

The History of
Elmer & Elva Wilson
And Family

Betty

Floyd

Robert

Acknowledgment

I want to thank those that helped in putting these stories and picture pages together of Elmer & Elva Wilson and family. Thanks go to Betty, Floyd, & Robert for their history and picture pages and certificates.

Special thanks goes to them for writing about Elmer & Elva history and the pictures pages and the letters Elmer wrote to Elva in 1930.

Thanks goes to Vivian Wilson for putting up with me and all the typing and retyping she has to do for this book this last year, especially for letting me to keep the basement a mess this winter.

We enjoying doing this history and I personally want to thank all those who helped us and encouraged us in this endeavor.

Floyd & Vivian Wilson

August 2, 1999

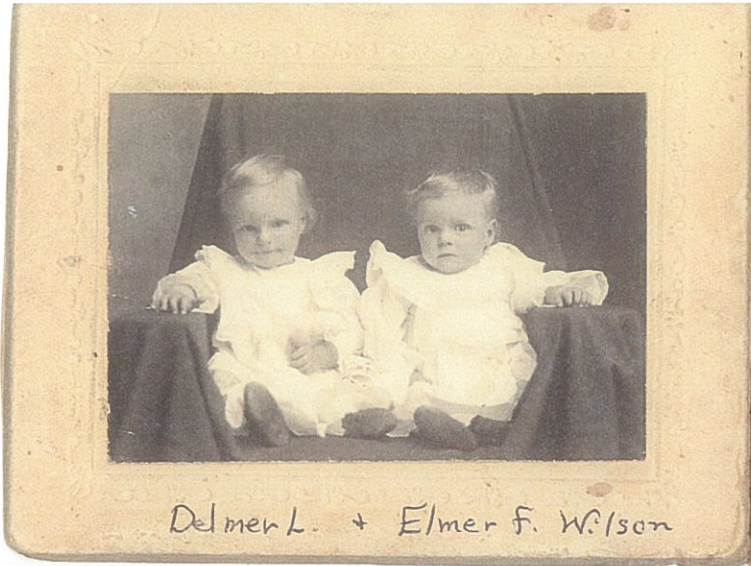
Updated May 2016

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Chapter 1

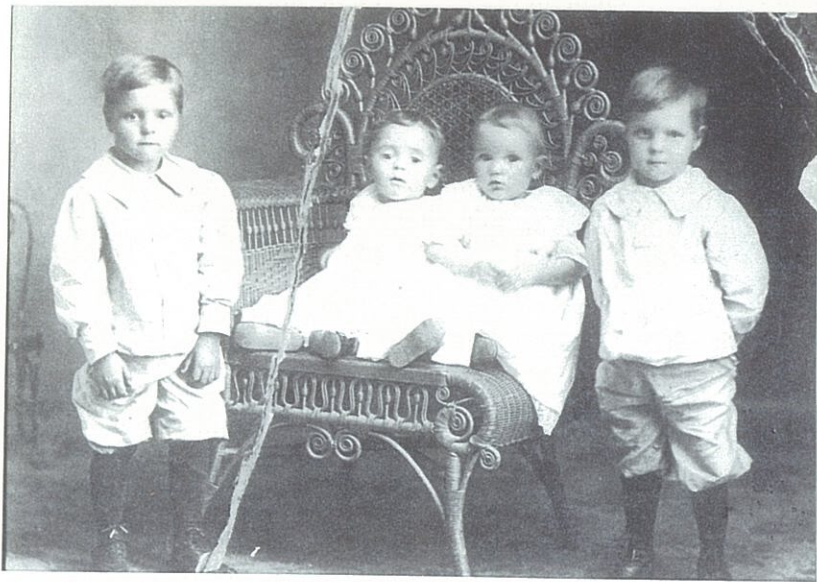
Elmer & Elva Wilson



Delmer L. + Elmer F. Wilson



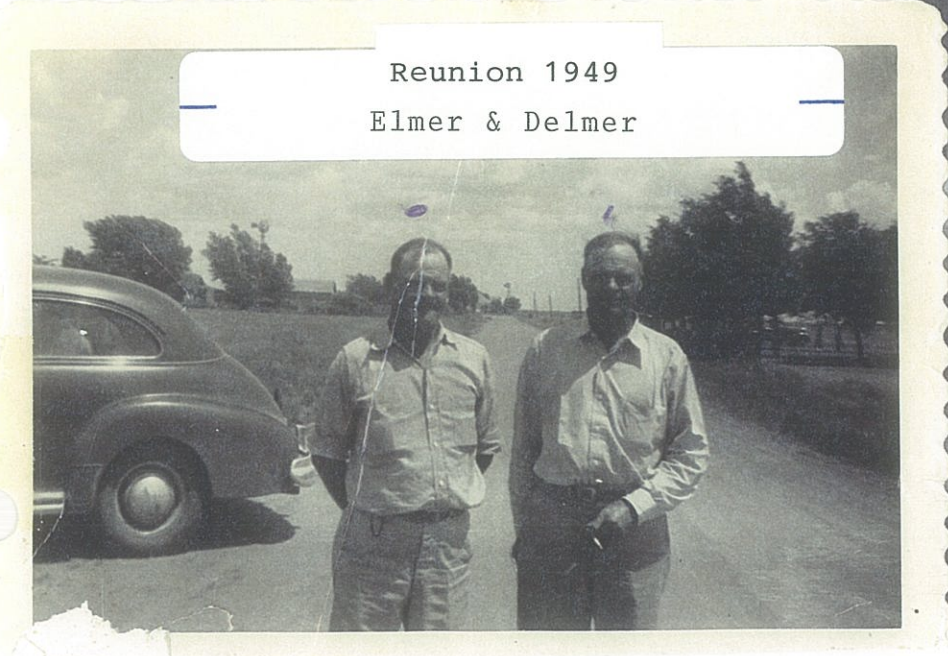
Delmer & Elmer



Delmer Dan & Don Elmer
Wilson's Twins



Elizabeth
Elmer & Delmer



Reunion 1949
Elmer & Delmer

(11)



Elva & Elmer



Elmer

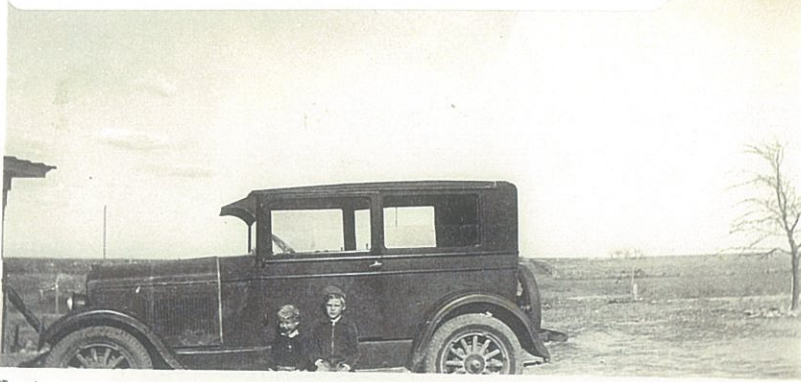


Elmer



Elmer & Elva

Robert Wilson & Floyd Wilson

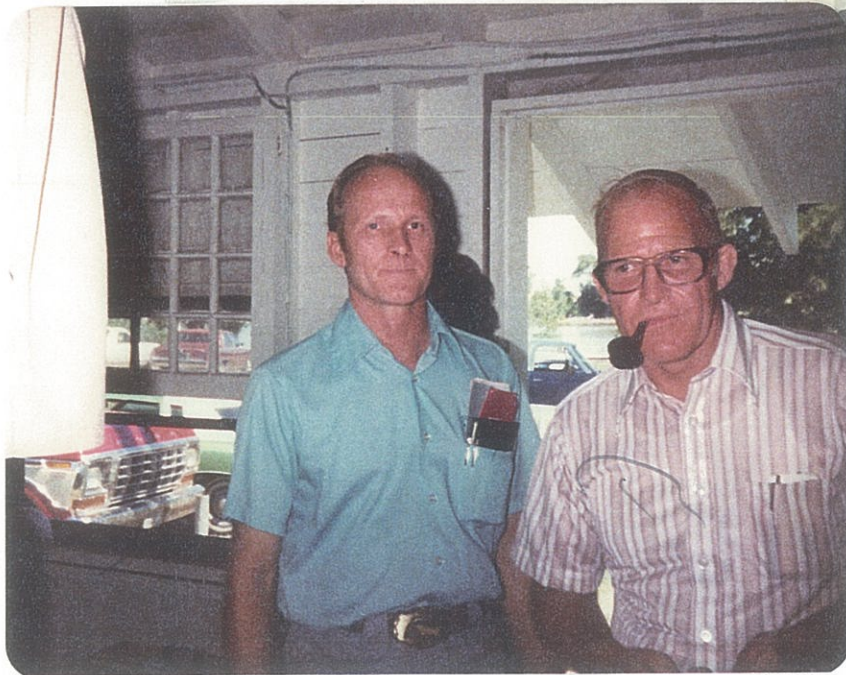


Rob



L-R Elmer, Delmer, Minnie, Harold, Elizabeth, Roy

Aug. 7, 1949



Robert & Floyd (2)



B-Floyd, Betty
F-Donald, Robert



Elva Elmer
 Betty 1940
 Robert Floyd



Frank, Betty, Robert, Elva, Elmer
 Gale 1957 Diane



Elmer & Elva / M/M Jake Mather
 Grinnell, 1958



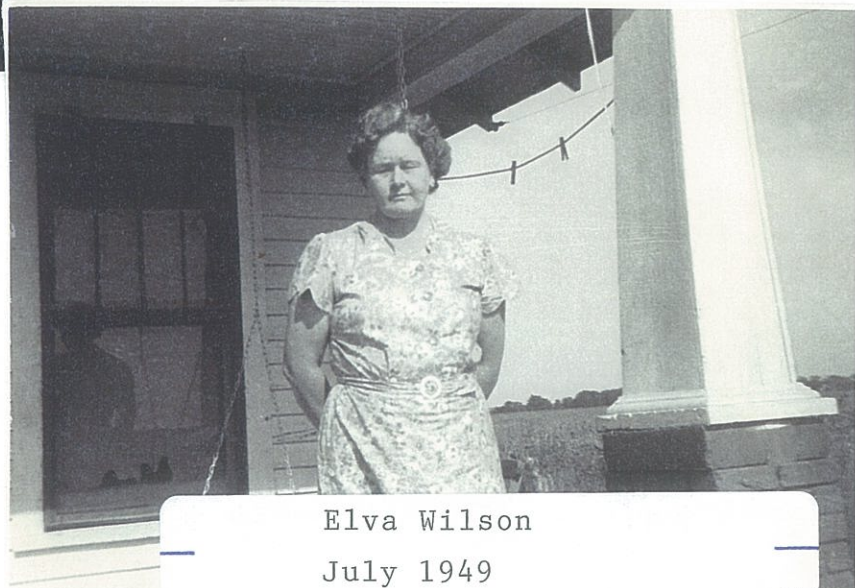
Elmer 1950
 Enjoying a ballgame
 on the radio



Elva



Elmer (3)



Elva Wilson
 July 1949



Tom Tiller
Elva's second
husband



Tom & Elva



Elva & Tom Tiller
May 1962



Elva, Wife of Elmer Wilson
Nellie, Wife of Roy Wilson
Connie, Wife of Earl Wilson
1979 Reunion



Tom & Elva (Mendenhall, Wilson) Tiller
Married Aug. 7, 1962



1998

(4)

Story of Elmer and Elva Wilson

By Floyd, Betty, Robert

This is our memories of our mother and father and early stories told by them. Elmer Floyd Wilson was the 9th child, one of the twins, born to Elmer Gardner and Eva Carolyn Snow, June 17, 1906 in Almena, Norton Co., Kansas. As a young child he was stricken with polio which left him with a slightly shriveled leg and a limp. He was also left handed but had very nice handwriting.

In 1929 he met a young lady, Elva Mendenall, at the Rush Co. Fair held on the Walnut Creek south of Rush Center, KS. They were married in the Ness City County Courthouse on March 27, 1930. Shortly after their marriage they moved to western Kansas where Dad worked for an older brother as a farm laborer. This arrangement did not work out too well. They then moved back to the Nekoma area where Dad worked at odd jobs as a farm laborer. On February 3, 1931 a daughter, Betty, was born. Shortly thereafter they moved to a one room house next door. A son Floyd Edward was born there June 1, 1932. Dad continued to do farm labor and other work where possible. While living in the one room home, Floyd and Betty were left alone for a short time, when Mom returned Floyd and Betty had gotten into the flour bin and proceeded to have lots of fun - flour was everywhere. In 1935 the family moved to a three room house in the southwest part of Nekoma, just north of the schoolhouse. This was during the depression and dirty thirties. On February 1, 1936 another son, Robert Eugene, was added to the family. We had a neighbor lady, Sarah Nash. She and Mom visited often. One day Betty was visiting her and she wanted to know if Mom was canning apples. Betty told her "No, she was jarring them".

During the dust storms, wet sheets or gunny sacks were put over the windows and rags were stuffed around the windows to keep out the dust and in the winter to keep out the cold winds. Everything had to be dusted before meal time. We later moved from Nekoma in the '36 or '37 to a two room house in Rush Center, KS. We had electricity in the house but no running water or indoor plumbing. There was a chicken house and room for gardening. We raised a nice garden and Mom always had a flower garden. We raised chickens for eggs and meat and at one time had two nanny goats which were milked. Dad worked for the W.P.A. (Works Projects Administration) .He helped build bridges, school houses other projects. He also worked on the Timken Grade School. This was very stressful work and Dad was often exhausted at night. He sometimes talked in his sleep. Anti-freeze wasn't so plentiful and was expensive so the car radiator was drained every night in the winter and refilled with water

each morning. A robe or blanket was often placed over the radiator to help it start easier on cold mornings. After the W.P.A. projects he worked for the County Farm for a short while. He then went to work for Mike Moran in Nekoma. We then moved on a farm north of Nekoma. Dad worked in the elevator as well as farmed for Mr. Moran. Mom raised a garden, cared for pigs, milked cows checked on cattle and hauled the children to school. Robert began his schooling in Nekoma and went all eight grades there. In the fall Dad often came home quite black from shoveling coal from a train car to the coal bin by the elevator. Mr. Moran sold the farm in 1947 and we moved back into the town of Nekoma. Later they moved into an eight room house on Main St., in Nekoma. Dad continued to work in the elevator until they were sold at which time he worked odd jobs and helped Floyd some in the service station which he operated. In September 1959 Nekoma was flooded from the Walnut Creek. Mom said the water came in the west windows and out the east in their house. Daddy died December 17, 1959 at home of a heart attack and was buried in Union Cemetery south of Nekoma. After Dad's death mother went to work in the rest home in Nekoma, which was operated by Bessie Maresch. She met a gentleman, Tom Tiller, from Hoisington, KS whose mother was in the rest home and they later married and moved to his home in Hoisington. Tom Tiller's died of lung cancer in 1969. Mom later moved to the farm with Frank and Betty. She entered the Rush Co Nursing Home in 1984 and died May 26, 1988. She was buried beside Elmer in the Union Cemetery.

Mom and Dad were family oriented people as they both came from large families. We enjoyed many visits to relatives on both sides. Money was always in short supply as we kids were growing up but we still found a way to make trips to a lot of our relatives. I know we looked like gypsies, because we always had extra spare tires, extra gasoline, tire patching equipment, extra engine oil as well as our clothing and a little extra bedding. We visited in Gove County where we stayed with Earl and Connie then on to Goodland and a stay with Roy and Nell. When we stayed with these relatives there were always side trips to see other relatives or the relatives would stop by for a visit.

We made some trips to Almena also to see Uncle Orlie and Aunt Ida Wilson, Grandpa Wilson's brother. We also enjoyed visits to Grandma and Grandpa Wilson's home in Nekoma and helping Grandpa in his shop. We also were fortunate enough to have several relatives to visit in our own area, Uncle Tom and Aunt Elizabeth Baldwin, Uncle Tang and Aunt Minnie Hobson, Harold (Sam) and Agnes plus many aunts and uncles on mother's side of the family and many, many cousins on both sides.

My father was a very sports minded person. He enjoyed baseball and boxing. He played baseball as a catcher for many years and later he coached the town team at Nekoma so on Sundays we, as a family, were usually at some neighboring town or on our own home field enjoying a ball game. We also had a standing invitation to listen to the radio for the Friday night fights.

Mother was a family person also. She enjoyed all the animals we kids would bring around. She would help us to save young or injured animals. She also enjoyed singing to herself and by herself. If she knew she had an audience she would quit singing. She was also a good mouth harp player but usually only for her own enjoyment.

Both my mother and father enjoyed community gatherings such as card parties, dances, children's plays and P.T.A. The card parties were played in the homes of the members and as kids we enjoyed visiting all the homes and playing with all the other kids. We also had cake or cookies after the party was over and then we all went home. We also had dances at our Community Hall and Mom and Dad would take us to these dances, it was always a thrill to get to dance with the adults and learn the dance steps. Betty especially enjoyed dancing with Aunt Elizabeth and a neighbor lady by the name of Martha Oetken.. Mother didn't dance no matter how hard we begged but she still enjoyed visiting and watching. She also enjoyed watching the small children while their parents were dancing

Dad always enjoyed fresh caught fish and would take us to the creek to go fishing but he would never fish, he would find a good shade trees and nap while we caught fish and cleaned them. Dad was also an excellent shot but due to having infantile-paralysis which left him with a bad leg, he wasn't able to walk long distance, so again he would take us and we would walk while he drove to the far end of a field or draw and block for us. Mother would cook whatever we brought home, fish, fowl or rabbit and Dad enjoyed them all. There is one thing mother refused to cook for us and that was an eel we caught on one of our excursions to the creek. We had to take that one to a neighbor lady to prepare for us, Mrs. Dorothy Murphy.

Elva Mendenhall Wilson Tiller

By Diane Schaben

I do not remember a lot about right after Grandpa Wilson died; I was only five at the time. I do remember that sometime after he died, Grandmas Elva started working at a nursing home in Nekoma, in a home not far from where she lived. I also remember that she hated working there sometimes because of the way the patients were sometimes treated. This left her with a fear of nursing homes.

I am not sure when Grandma met Tom Tiller, and not sure exactly how they met, but I believe they met at a card party that was held in Nekoma, I believe on a regular basis. I do not remember really meeting him much before they were married. I do remember the home where they lived. It was a small home with only about four rooms. My sister and I spent the night with them from time to time and we would play cards or board games. Grandpa Tom had a small dog that I believe was part rat terrier, who was rather elderly but a lot of fun to play with also.

After Grandpa Tom died, Grandma continued to stay in Hoisington for a year, more or less. She eventually moved onto the farm with us and my sister and I felt lucky that she would be living with us. Grandma was a big help to Mom around the house, and really enjoyed working in the garden, both vegetable and flower. We enjoyed having her to watch us when Mom and Dad were gone for any amount of time.

After dad died, Mom and Grandma moved into LaCrosse around November 12, 1975, the day my daughter Dawn was born. Mom worked at the Register of Deeds office so Grandma kept up the house and cooked. After I divorced and returned home, we moved in with Mom and Grandma. Grandma became a big help to me watching Dawn while I went back to college to get my degree, and she really enjoyed that.

After Mom married Harry Janke in November of 1979, and I married Edd Schaben in January of 1980, Grandma was left on her own. She did not have much to do and her mind started slipping, and Mom, Uncle Floyd and Uncle Robert were forced to place her in a nursing home. By that time Grandma's memory was not real good, and at times I was not sure that she even knew she was in a nursing home. I later went to work there and saw her on a daily basis and she seemed to be content, even if she did not remember who I was. She enjoyed playing cards and games with the other residents until her passing in May 1988.

I) Elmer Floyd Wilson
Birth: June 17, 1906
Place: Almena, Kansas (farm)
Death: December 17, 1959
Cemetery: Nekoma, Kansas
Married: March 27, 1930; Ness City, Kansas
Children Born To This Union:

Betty Irene	February 3, 1931
Floyd Edward	June 1, 1932
Robert Eugene	February 1, 1936

Elva Mendenhall
June 7, 1905
LaCrosse, Kansas (farm)
May 26, 1988
Nekoma, Kansas

Elva remarried: Thomas C. Tiller (Tom)
Birth: June 7, 1896
Place: Atchison, Kansas
Death: March 14, 1969
Cemetery: Hoisington, Kansas
Married: August 7, 1962;

1) Betty Irene Wilson
Birth: February 3, 1931
Place: Nekoma, Kansas
Death: January 21, 2004
Cemetery: Nekoma, Kansas
Married: April 18, 1951; Nekoma, Kansas
Children Born To This Union:

Diane Lucille	July 24, 1954
Gale Ellen	January 23, 1957

Frank T. West
April 11, 1916
Rush Center, Kansas (farm)
March 29, 1975
Nekoma, Kansas

Betty remarried: Harry Janke
Birth: September 26, 1919
Place: Bazine, Kansas (farm)
Death: May 17, 1995
Cemetery: McCracken, Kansas
Married: November 24, 1979; Bazine, Kansas

2) Floyd Edwards Wilson

Birth: June 1, 1932

Place: Nekoma, Kansas

Death: June 17, 2009

Cemetery: Nekoma, Kansas

Married: June 19, 1955; LaCrosse, Kansas

Children Born To This Union:

Dixie Lynn	May 9, 1956
Sherly Sue	May 24, 1957
Carla Jean	July 29, 1959
Wayne Edward	July 5, 1960
Lisa Eileen	April 19, 1962
Joel Eugene	June 6, 1967

Nancy Mayse

January 16, 1934

St. Joseph, Missouri

3) Robert Eugene Wilson

Birth: February 1, 1936

Place: Nekoma, Kansas

Death: May 6, 2001

Cemetery: Valley Falls, Kansas

Married: August 24, 1954; Grinnell, Kansas

Children Born To This Union:

Brett Lee	September 7, 1959
Marjorie Jane (Sugie)	April 20, 1962
Eric Paul	June 21, 1968

Carol J. Mather

March 30, 1940

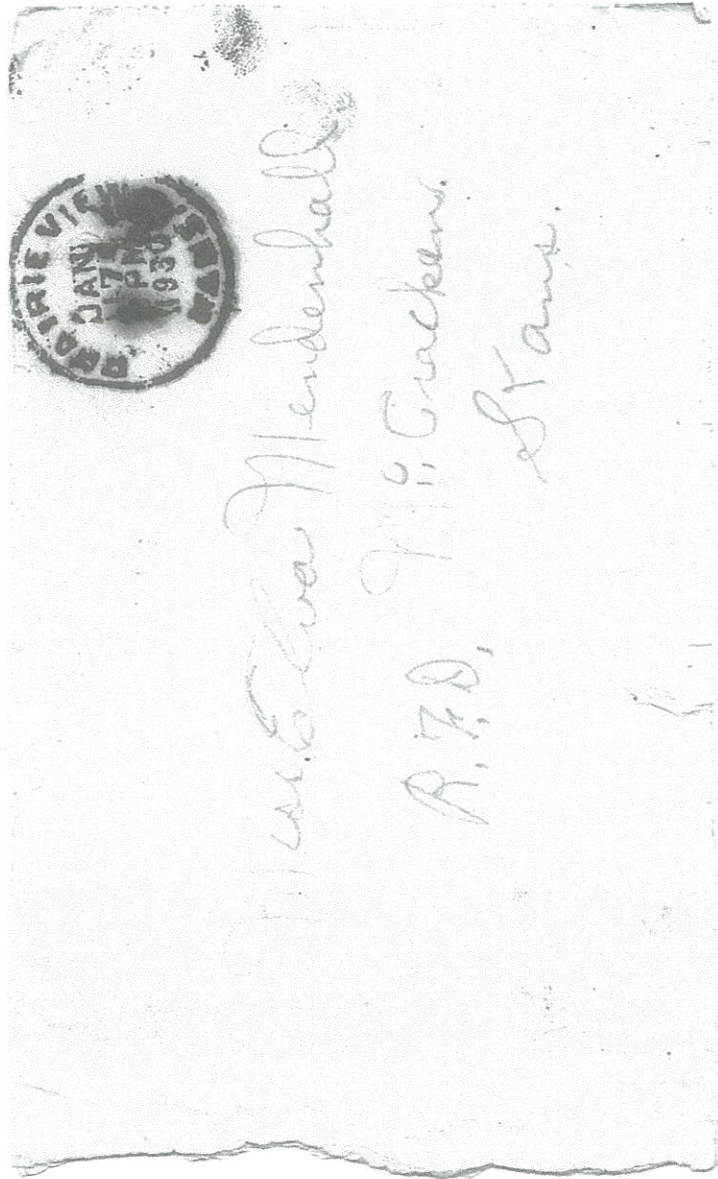
Grinnell, Kansas

February 20, 2003

Valley Falls, Kansas

B1

Elmer's Love Letter to Eva
Sat. 7, 1930



I

Fraice Jew

Stam.
Jan 7-1930

Dearest Friend Elv:-

How are you
by now? I am fine as for
hair received your letter
the same day I mailed
yours. It is blowing to day
and is cold as well as ^{dry} if his
sure cold. Well kid I see
with I had down there or you
weg here. Talk about some
It follows me all around up
here it is worse than my ~~the~~
shadow because when the sun
doesn't shine my shadow is
gone but am someone just
the same. ~~Have~~ Have
you got converted at those

52

II

Meetings yet. I suppose
Blondie & Sam ^{not} have.
I have had an awful cold for
a couple days it has settled
on my lungs Doctor says
stay in the house today
and tomorrow I helped shell
corn the other day and got
warm and then got on a
truck and rode to town
That is when I caught
cold, but am feeling fine
at present. I see you every
night but it is in my
dreams. but think of you
about all the time I wonder
if you are alright. Words
cannot express my ~~love~~

III

Love for you. Of course this
is in writing but you know
it is from heart and mind
but it is true. Have you seen Sam
lately. You know kid in my
letter before I told you I thought
I would be home about Saturday
but since it snowed and have
been sick and delayed my travels
around and hurt my business but
I will be home as soon as possible
I would come tomorrow if I could
you know, but the District
Manager was here yesterday and
said he had ten to fifteen days
work lined up for me at Boston
County and Phillip County but
I will come home before that

53
PK what you get
tired trying to read this
thing. Well good. by Sweetheart
See you soon.

because I have been away
about as long as I can
stand it now. I wrote to another
agent to see if he would come
out and help me for a few days.
he said he would if it was
so he could. So if he comes I will
be down there before long.
hope so any way I have some
thing to tell you when I see you
Good news of course. Well
Dearie dinner is ready so
I will halt to close. Hoping to
hear from you soon.

With Lots of Love

S. W. A. T.

Frairie Diggins, S.
Dec 31-1929

Dearest Kind Friend

How are you by now
any way. I arrived here all right
about four thirty yesterday eve.
I had a fine trip only it was kind
a lonesome by my self. I have
something to tell you when
I get back it is just news too
It is cloudy this morning
and cooler than yesterday.
I never had a bit of trouble
at all just came right
through all right.
Uncle Oler said this morn
that you called for me
to come home. He was just
stidding me is all right it.

If you can read this you are
doing good for I can't after
it got cold. I went to a
show last night that is I
Dan. And a fellow sang a song
entitled 'I would rather be
Sunburnt on my vacation
than tanned on my week
end'. Sure was a keen song.
I thought well kid news
is scarce and I have two
fellows to see at 9 o'clock
so will close for this
time write soon. please.
Because it is sure love
up here with love
Mr. E. Lang Wilson
% M. D. Wilson Prairie Diggins
R. F. D. 1.
K. S.

Tell them all hello.
You may see your
latter kids good by
and good bye Jack.

John

Elmer & Elva Wilson



Elva & Elmer



Elmer & Elva Wilson
1949



Name: Elmer Floyd Wilson

Birth: June 17, 1906

Place: Almena, Kansas

Death: December 7, 1959

Cemetery: Nekoma, Kansas

Married: March 27, 1930; Ness City, Kansas

Children: Betty, Floyd, & Robert.

Elva Mendenhall

June 7, 1905

LaCross, Kansas

May 26, 1988



Obituary

Elmer F. Wilson

Elmer F. Wilson, son of Elmer G. and Eva Snow Wilson, was born June 17, 1906, in Norton county, Kansas. He died at his home in Nekoma Thursday, Dec. 17, at the age of 53 years and six months.

Mr. Wilson had lived in the Nekoma community since 1921. He was employed by M. T. Moran for many years until Mr. Moran's death. He was united in marriage to Miss Elva Mendenhall on March 27, 1930, at the Ness City courthouse.

Mr. Wilson was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Earl of Shields and Ralph of Goodland; two sisters, Mrs. Minnie Hobson of Bartlesville, Okla. and Mrs. Grace Hughes of Waldron.

Survivors include his widow; three children, Mrs. Frank (Betty) West of Rush Center, Floyd of Nekoma and Robert of Manhattan; one sister, Mrs. Thomas Baldwin, Nekoma; three brothers, Roy of Goodland, Harold of Menlo and his twin brother, Elmer of Shields; six grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, Dec. 19, from the Pittman Funeral home in La Crosse with Rev. Forest E. Good officiating.

Social music was furnished by Mrs. Harold Miller and Mrs. Dwight Kershner accompanied by Mrs. Paul Bowman.

Fallbearers were Lloyd West, Willard West, Thomas West, Melvin Phillips, Bert Wallace and Francis Moran. Interment was in the Nekoma cemetery.

Elva Wilson Tiller Dies May 26

Elva Wilson Tiller, 82, La Crosse, died Thursday, May 26, 1968, at Rush County Memorial Hospital, La Crosse.

She was born June 7, 1905, in Brookdale Township, to Edward L. and Lucy (Kramer) Mendenhall. She married Elmer F. Wilson March 27, 1930. He died December 17, 1959. She married Tom Tiller August 7, 1962. He died in March 1969. She was a housewife and lived in Rush County most of her life.

Survivors include two sons, Floyd Edward Wilson, Great Bend, and Robert Eugene Wilson, Valley Falls; one daughter, Betty Irene Janke, McCracken; a brother, Alvin Ray Mendenhall, La Crosse; a sister, Agnes Mae McKenney, Colby; 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were May 29 at Janousek Funeral Home, La Crosse, will the Rev. John Daly officiating; burial in Union Township Cemetery, Nekoma. The family suggests memorials to the Rush County Nursing Home, La Crosse, or to Rush County EMTs or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Entered Into Eternal Rest
Friday March 14, 1969

March 7, 1969
THOMAS C TILLER

HOISINGTON, Kan. -- Services for Thomas C Tiller, 72, who died Friday after a long illness, will be at 2 p.m. Monday in Nicholson-Ricke Funeral Home.

Born at Atchison, Kan., he moved her 50 years ago from McCracken, Kan. A retired engineer for Missouri-Pacific Railway, he was a member of Hoisington First United Methodist Church, IOOF and Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers.

Survivors include his widow, Elva, a son, Cecil, address unknown, and a daughter, LaVon, address unknown; two stepsons, Floyd Wilson, Great Bend, Kan., and Robert Wilson, Valley Falls, Kan.; A stepdaughter, Mrs. Frank West, Rush Center, Kan.; A brother Ted, Belleville, Kan., and a sister Mrs. Vera Bowden, Wichita.

Tom & Elva Tiller



Name: Tomas C. Teller
Birth: June 7, 1896
Place: Atchison, Kansas
Death: March 7, 1969
Cemetery: Hoisington, Kansas
Married: August 7, 1962;

Elva Mendenhall Wilson
June 7, 1905
LaCross, Kansas
May 28, 1988
Nekoma, Kansas

Chapter 2

Frank & Betty
West



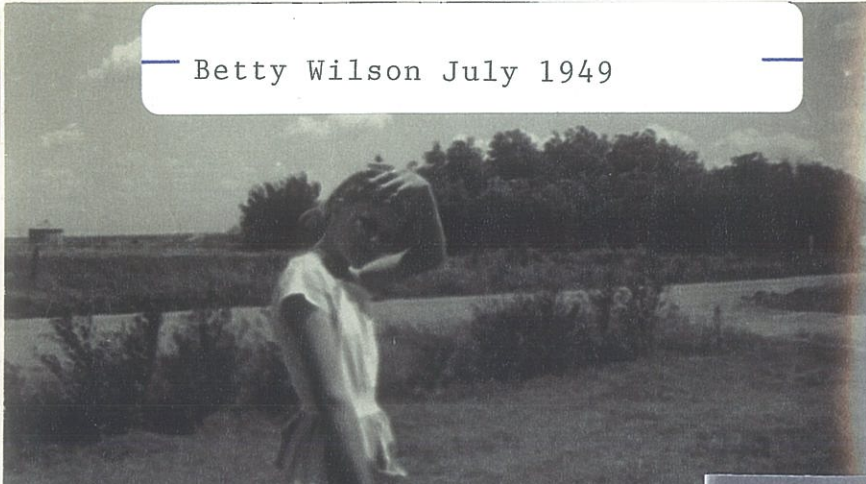
Betty 1931



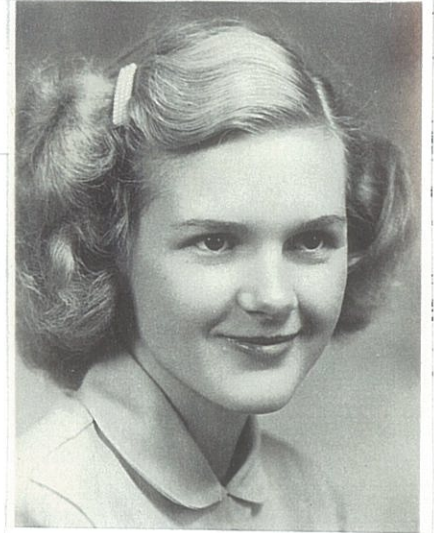
Elva & Betty
1931



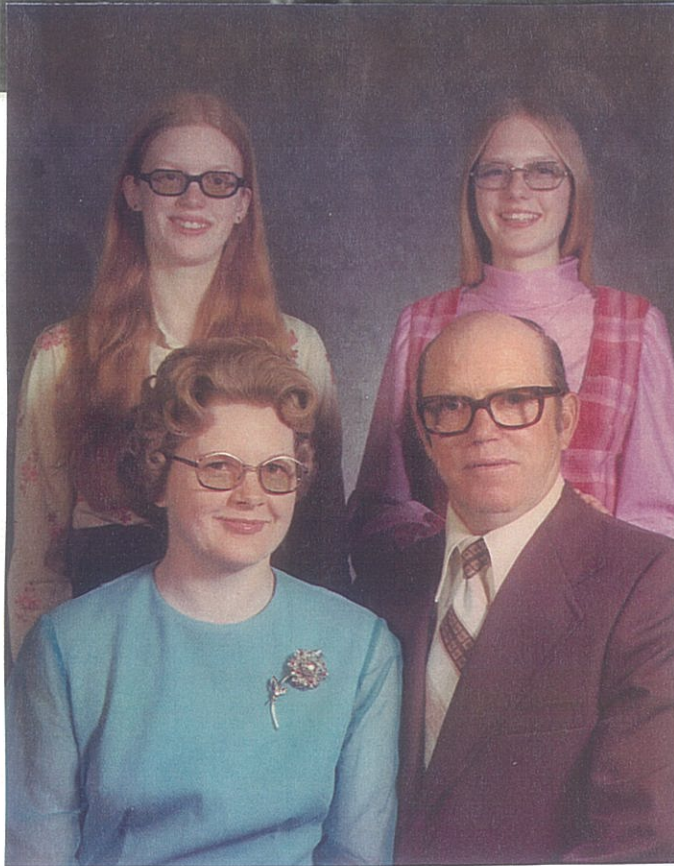
Betty Wilson on Trixie
April 1943



Betty Wilson July 1949



Betty Wilson
Sr. 1949



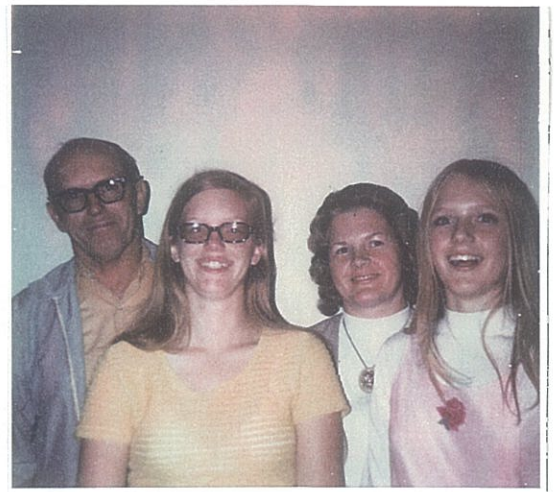
Diane Gale
Betty Frank
1973



Betty & Frank West
April 18, 1951

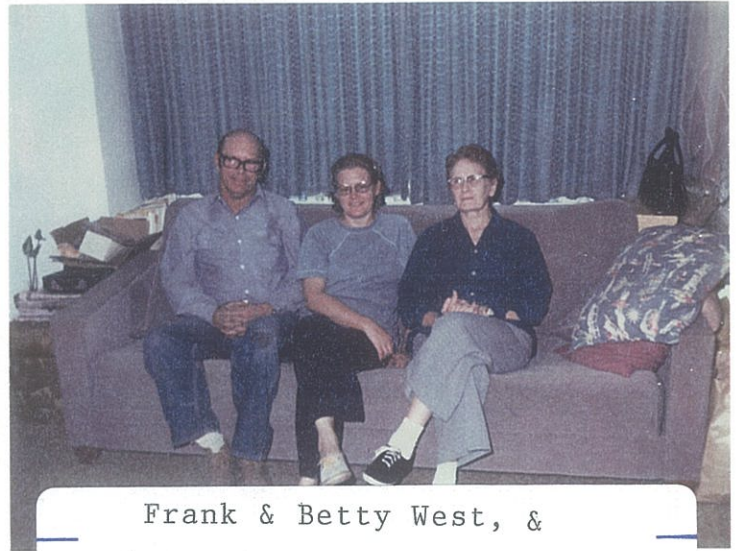


Gale, Betty, Frank, Diane West
March 1969



Frank, Diane, Betty, Gale West
Sept. 3 1972

Betty & Frank West
Nov. 25, 1973



Frank & Betty West, &
Elva Wilson Teller-Sept 1974

Descendants of Elmer & Elva Wilson at the
Wilson's 50th Reunion at Dighton, Ks. Sept. 1998



Betty, Diane, Elva,
Dawn - Nov. 1975
4 - Generations



Gale & Diane -- March 1957



Betty & Harry Janke
Nov. 25, 1979



Elmer & Elva



Elva, Nell, Connie
Sept. 2, 1972



Elmer & Elva



Betty West Selected As District Kansas
Farm Bureau Woman Of 1978

My Life High School and After By Betty Wilson Janke

In September 1945 I began high school at LaCrosse Rural High and graduated in May 1949. My favorite classes were math and English. After graduation I worked for the PMA (Production and Marketing Administration) until January 1951 when I became engaged to Frank West. He had played ball for the Nekoma Town Team while Daddy was manager-coach. We began dating after attending a dance in LaCrosse.

Frank and I were married April 18, 1951 at the Methodist Church in Nekoma and lived on the farm west of Nekoma where Frank was raised. We had cattle and raised wheat, corn, milo and alfalfa. Part of the farm was under irrigation.

July 24, 1954 a daughter, Diane Lucille, was born. It was a very hot summer and we irrigated all the time. Two and a half years later, on January 23, 1957, another daughter, Gale Ellen, was born. The years were spent farming and raising the girls. We did take vacations to California every other year. We continued to farm until Frank's death, March 29, 1975. I still have the farm which is rented to cousin/brother-in-law, Willard West and son.

Diane married in 1974, entered the service and was in Hawaii when Frank died. Gale was a senior in high school and graduated in May 1975.

In November 1975, Mom and I moved to LaCrosse. The day we moved, November 1, granddaughter, Dawn Marie, was born in Hawaii to Diane and then husband, Dallas Adams. Diane divorced Dallas and returned home with baby Dawn in October 1976 just before Dawn turned one.

I went to work for the Register of Deeds in 1976 and was there until 1985 when I retired to being a farm wife.

In March 1978 I received a note from a gentleman, Harry Janke-Willard West's brother in-law, asking if I would go with him. We became engaged in July 1979 and were married November 25, 1979 in the St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Bazine, Kansas.

Gale married in 1984 while in college in Ames, Iowa and after graduation

moved to Canada. May 5, 1993 she had a son, Benjamin Thomas Albert Larue and three years later on April 14, 1996, Sophie Irene Therese Larue was born. Third grandchildren.

In July 1993 I was diagnosed with colon cancer and took chemo treatments for about nine months. Everything seemed to be going great when May 17, 1975, Harry had some heart problems and died at St. Frances Medical Center in Wichita. In July I had to have more surgery which showed reoccurrence of cancer. This time I had radiation and Chemo. I moved to LaCrosse November 9, 1995. My checkups have all been good and I'm enjoying life as much as possible. My activities include a Ladies Club, Church activities, the Rush Co. Historical Society board, Rush Co. Industrial Development board and a volunteer at A Second Chance thrift store, plus the everyday household chores.

So far life is great!!

Frank & Betty West



Name: Frank T. West

Birth: April 11, 1916

Place: Bazine, Kansas

Death: March 29, 1975

Cemetery: Nekoma, Kansas

Married: April 18, 1951; Nekoma, Kansas

Children: Diane & Gale

Betty Irene Wilson

February 3, 1931

Nekoma, Kansas

January 21, 2004



1-2-75
Obituaries

FRANK THOMAS WEST

Frank Thomas West, son of Myrtle M. Albright and Jade West, was born April 11, 1916 on a farm 3 1/4 miles west of Rush Center, Kansas and died March 29, 1975 en route to the Central Kansas Medical Center in Great Bend of a sudden illness at the age of 58 years, 11 months 18 days. At the age of six weeks he moved with his parents to a farm 4 1/4 miles west and 1/4 mile south of Rush Center where he lived the rest of his life as a farmer.

He was united in marriage to Betty I. Wilson on April 18, 1951, at Nekoma. To this union two daughters were born; Diane Lucille, who with her husband Dallas K. Adams, are both with the Army at Wahiawa, Hawaii, and Gale Ellen of the home.

He was preceded in death by his mother in June, 1969; his father in December, 1943; and an infant brother, Leonard, March, 1924.

Survivors are his wife and daughters; five sis-

ters: Mrs. Edna Liggett, Rush Center; Mrs. Gene (Elsie) Fishcer, Medford, Ore.; Mrs. Don (Elma) Sackrider, Culver City, Calif.; Mrs. Ed (Grace) Reifschneider, McCracken; and Mrs. Fred (Fern) Lohrey, La Crosse. Also his mother-in-law, Mrs. Elva Tiller, who has made her home with the family for the last 3 to 4 years, and many more relatives, friends and neighbors.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, 1975, at the First United Methodist Church in La Crosse, with the Rev. Leslie Andrews officiating. Interment was in the Union Township Cemetery, Nekoma, Kansas. Organist was Mrs. George Keener, Soloist, Mrs. Boyd Furbeck. Casket Bearers were John Liggett, Duane Liggett, Donnie Liggett, Gary Lohrey, Fred Lee Lohrey and Bill Witthuhn.

Betty I. Janke

LA CROSSE — Betty I. Janke, 72, died Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2004, at her home.

She was born Feb. 3, 1931, in Nekoma to Elmer "Pop" and Eva (Mendenhall) Wilson.

She graduated from La Crosse High School in 1949.

She married Frank J. West on April 18, 1951. He died March 29, 1975.

She married Harry W. Janke on Nov. 25, 1979. He died May 17, 1995.

She worked at the Rush County Register of Deeds office from 1976 to 1985.

Survivors include two daughters, Diane Schaben, La Crosse, and Gale West, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada; a brother, Floyd E. Wilson, Great Bend; and three grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Bazine; burial in Nekoma Union Township Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. today at Janousek Funeral Home, La Crosse and from 1 to 1:50 p.m. Saturday at the church.

Memorials are suggested to the Rush County Historical Society or Southwind Hospice.

Harry Janke

Birth: Aug. 25, 1919, McCracken, Rush County, Kansas
Death: May 17, 1995, Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas

McCRACKEN — Harry Janke, 75, died Wednesday, May 17, 1995, at St. Francis Regional Medical Center, Wichita.

He was born Sept. 26, 1919, at McCracken, to Albert and Emma (Koch) Janke. He married Betty I. Wilson-West on Nov. 24, 1979, at Bazine.

He was a farmer and stockman and a lifetime area resident.

He was a member of the St. Luke Lutheran Church, Bazine, the Lutheran Layman's League, the McCracken American Legion and the LaCrosse VFW. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; two stepdaughters, Diane Schaben, LaCrosse, and Gale West-La- Rue, St. Etienne, Quebec, Canada; a brother, Alvin, McCracken; three sisters, Ruby Wetzel, Colby, Corrine Brenner, Hays, and Maxine West, Nekoma; and two stepgrandchildren.

Services are at 10 a.m. Saturday at the St. Luke Lutheran Church, Bazine, with the Rev. Scott Lemmermann officiating; burial in McCracken Cemetery, with military graveside rites by the McCracken American Legion. The family suggests memorial contributions to the Lutheran Hour, to Lutheran Social Service or to the McCracken American Legion. The Fitzgerald Funeral Home, Ness City, is in charge of arrangements.

Hays Daily News May 19, 1995
Spouse: Betty I. Wilson Janke (1931 - 2004)

Burial:
McCracken Cemetery
McCracken, Rush County, Kansas, USA

Harry & Betty Janke



Name: Harry Janke

Birth: September 26, 1919

Place: Bazine Twn, Kansas

Death: May 17, 1995

Cemetery: McCracken, Kansas

Married: November 24, 1979; Bazine, Kansas

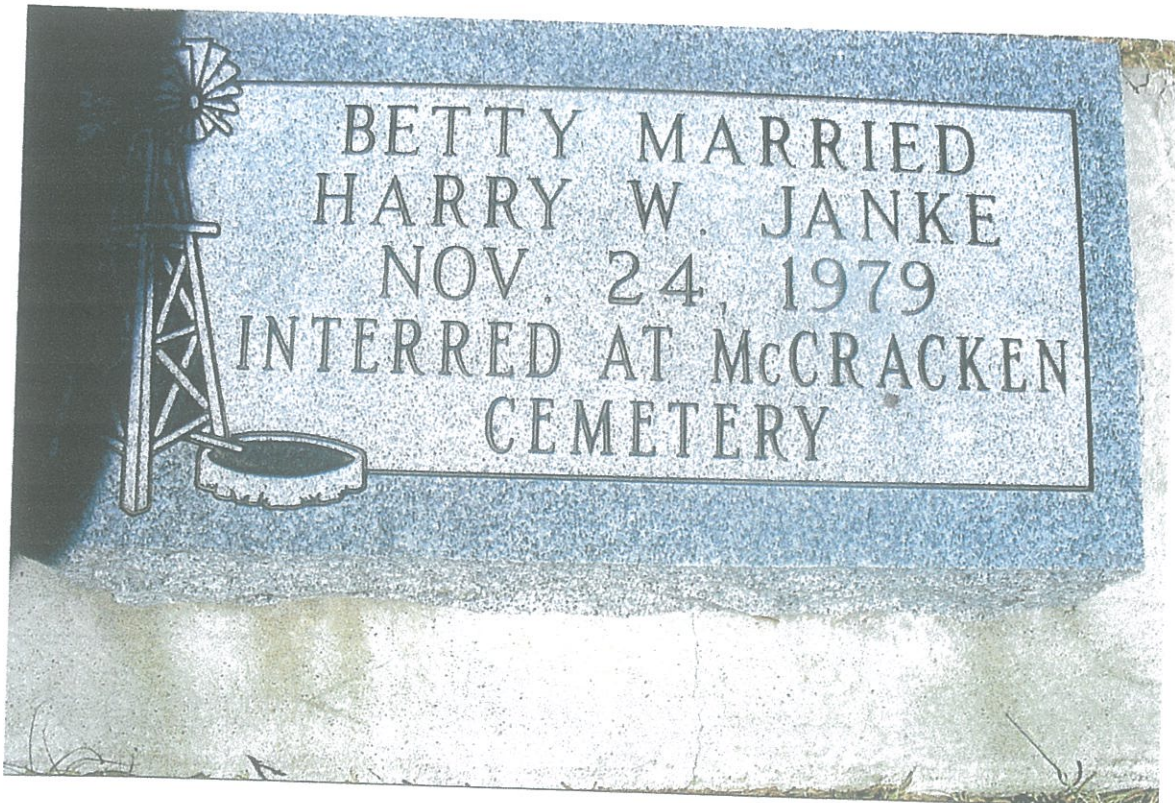
Betty Irene Wilson West Janke

February 3, 1931

Nekoma, Kansas

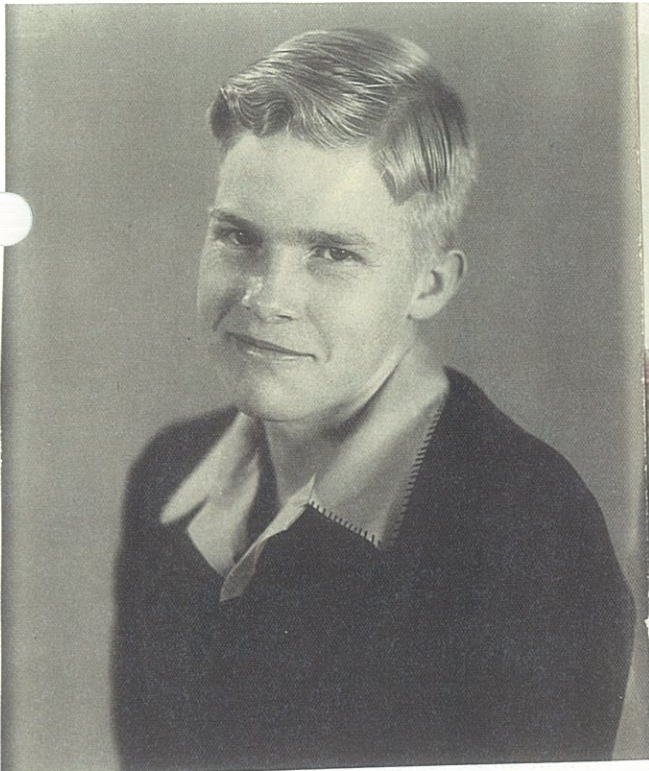
January 21, 2004

Nekoma, Kansas



Chapter 3

Floyd & Nancy
Wilson



Floyd Wilson
May 21, 1946

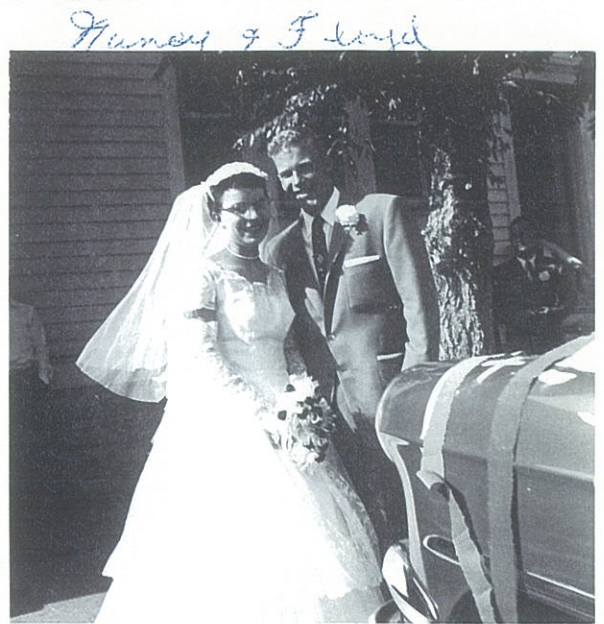
Floyd in the Army



Floyd with Puppy



Floyd 1952

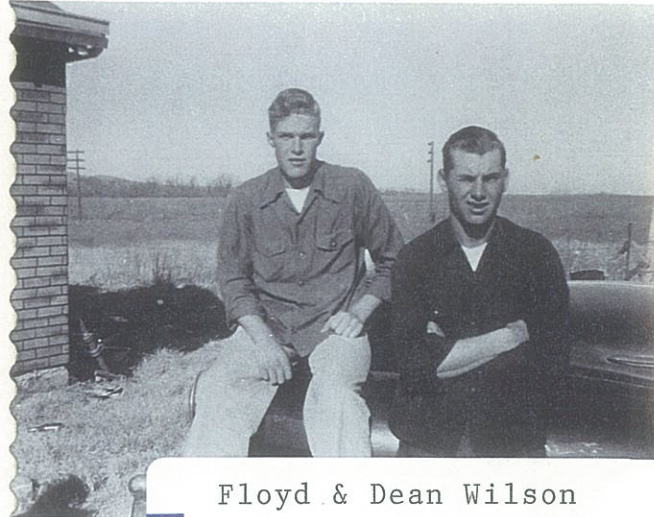


Nancy & Floyd
June 19, 1955



99 • NVR

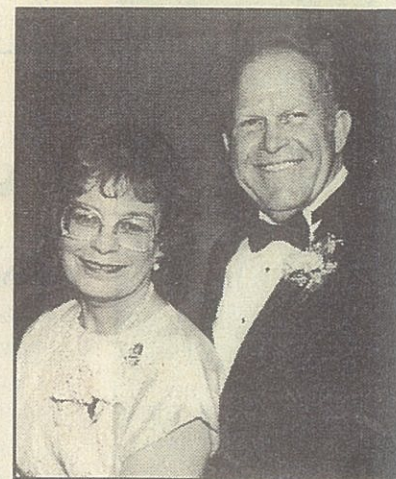
Floyd & Flva Wilson
July 1949 - 1913 Chevy



Floyd & Dean Wilson
Thanksgiving 1949



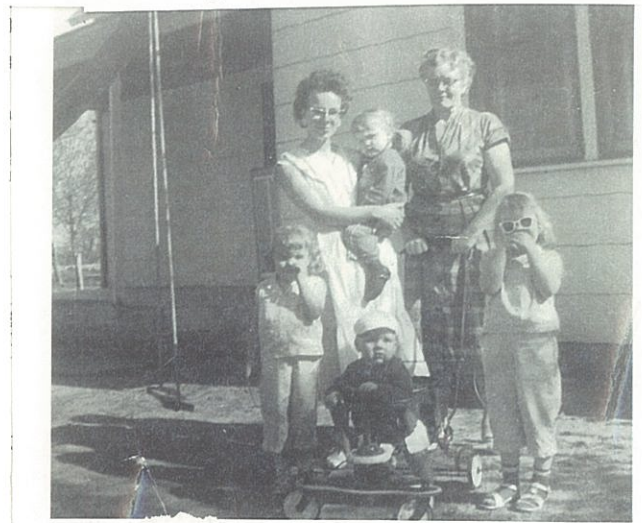
Nancy & Floyd - 40th Ann.



1955 — Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wilson — 1995

Our Family with neighbor boy. 1963

Nancy, Carla, Elva -1961
Sheryl, Wayne, Dixie



R-L Brett-Dixie-Wayne-
Sheryl-Lisa

Our Children - 1967





The way we were in 1971



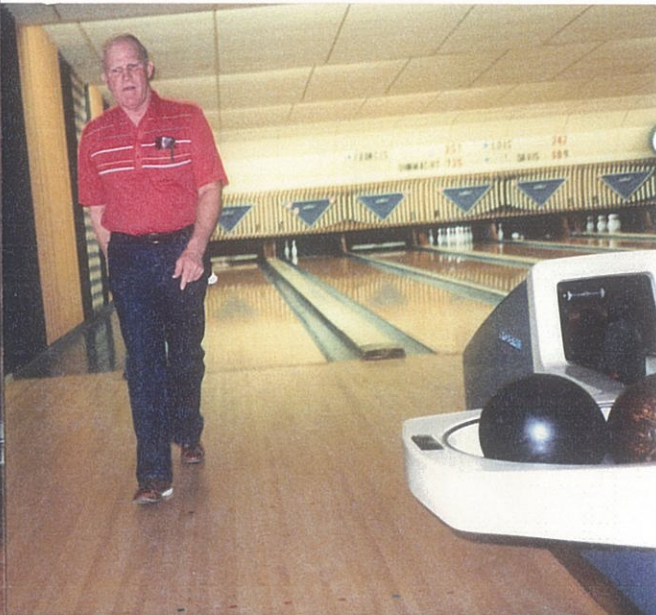
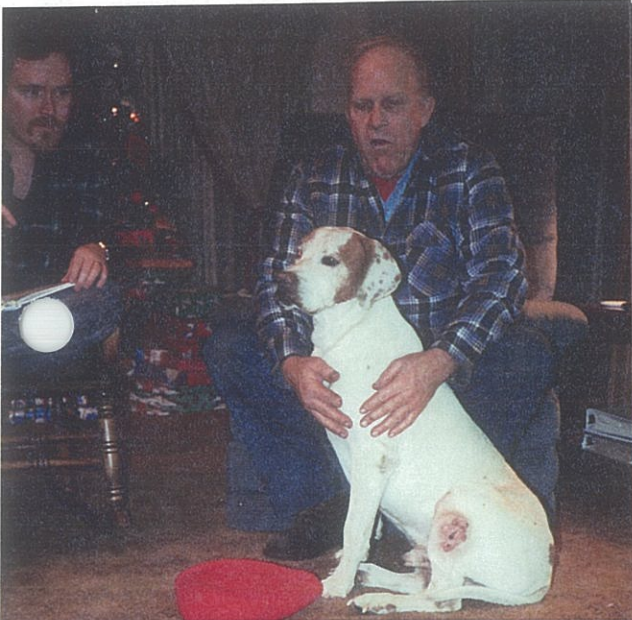
Michaud girls



1974

Nick

The Bowler



School Days
1946-47

Floyd



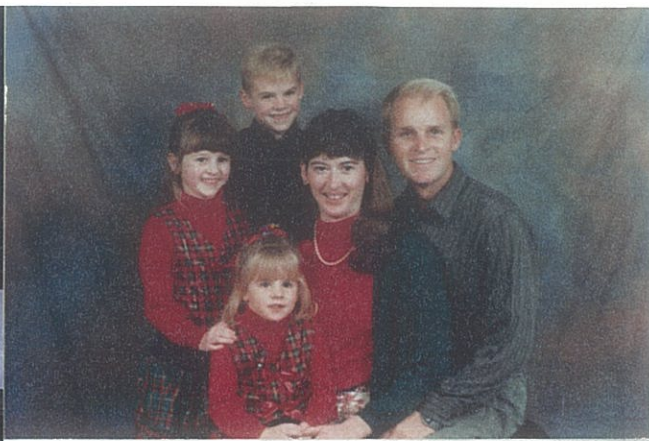
Receiving Chrysler Award



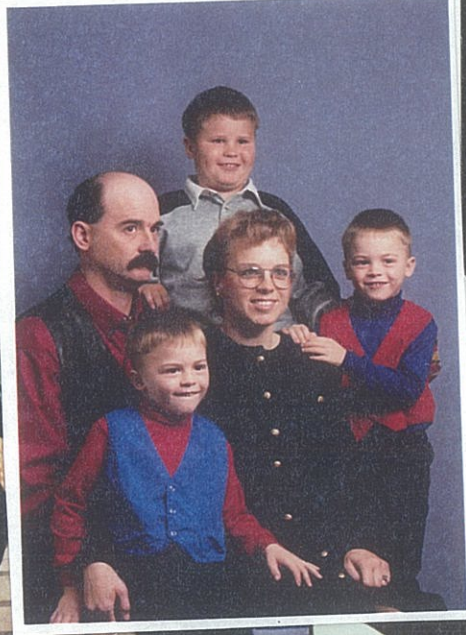
Floyd with Kate & Lady



— Monty & Dixie Married 1988 —



Wayne & Joyce - Family 1992



Joel & Dana - Family 1997

← Cliff & Lisa - Family 1998

— Kirk & Clara - 1996



Elva, Nancy with 4 Generation Christmas - 1983



Nancy's Retirement - 1997

Floyd Edward Wilson

My name is Floyd Edward Wilson, second child of Elmer F. and Elva J. Wilson. This is my memories of my mother and father and early stories told by them.

They were married in the Ness County Courthouse and shortly after their marriage they moved to western Kansas where Dad worked for a farmer and stockman. This arrangement did not work out too well. They then moved back to the Nekoma area where Dad worked at odd jobs as a farm laborer and this is where my sister, Betty, my brother, Robert and I were born. We later moved to Rush Center, Kansas where Dad was employed by the W.P.A. He helped build bridges, school houses and other projects. After the W.P.A. projects he worked for the County Farm for a short while. He then went to work for Mike Moran in Nekoma. We then moved on a farm north of Nekoma. Dad worked in the elevator as well as farm for Mr. Moran. Approximately seven years later, the farm was sold and we moved back into the town of Nekoma where he continued to work in the elevators until they were sold. At this time Dad worked odd jobs until his death in December 1959.

After Dad's death, mother went to work in the rest home in Nekoma, which was operated by Bessie Marisch. She met a gentleman, Tom Tiller, from Hoisington, Kansas whose mother was in the rest home and they later married and moved to his home in Hoisington. After Tom Tillers death in 1969, Mother moved back to Rush County and lived until her death in 1988.

My Mom and Dad were family oriented people as they both came from large families. We enjoyed many visits to relatives on both sides. Money was always in short supply as we kids were growing up but we still found a way to make trips to a lot of our relatives. I know we looked like gypsies because we always had extra spare tires, extra gasoline, tire patching equipment, extra engine oil as well as our clothing and a little extra bedding. We visited in Gove County where we stayed with Earl and Connie then on to Goodland and a stay with Roy and Nell. When we stayed with these relatives there were always side trips to see other relatives or the relatives would stop by for a visit. We made some trips to Almena also, to see Uncle Orlie and Aunt Ida Wilson, Grandpa Wilson's brother. We also enjoyed visits to Grandma and Grandpa Wilson's home in Nekoma and helped Grandpa in his shop. We also were fortunate enough to have several relatives to visit in our own area - Uncle Tom and Aunt Elizabeth Baldwin, Uncle Tang and Aunt Minnie Hobson, Harold (Sam) and Agnes plus many aunts and uncles on mother's side of the family and many, many cousins on both sides.

My father was a very sports minded person. He enjoyed baseball and boxing. He played baseball as a catcher for many years and later he coached the town team at Nekoma. On Sundays we, as a family, were usually at some neighboring town or on our own home field enjoying a ball game. We also had a standing invitation to listen to the radio for the Friday Night Fights.

Mother was a family person also. She enjoyed all the animals we kids would bring around. She would help us to save young or injured animals. She also enjoyed singing to herself and by herself. If she knew she had an audience, she would quit singing. Mom was also a good mouth harp player, but usually only for her own enjoyment.

Both my mother and father enjoyed community gatherings such as card parties - dances- children's plays and P.T.A. The card parties were in the homes of the members and as kids we enjoyed visiting all the homes and playing with all the other kids. We also had cake or cookies after the party was over and then we all went home. We had dances at our community hall and Mom and Dad would take us to these dances. It was always a thrill to get to dance with the adults and learn the dance steps. I especially enjoyed dancing with Aunt Elizabeth and a neighbor lady by the name of Martha Oethen. Mother didn't dance no matter how hard we begged, but she still enjoyed visiting and watching. Mom also enjoyed watching the small children while their parents were dancing.

Dad always enjoyed fresh caught fish and would take us to the creek to go fishing, but he would never fish. He would find a good shade tree and nap while we caught fish and cleaned them. Dad was also an excellent shot, but due to having infantile paralysis which left him with a bad leg, he wasn't able to walk long distances. Again, he would take us out and we would walk while he drove to the far end of a field or draw and block for us. Mother would cook whatever we brought home, fish, fowl or rabbit. Dad enjoyed them all. There is one thing mother refused to cook for us and that was an eel we caught on one of our excursions to the creek. We had to take that one to a neighbor lady to prepare for us, Mrs. Dorothy Murphy.

There were many things we enjoyed as a family and I could probably tell you many more episodes, but for now, I think this will suffice.

More of Nancy's memories:

Floyd Edward Wilson met Nancy Ruth Mayse at Timken, Kansas at a community Halloween dance in 1953, shortly after he was discharged from the Army. We married in LaCrosse, Kansas in 1956. At that time, Floyd worked in construction, building mostly elevators. We lived in Goodland, Oakley and St. John. Finally, we settle for a while in Stafford County where Floyd worked for a farmer. In 1957, we moved to Nekoma where he took over the K.T. Station.

We spent many Sundays at Uncle Tom and Aunt Elizabeth Baldwin's home. One Sunday before we were married, we were there and Uncle Delmer and the twins were visiting. Floyd had never told me his father was a twin. What a surprise!

We moved to Great Bend in 1961. Floyd worked for Bill Hunt at a Sinclair Station. Later he became manager, when Mr. Hunt retired.

Fishing and hunting were equally Floyd's favorite pastime. When he could find free time, he either got his dog ready for a hunt or fueling up the boat. He never left without a thermos of coffee. He loved coffee.

He kept very busy in the 70's with Boy Scouts and bowling. He was Cub Master for many years while our boys were growing up. He also coached several baseball teams in the summer. In 1976-77 he had a really talented girls' team. They were high school and college age.

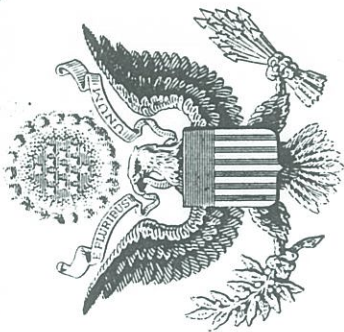
After we moved to 2nd Street in Great Bend, we planted a huge garden for many years. Floyd had a green thumb for sure – or was it the farm boy.

Floyd worked at Parrish Motors after he left the Sinclair Station. He later worked several years at Sankie's Service before retiring in 2002.

He loved going for rides in the country. We spent a lot of time on Sunday afternoons driving around the Nekoma area. He could tell me who owned all the land in that area.

Floyd had 2 open heart surgeries, in 1980 and 1992. Later, a pacemaker was placed, which he struggled with. He was known in Great Bend as a "gentleman" and master mechanic.

Unmatchable Achievement



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify that

SGT E-5 WILSON FLOYD E ER 55221395 S100-USAR

was Honorably Discharged from the

Army of the United States

on the 29 day of Jan 1960 This certificate is awarded

as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service

Maurice R. Hazel

MAURICE R. HAZEL
SAJG3, AFM

Quartermaster of Allamogosa
THIS IS TO CERTIFY

That on the Nineteenth day of June
in the year of our Lord 1955

Mr. Floyd E. Wilson
and

Miss Nancy R. Mayes

WERE BY ME UNITED IN
MARRIAGE

At Evangelical U. B. Church, La. Crosse, Kansas
according to the laws of The State of Kansas

By Robert B. Vance (WITNESSES)
Aug. J. J. J.
Robert E. E. E.

THIS IS A CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
(Do not accept if rephotographed, or if seal impression cannot be felt.)

THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS PROHIBITED BY LAW (Chap. 193.380 RSMo 1969)

STATE OF MISSOURI }
CITY OF JEFFERSON } SS I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is an exact reproduction of the
certificate for the person named therein as it now appears in the permanent records of the Bureau of
Vital Records of the Division of Health of Missouri. Witness my hand as State Registrar of Vital
Statistics and the Seal of the Division of Health of Missouri this date of

DEC 29 1975

Herbert R. Corrala MD
State Registrar of Vital Statistics

STATE OF MISSOURI
Bureau of Vital Statistics
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

1. PLACE OF BIRTH
County of Buchanan Township of 11
Village of St. Joseph or City of St. Joseph 5
No. 2111 So. 9th St. 9 Ward. 9

Registration District No. 85 File No. 259
Primary Registration District No. 1001 Registered No. _____

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD Nancy Ruth Mayse

3. Sex F If plural births 1 4. Twin, triplet or other 0 5. Primaries not Full term yes 7. Legit. yes 8. Date of birth Jan 16 1974

9. Full name Emmett J. Mayse FATHER 10. Residence (usual place of abode) St. Joseph, Mo 11. Residence (usual place of abode) St. Joseph, Mo MOTHER
(If convenient, give place and State) (If convenient, give place and State)

12. Color or race W 13. Age at last birthday 36 (Years) 14. Color or race W 15. Age at last birthday 35 (Years)

16. Birthplace (city or place) Platteville Mo 17. Birthplace (city or place) Kearney Mo
(State or country) (State or country)

18. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as operator, scryer, bookkeeper, etc. meat cutter 19. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as housekeeper, typist, nurse, clerk, etc. W. Refar

20. Industry or business in which work was done, as own home, lawyer's office, etc. Packing house 21. Industry or business in which work was done, as own home, lawyer's office, etc. Own home

22. Date (month and year) last engaged in this work Jan 16 1974 23. Date (month and year) last engaged in this work Jan 16 1974 24. Total time (years) spent in this work 15 yrs

25. Number of children of this mother (All time of this birth and including this child) 5 (a) Born alive and now living 3 (b) Born alive but now dead 2 (c) Stillborn 0

26. If stillborn, period of gestation 6 (months or weeks) 27. Cause of stillbirth 0 28. Date of stillbirth _____

29. Is baby deformed? No Nature of deformity? 0

What antiseptic was used in the eyes? Ag. No. 1/2 (Use a 1% Sol. of Silver Nitrate)

30. I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was Born alive (Born alive or stillborn)
Born alive
(Signature) W. Spalding 9 15 74
Address Platteville Mo
John J. Bonan

31. Filed JAN 23 1974

This certificate must be FILED with the Local Registrar within TEN (10) days after birth.

STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

STATE OF KANSAS

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
83 4720

County of Butte
Township of Wilson

City of _____
No. _____
(If birth occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number. If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed.)
Street, Reg. No. 431

2. Full Name of Child Edward Wilson
3. Sex Male
4. Legitimate or illegitimate legitimate
5. Date of birth (Month, day, year) 6-1-32
6. Premature no
7. Full term yes

8. FATHER
Full name Elmer F. Wilson
Residence (usual place of abode) Wilson, Nebraska
9. MOTHER
Full name Elna Meenderball
Residence (usual place of abode) Wilson, Nebraska

10. Color or race W
11. Age at last birthday 36 (Years)
12. Birthplace (city or place) Kansas

13. Trade, profession, or particular avocation, occupation, or business in which work was done, as spinner, weaver, bookkeeper, etc. farmer
14. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, sawmill, bank, etc. none
15. Date (month and year) last engaged in this work 1931
16. Total time (years) spent in this work 1
17. Total time (years) spent in this week _____
18. Date (month and year) last engaged in this work _____
19. Total time (years) spent in this week _____
20. Color or race W
21. Age at last birthday 27 (Years)
22. Birthplace (city or place) Kansas

23. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as homemaker, typist, nurse, etc. housewife
24. Industry or business in which work was done, as own home, law firm, office, silk mill, etc. _____
25. Date (month and year) last engaged in this work _____
26. Total time (years) spent in this week _____
27. Number of children of this mother (a) Born alive and now living 2 (b) Born alive but now dead _____ (c) Stillborn _____
28. If stillborn, period of gestation _____ (a) Months _____ (b) Weeks _____ (c) Days _____
29. Cause of stillbirth _____

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive at 6:45 P.M. on the date above stated (If born alive or stillborn)
and (did) (did not) treat the eyes to prevent blindness.
When there was an attending physician or midwife, then the father, mother, or household, etc., should make this return.
Given name added from supplemental report _____
(Date of) Aug 1, 1932
Signature J. H. Baker
M. D. _____
Address Wilson, Nebraska
Registered _____
Filed Aug 1, 1932 at Wilson, Nebraska
Registrar _____

Floyd & Nancy Wilson



1955 — Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wilson — 1995



Name: Floyd Edward Wilson
Birth: June 1, 1932
Place: Nekoma, Kansas
Death: June 17, 2009
Cemetery: Nekoma, Kansas
Married: June 19, 1955; LaCrosse, Kansas
Children: Dixie, Sheryl, Carla, Wayne, Lisa, & Joel.

Nancy Ruth Mayse
January 16, 1934
St. Joseph, Missouri





Floyd Edward Wilson

Floyd Edward Wilson, 77, died June 17, 2009 at Central Kansas Medical Center, Great Bend, Kansas. He was born June 1, 1932 at Rush Center, Kansas, the son of Elmer Floyd and Elva Juanita (Mendenhall) Wilson. He married Nancy Mayse June 19, 1955 at LaCrosse, Kansas. A former

mechanic for Parrish Motors and Sanko Conoco, both of Great Bend, Mr. Wilson was a Great Bend resident since 1961, coming from Nekoma, Kansas. He was a Korean War veteran, serving in the United States Army.

Mr. Wilson was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5657, Ellinwood, Kansas; and the National Bowling Association.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy Wilson, of the home; two sons: Wayne E. Wilson and wife, Joyce, Hays, Kansas; and Joel E. Wilson and wife, Dana, Great Bend, Kansas; four daughters: Dixie Phillips and husband, Anthony, Manhattan, Kansas; Sheryl Fromm and husband, Garry, Wichita, Kansas; Carla Gibson and husband, Kirk, Wichita, Kansas; and Lisa Base and husband, Cliff, Smolan, Kansas; seventeen grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one brother, Robert Wilson; and one sister, Betty Janke.

Memorials are requested to the Barton County Humane Society, in care of the funeral home.

WH721

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David M. Phillips, 23, of Manhattan, KS passed away January 25, 2016 in Junction City, KS.

He is survived by his father and mother Anthony and Dixie Phillips of Manhattan, KS, sisters Michelle Williams spouse of Jedediah and mother of Cameron and Xavier all of Ellinwood, KS, Bonnie Ratcliff mother of Alyssa and Jackson all of Phoenix, AZ, and brothers Scott Dickson spouse of Carrie and father of Elloise, Lucette and Everly all of Manhattan, KS and Andrew Phillips father of Julian of Manhattan, Kansas.

He is also survived by his great grandmother Clarice Phillips of Sterling, KS and by his grandmothers Nancy Wilson of Great Bend, KS and Nancy Phillips of McPherson, KS.

He also leaves behind a number of loving uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

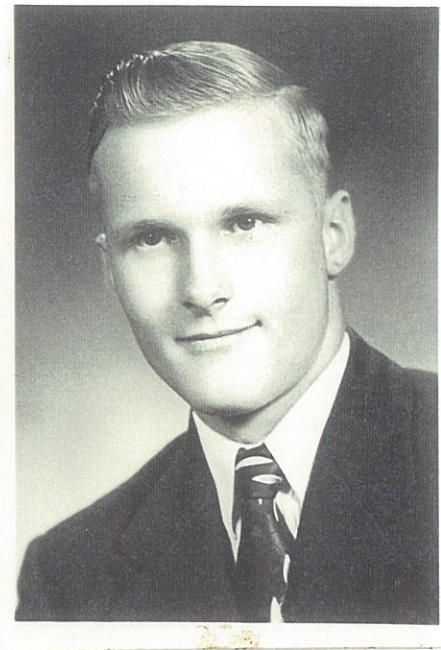
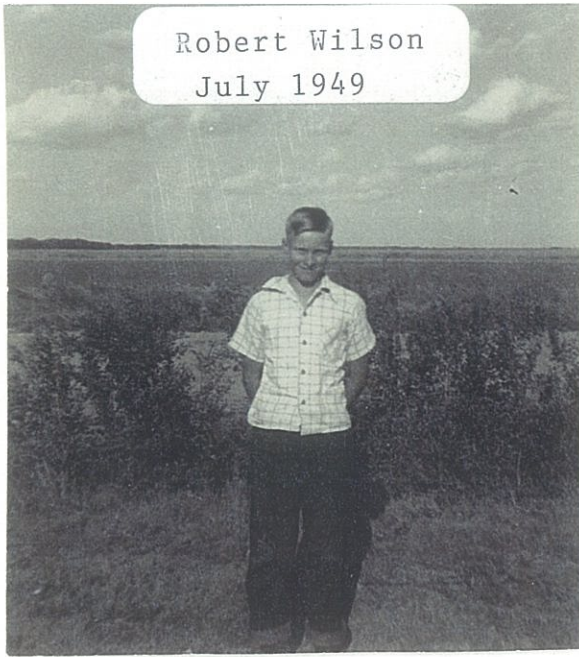
Chapter 4

Robert & Carol
Wilson

Robert Wilson
1948



Robert Wilson
July 1949



Robert. Sr. 1954

Wilson



*Carol
Brett* *Robert
Margie*

Robert & Carol
August, 24, 1958



Robert & Carol - 1975
Brett, Sug, Eric



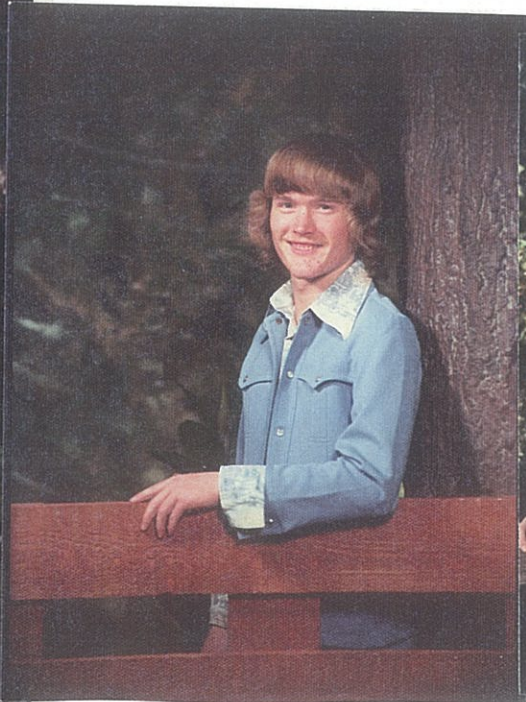
Elmer, Elva, Carol



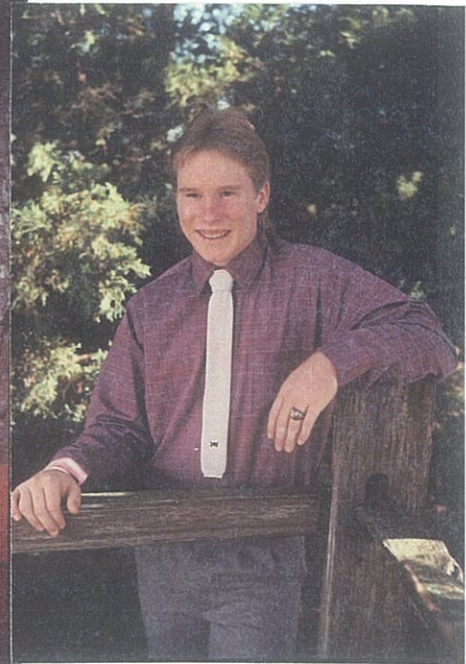
Robert & Carol Dec. 1998



Sug Sr. 1980



Brett Sr. 1977



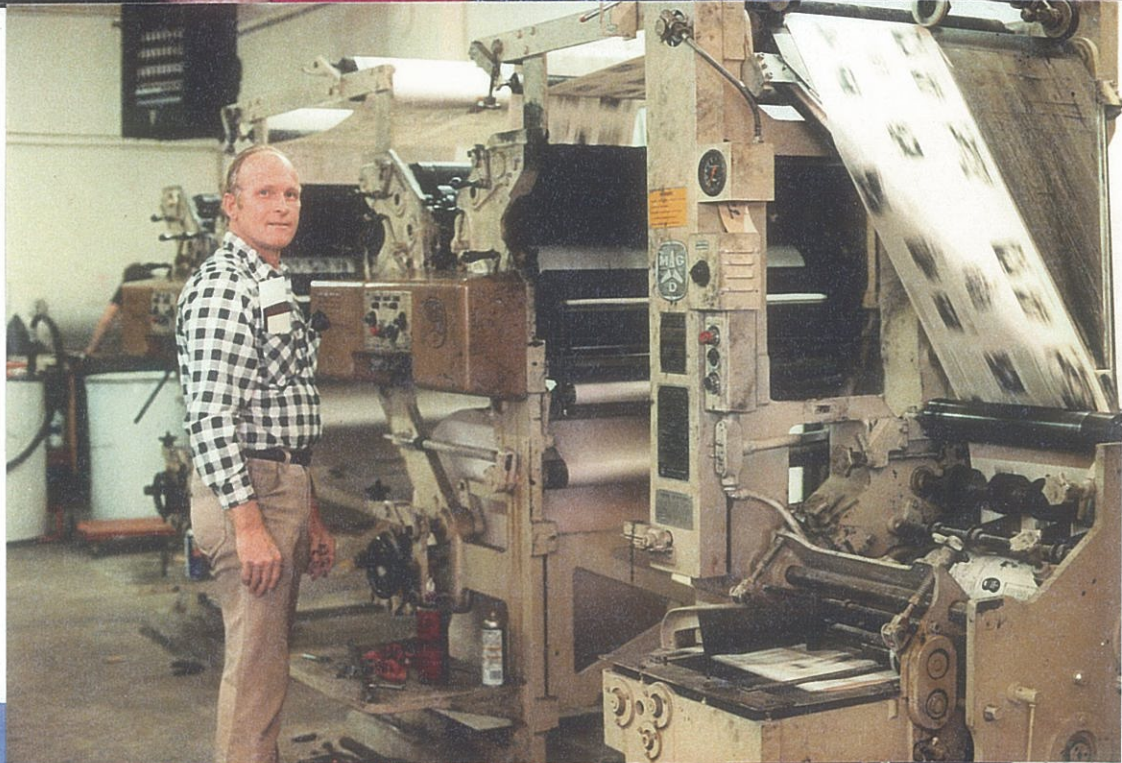
Eric Sr. 1986



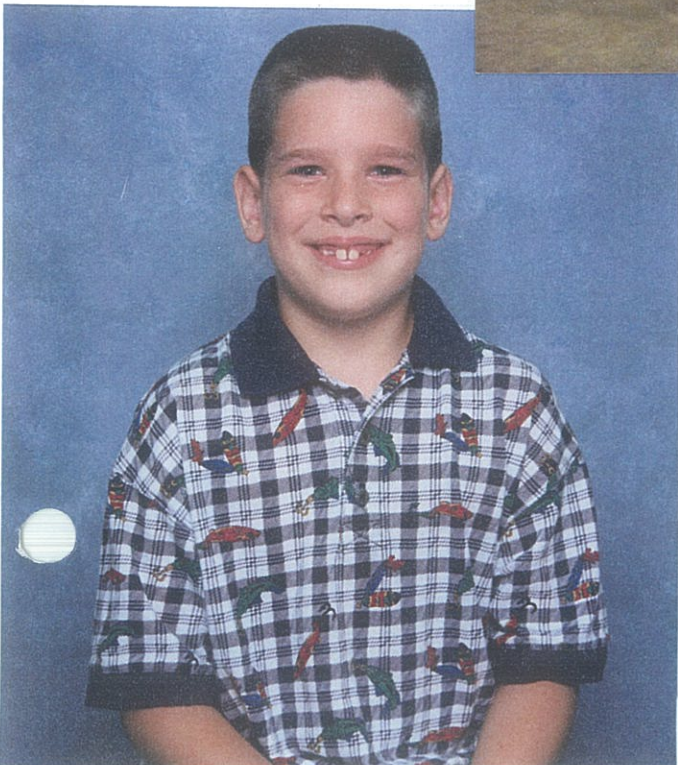
Kaitlyn Hutton
Sug's daughter



Robert
Press at Goss Community
Dec. 1985



Jothan 1996



Brett & Angela

5 23 '99

Robert Eugene Wilson

Born in 1936, February 1, at Nekoma, KS, in Rush County to Elmer Floyd and Elva Juanita Mendenhall Wilson. Also, have a sister, Betty Irene Wilson West Janke, and a brother, Floyd Edward Wilson. Betty was born in 1931 and Floyd in 1932.

I've been told Dad had to wade snow drifts nearly waist deep to get the mid wife for my delivery. It was a two room house on the south side of 96 Highway at the west end of Nekoma.

We moved to Rush Center, KS in about 1936. Dad worked for WPA. We lived in a two room house in the southeast part of Rush Center. We had goats for milk and Mom raised chickens for eggs and to eat. Heat was with a potbellied stove in which we burned wood and coal. Mom cooked on a kerosene stove. The house consisted of a bedroom and a combination kitchen, dining room and living room.

We moved back to a farm about 1 ½ miles north of Nekoma about April 1942. Dad worked for the local banker, Mike T. Moran, who owned the farm, a bank which he ran, and three wooden grain elevators. The farm included pasture land as well as some crop land. Dad ran the elevators, loading grain, unloading coal, selling bran and other farm supplies. In the evening he checked on the cattle. At that time the cattle were counted nearly every day.

The house on the farm was of quarried rock blocks. The walls were 18 inches to 2 feet thick. We had running water in the house, gravity feed, from a large rock tank about 200 feet north of the house, uphill from the house. The tank was filled by a windmill and had to be cleaned and painted inside with lime about once a year.

We kids had the pleasure of riding the old milk cow to bring in the rest of the cattle nearly every day. The milk cow would come into the corral about the same time every evening and we would crawl on her back then she would go to the pasture and bring in the rest of the cattle.

Dad's boss, Mr. M.T. Moran, bought us kids a horse, Trixie, part Shetland, with some cattle down in Texas. The cattle and Trixie were unloaded at the stock yards in Nekoma and driven to the farm. Trixie had to be backed across the bridge so she wouldn't see down or where she was going.

Just south of the house was a grove of trees. It was all fenced off and that was where Trixie was pastured. We boys, Floyd and I and Don and Dale had it rigged so we could swing from tree to tree without touching the ground in the grove.

We moved back to town about 1947 or 1948. I went all eight years to Nekoma Grade School. There were three of us boys went to school together 12 years. In grade school we were the only ones in our class except for a couple of years. There was about 30 to 35 in all eight grades, two room school house.

I went to LaCrosse High School all four years. My junior year I took first in League and first in State in Geometry.

After school I worked as a laborer on construction. I helped build the large elevator at Utica, KS. Later I clerked in a hardware store, Humberg's, at LaCrosse. I later was a bookkeeper for the Cooperative Union Mercantile Co., Grinnell, KS for several years. The boss was afraid I would get drafted so he laid me off.

I then went to work for the Oakley Graphic and learned the printing trade. I worked at the Graphic for some time then for the Ulysses News about six months. After a hernia operation and recuperation I went back to the Graphic.

I met my wife, Carol, while a bookkeeper at Grinnell. She was still in high school at the time. We were married August 24, 1958 after she graduated. We were married at Grinnell.

I was drafted October 15, 1958, took basic at Ft. Leonard wood, MO. After basic I was transferred to Ft. Meade, MD. I served there until late August. I got home to Grinnell a couple of days before Brett was born. I was transferred to Ft. Riley, KS in September 1959 and served out my military career there. I spent my entire military time in the finance corps. In Maryland I was in the 2nd Army, 16th Finance Corps. In Kansas I was in 1st Infantry Division Finance Corps, 5th Army. Finished my military service October 14, 1960, with an honorable discharge.

Brett and Marjorie (Sug) were both born at Quinter, KS. Eric was born at Winchester, KS.

In 1968 we moved to Valley Falls, KS as we, Clarke Davis and I bought the Valley Falls Vindicator, a newspaper. Later that year the editor of The Oakaloosa Independent died so we bought that newspaper from his widow.

Eric was born June 20 that year at Winchester. He works in the warehouse of a medical supply company at Charlotte, N.C. Eric has a son, Jothan, who lives with his mother, Maura Burns Wilson, in Charlotte, N.C. Eric is divorced. Sug works for Hallmark in Topeka, KS and has for several years. She bought a house in Topeka and has a daughter, Kaitlyn, three years old. Her birthday is April 2. Brett is a physician Assistant and lives at Emporia with his wife, Angela, who is a physical therapist.

I sold the newspapers about 1993. Since then I worked as a reader for Kansas Press Assn., as a printer for Michael's Printing and Mailing and a screen printer for M & M Sports and Graphics. Since September 1998 I am unemployed.

I remember walking from Nekoma to Rush Center one evening, seven miles, as Dad wouldn't let me use the car.

Before I was in school I had a cat that would play hide and seek with me. Trouble was, the cat always hid in the same place.

I remember Dad's death as I had just got home on leave from Ft. Riley, December 17, 1959. Within 30 minutes or so Dad was dead of a heart attack. He was 53 years, 6 months old.

As a kid on the farm we had two skunks as pets. We raised them from the time they were very small, they didn't even have their eyes open. The female got killed but we had the male for a long time. He was big and very clean. They were more fun to play with than a kitten. We never had them de-scented and they ran in and out of the house like a cat or dog. We had cats and a dog while we had the skunks.

I also barely remember having a family get-together at Uncle Earl's place. I remember some of the men went into Dighton and when they came back I confused Uncle Delmer with Dad. I grabbed him, Uncle Delmer, by the leg and asked if he brought me anything. Uncle Delmer said he had enough kids running around there, but I wasn't one of them.



The Town Crier

By CLARKE DAVIS



May, 2001

This newspaper family lost one of its own Sunday. A rescue helicopter was called for Robert Wilson following a heart attack but nothing could be done to save him.

He was a 40-year friend of mine and a working partner for 25. We first met in western Kansas where he was a native.

Out of work, he had stopped by the Oakley Graphic to inquire about jobs in the area or to run a classified when the shop foreman spotted him. Leigh DeLay needed help and asked Robert if he knew anything about printing. He didn't.

DeLay asked him if he could sweep the floor and Robert was placed on the time clock. Print shops were not places for slow movers. DeLay wanted someone who knew how to sweep the floor. Someone who would be quick, efficient; thorough. Robert got the job and learned the trade.

DeLay would later teach me to run a Linotype and make my way in the trade, but I did not have to pass the floor-sweeping test.

I was at a couple of nearby newspapers in the mid-1960s and for three years traded work on a weekly basis with the Graphic. I'd make press runs or cast mats or set type for them and Robert and Leigh would repay me by setting some of my ads or type. Robert often took me home with him for dinner at noon prepared by his wife, Carol, who, every time I thanked her, would say she'd take it out in trade—an old family joke.

I don't recall who first suggested we buy a newspaper but we came to the realization that we had better have a money source before we went shopping. He called one day to inform me that someone was willing to loan us the down payment. We now needed a newspaper broker.

The most respected broker in the nation lived at Norton and I'm sure it was Robert's age—I was 24 and he was seven years my senior—and business acumen that got us accepted and eventually into business.

The end result of those 25 years together in this county are bound in annual volumes—1,300 editions of two papers each in all. The number of times he missed a press run could be counted on one hand.

For me and the business, he provided stability. He was here every day, many nights, and most weekends. If there appeared to be a crisis, Robert never got excited about anything. He was the steady one, always even keeled through everything. He was also progressive. That many years brought about a lot of changes and challenges and he never failed to fully support whatever was needed for the business or the community. "Let's do something even if it's wrong," he'd say.

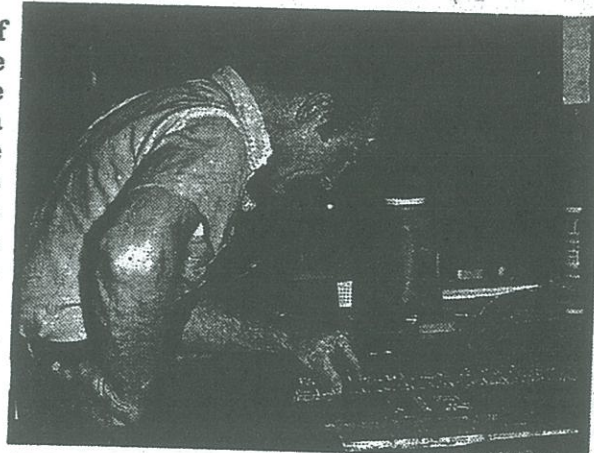
He liked the backshop humor and verbally twisted the correct pronunciation of many items being placed in the paper. Obituaries were "obaturies," the historical society was the historical society, the PEO club was pregnant, expecting and otherwise,

and Frank's Pharmacy was Fark's Framacy. He got a kick out of recalling the printed mistakes like shitguns for shotguns. A common error on the Linotype was to hit o's for i's and it was not unheard of to send an obituary to press stating that someone had "loved" for many years in some town instead of "lived."

He was never serious and his remarks became standard Robertisms: "What are you characters up to?"; "It's bean time";

"Pull up a chair and sit down beside it"; "Stand on your head and stack BBs." If I could ask him right now, What's going on? he'd say, "Rent and taxes and all that good stuff."

His eulogy will speak to his love for family, kindness to friends, duty to country, and the void that is now left. My thoughts will be on the time he took me fishing and we sat on Webster Lake all night and never got one bite. And how my sons got to go fishing and hunting and shoot guns because of him. He was a true friend.



Robert with a galley of letterpress type circa 1978



The Town Crier

By CLARKE DAVIS



The county newspaper family lost one of its own this past week. Cancer claimed the life of Carol Jean Wilson at age 62.

The destinies of our two families were permanently stitched in a venture to own a newspaper 35 years ago. The partnership lasted 25 years, but that story was told all too short a time ago with the death of Carol's husband, Robert.

The couple lived in Oakley in the early 1960s and they knew my parents first, for they would dine out occasionally at the Davis Western Hotel and Cafe in Grinnell, Carol's hometown. Her sister Marge worked next door at the attorney's office and the two Mather girls married Wilsons who were cousins. It knitted together two very large families. There were 12 siblings in the Mather clan and while Robert had only one brother and one sister, he had a cousin in every town.

Carol will be lauded for a good many things: a good wife and mother, a good cook, a quick sense of humor, remembering others with birthday cards. Marveta tells me her embroidery was not to be matched and many friends and relatives were lucky enough to be given one of her quilts. The quilts were personalized for each recipient with a favorite color or interest. Marveta's is

purple. I remember her cheese balls at Christmas and her potato salad at summer picnics.

She was also a good business partner. In the early days of this fledgling company, spouses worked in the business without pay. Carol's job was taking care of the bookkeeping department, which was expertly handled whether she was paid or not and regardless of her other responsibilities: running a home, raising children, or, later, taking a second job.

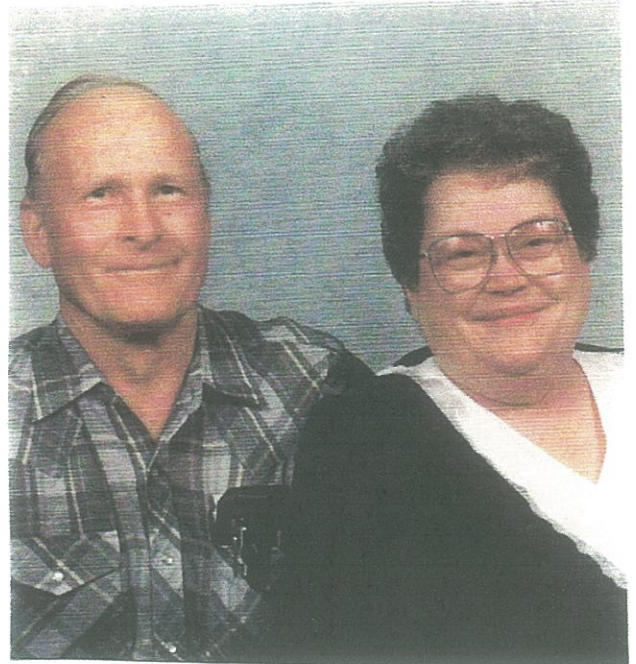
Most people have a favorite movie and holiday. Carol's was "Gone With the Wind" and St. Patrick's Day. She had a green outfit for every day in March.

I found her remarkable in the manner in which she faced the inevitable. She displayed a countenance and strength that left us in awe. She made her funeral arrangements, took every opportunity to gather with friends and relatives, and went out to enjoy as many things as she could.

Robert and Carol were good people and good friends and it was our personal good fortune to have our lives entwined these many years.

There will be less wearing of the green this March.

Robert & Carol Wilson



Name: Robert Eugene Wilson

Birth: February 1, 1936

Place: Nekoma, Kansas

Death: May 6, 2001

Cemetery: Valley Falls, Kansas

Married: August 24, 1958; Grinnell, Kansas

Children: Brett, Marjorie (Sug), & Eric.

Carol Mather

March 30, 1940

Grinnell, Kansas

February 20, 2003



Robert E. Wilson

VALLEY FALLS — Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the United Methodist Church in Valley Falls for Robert Eugene Wilson, 65, Valley Falls, who died Sunday, May 6, 2001, at a Topeka hospital.

He was born Feb. 1, 1936, in Nekoma in Rush County, to Elmer F. and Elva Mendendall Wilson. He graduated from LaCrosse High School in 1954. He was a bookkeeper at the Farmers Cooperative in Grinnell and was a linotype operator for the Oakley Graphic weekly newspaper from 1962 to 1968.

He moved to Valley Falls in 1968 and was a co-owner and shop foreman for the Valley Falls Vindicator and the Oskaloosa Independent newspapers until he retired in 1993. He had been chief of the Valley Falls Fire Department.

He was in the First Finance Division of the Army and had been stationed at Fort Meade, Md., and Fort Riley.

He was a member of Bicentennial Post No. 225 of the American Legion in Ozawkie, Kansas Press Association, Jaycees in Valley Falls, El Camino Club in Topeka and Eagles Lodge in Holton. He had served as president of the Valley Falls Athletic Association.

He married Carol J. Mather on Aug. 24, 1958, in Grinnell. She survives.

Other survivors include sons, Brett L. Wilson, Emporia, and Eric P. Wilson, Andover; a daughter, Marjorie "Sugie" Wilson, Topeka; a brother, Floyd Wilson, Great Bend; a sister, Betty Janke, LaCrosse; and three grandchildren.

Graham-Herbers Post No. 3084 of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Valley Falls will conduct graveside services at Valley Falls Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at Mercer Funeral Home in Valley Falls.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jefferson County District No. 11 of Emergency Medical Services or to the Valley Falls Athletic Association, both in Valley Falls, 66088.

CAROL J. WILSON

Carol J. Wilson, 62, Valley Falls, died Thursday, Feb. 20, 2003, at her home.

Mrs. Wilson was a nurse's aide for 25 years at Valley Health Care



Center in Valley Falls. She and her husband, Robert E. Wilson, were co-owners for 25 years of Wilson-Davis Publications which published the Valley Falls Vin-

dicator and the Oskaloosa Independent.

She was a member of the Valley Falls United Methodist Church and the Ladies Auxiliary of Graham-Herbers Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3084.

She was born March 30, 1940, at Grinnell in Gove County, the daughter of Jacob P. and Susie J. Bigbee Mather. She graduated from Grinnell High School in 1958.

She married Robert E. Wilson August 24, 1958, at Grinnell. He died May 6, 2001.

Others who preceded her in death include her parents and three brothers, Leslie Mather, Harry Mather, and Jerry Mather.

Survivors include two sons, Brett L. Wilson, his wife, Angela, and their daughter, Teghan, all Emporia, and Eric P. Wilson, Valley Falls, and his son, Jothan Wilson, Charlotte, N.C.; a daughter, Marjorie "Sugie" Wilson, her fiancée, Bryan Hutton, and their daughter, Kaitlyn Hutton, all of Valley Falls; four brothers, Lee Mather, Coronado, Calif., Buford Mather, Broomall, Pa., Richard Mather, Oakley, and Wes Mather, Russell Springs; four sisters, Ruth Hays, Oakley, Wilma "Willie" Taylor, Grinnell, Evelyn Fitzroy, Newton, and Marge Wilson, Montezuma.

Funeral services were Feb. 24 at the United Methodist Church in Valley Falls. Burial was in the Valley Falls Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Jefferson County District No. 11 Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services or to the Valley Falls United Methodist Church and sent in care of Mercer Funeral Home, PO Box 6, Valley Falls 66088.