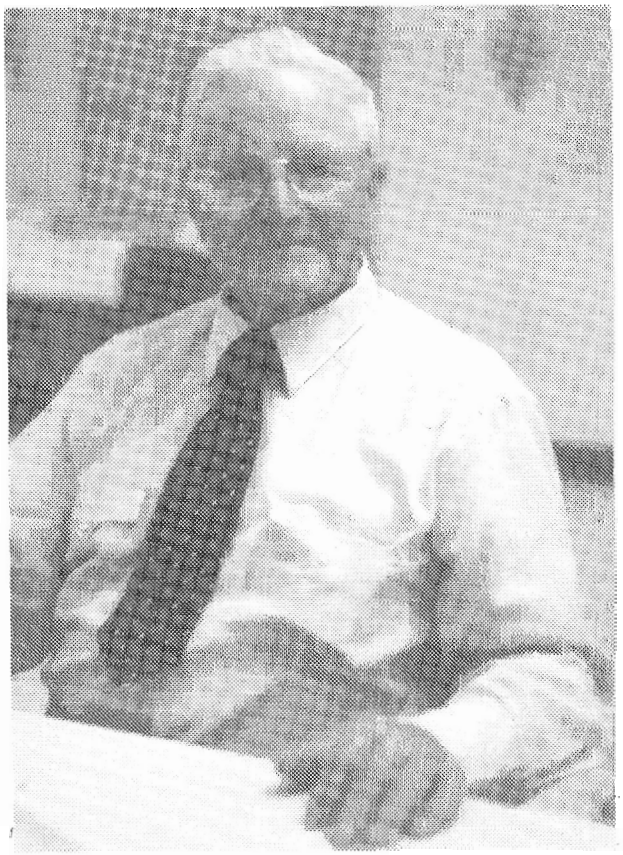
The many times I helped my mother doing research in different towns and libraries, I have to admit I got bored, but that was when I was a lot younger. Then that day she found the names--Amolia, and baby Louis, Anna and Adolf--on the German immigrant passenger ship list, it made me stop and think how 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



KELLY and BETHANIE O'BRIEN

SALUTE TO THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Presented by 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!"

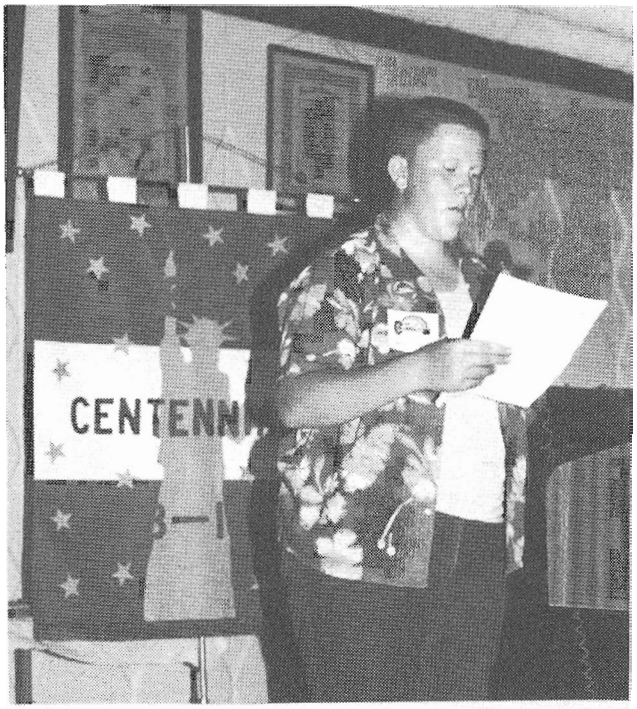
Bethany and Kelly are daughters of Tom and Mary Lou O'Brien and grand-daughters of Harold and Lillian Kresha Witulski

---



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



EVA KRESHA

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.

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

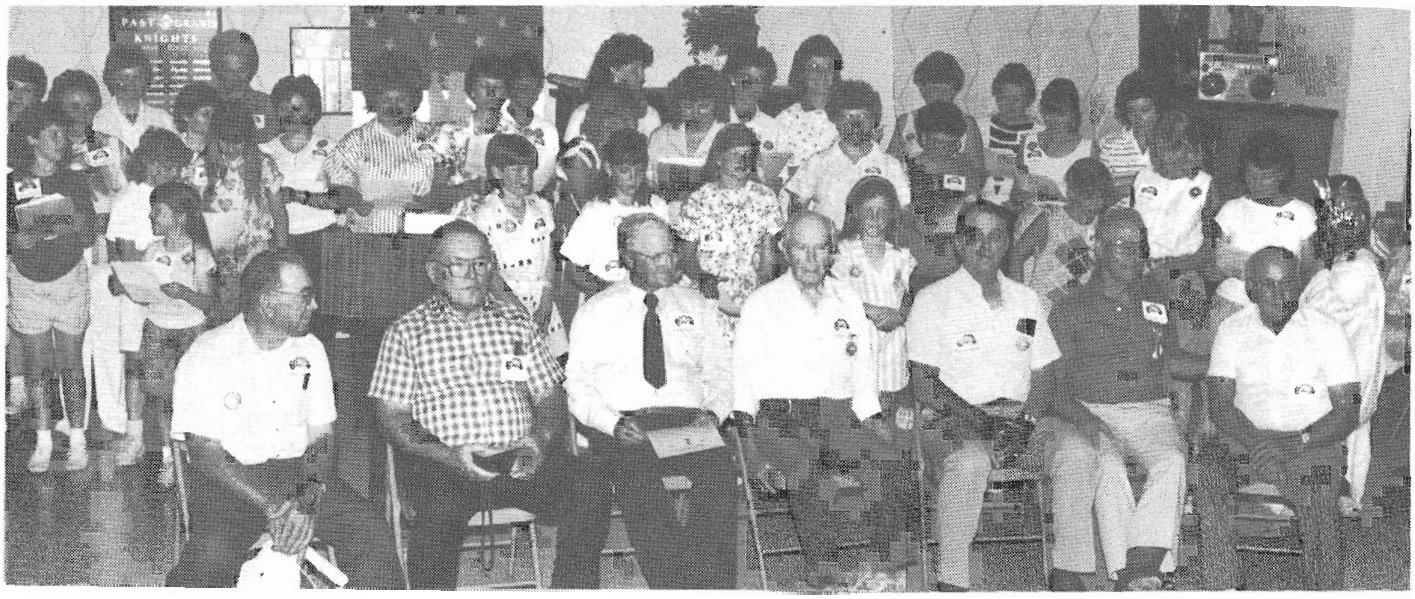
OLDEST AND YOUNGEST

Oldest child-Sophia Kresha

Oldest grandchild-Glenn Kresha

Youngest grandchild-Danny Kresha

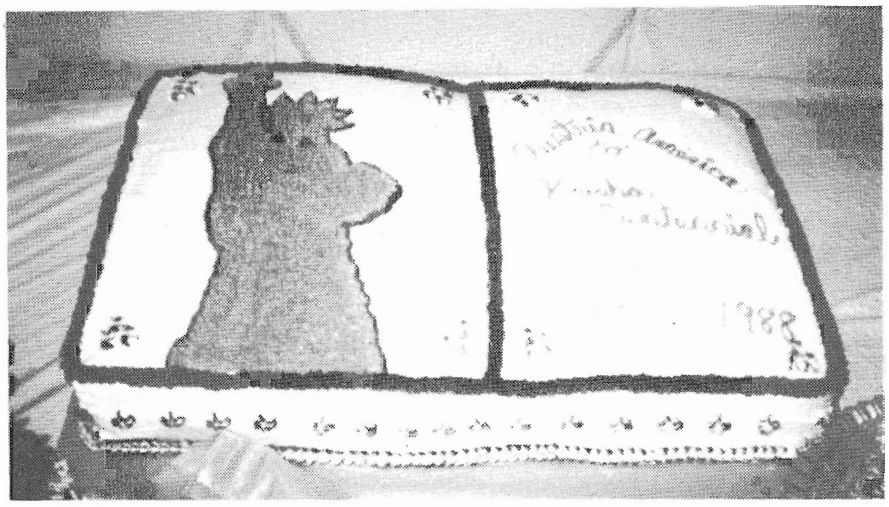




"GRANDPA, TELL ME 'BOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS"---Grandpas-L to R- Glenn Kresha, Paul Kresha, Adolph Kresha, George Kresha, Charles Kresha, Harold Witulski, Allen Kresha



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



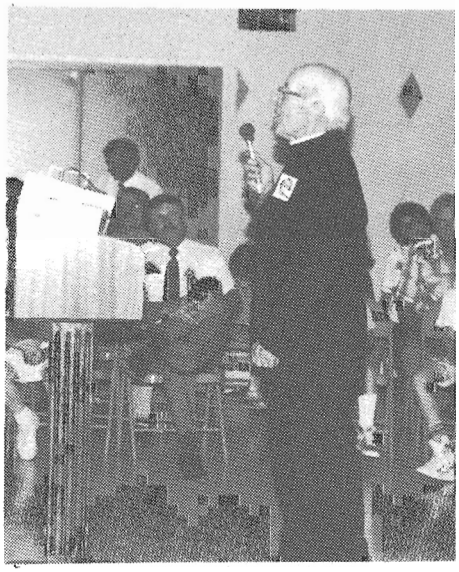
Front: Joe Thomas, Teresa Thomas, Karen and Shawn Higgins, Gene Thomas
Back: Gloria Thomas (Taken 5/15/88)



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

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

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

KAY A. ORR
Governor

KAO:mk