



720020  
OUR PRICE  
1.24

Pines in Snowfall, near Vail, Colorado  
By Robert Cushman Hayes

*from Friends of the Earth*

Willke Reunion Book.

Edgar J. <sup>and</sup> Alfrida E. Willke descendants.

I started to write news about the family  
in 1986. Thanksgiving get togethers were  
discontinued.

1978

Our last get together with our children and grandchildren on Christmas Day was in 1977.

In 1978 we decided to have a get together at a different time.

On Sunday, September 3, 1978 we all met at Koch's Cafeteria, St. Marys, Ohio, for a 12:30 dinner. We gathered in the large room in the back.

Everybody came to our house in Maria Stein for the afternoon.

For supper we had ham sandwiches, potato chips, fruit and ice cream, which I had prepared.

We had a 100% attendance. Those attending were: Grandpa and Grandma; Don, Marilyn, Bill, Joe, Jim, Bob and Tom Schwieterman of Maria Stein, O.; Bill, Esther, Nancy, Mary, Joan, Ed and Carol Willke of Dayton, Ohio; Andrew, Janet, Cindy, Andy, Mark, Jack and David Niekamp of Kettering, Ohio; Bob, Rosann, Mike, Jimmy, John and Stephen Spitzer of Lafayette Indiana.

Joe Schwieterman and Cindy Niekamp came from West Lafayette, Ind., where they had

started their sophomore year at Purdue University.

Nancy Willke came from Kalamazoo, Mich. where she had started her senior year at Western Michigan University.

Alfida E. Willke

1978

## Maria Stein News

Guests of Dr. and Mrs. E.J. Willke last Sunday for their family get-together were: Dr. and Mrs. Don Schwieterman and family, Maria Stein, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Niekamp and family, Kettering, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Willke and family, Dayton, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spitzer and family, Lafayette, Indiana, Joe Schwieterman and Cindy Niekamp of Lafayette, Indiana, where they are attending Purdue University, Nancy Willke, Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she is attending Western Michigan University.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spitzer (Rosanne Willke) of Lafayette, Indiana, attended the 20th anniversary reunion of graduation from Marion Local last Saturday evening at the Elks.

# THANKSGIVING 1979

Our Thanksgiving Day get-together, held at Elks Club, was a holiday we won't soon forget. Not only was it one of those all-too-seldom occasions when the entire family could get together, but it gave Grandpa & Grandma a chance to give each of us a very special gift — a \$1000 check to help us pay for our education.

The Elks Club was an ideal setting because it allowed Grandma to relax instead of spending all day preparing food and cleaning up after the 19 grandchildren. As usual, the Spitzer boys, Mike, Jimmy, John and baby Stephen were the life of the party, and Aunt Rosann Spitzer was able to peacefully play cards while they were impatiently exploring the Elks Club.

The turkey dinner, complete with the traditional dressing & cranberry sauce, was eaten quickly, especially by Jim Schwieterman, who had to go to basketball practice (is nothing sacred!).

Don Schwieterman then interviewed Grandma & all the grandchildren with his new "sound-movie" camera. On the movie,

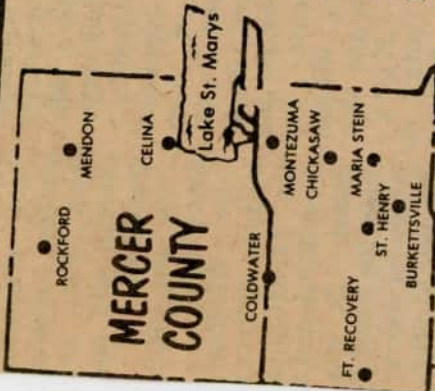
# CHRONICLE

25¢  
PER COPY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1979  
Phone 678-2324.

Coldwater, Ohio 45828

3 SECTIONS  
VOL. 72 NO. 40  
FORTY-FOUR PAGES



Jim jokingly asks Grandma if "he was her favorite grandchild?" Grandma replied, "no comment".

Nancy Willke was the only grandchild unable to come (she now lives in Denver), but Uncle Bill certainly made up for Nancy's absence by constantly ridiculing the colleges we are now attending (Bill Schwieterman goes to Cincinnati; Cindy & myself attend Purdue; Mary Willke attends Dayton, and Andy Niekamp is a freshman at Bowling Green).

Jack Niekamp, only a h.s. freshman, surprised us by becoming the tallest member of our family, and Joan Willke told us about her new job at the Dayton Airport,

We all then thanked Grandpa & Grandma for the great holiday

Thanksgiving guests of Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Willke of Maria Stein were Dr. and Mrs. Don Schwieterman and family of Maria Stein, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Willke and family of Dayton, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Niekamp and family of Kettering and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spitzer and family of Lafayette, Ind. Unable to attend was one grandchild, Nancy Willke of Denver, Colo.

Joe Schwieterman  
3rd Grandchild

Thanksgiving Day  
1980

There is no doubt that holidays are better spent at your grandparents than at home. For many traditional years, we all shared Christmas together at Grandpa and Grandma's house. For the last couple of years, though, we have gotten together to hold a family reunion earlier in the fall before Grandpa and Grandma take off for a better climate, this year being Florida.

This get-together was extra special because all of the family members gathered to enjoy Thanksgiving Day.

From the Schwieterman family Bill and Jim traveled from the University of Cincinnati, and Joe from the University of Purdue (P.U.). Don and Marilyn didn't have a long way to go with Bob and Tom because they were already in Maui Stein. From the Wilke family Nancy flew from Denver where she now lives, Mary traveled from the University of Dayton, and Joan from Ohio State. Bill and Esther rode with Eddie and Carol from Vandalia. Bob and Rosann traveled from Lafayette with their still young children Mike, Jim, John, and Stephen. From the Niekamp family Cindy came from Purdue University, Andy from Bowling Green University, and Mark from Ohio State University. Andy and Janet rode from Kettering with David and Me.



## **Maria Stein**

Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Willke had as their Thanksgiving Day guests their children and 19 grandchildren. Present were Dr. and Mrs. D. J. Schwieterman, Bob and Tom of Maria Stein, Bill and Jim of Cincinnati and Joe of West Lafayette, Ind., Mr. and Mrs. Bill Willke, Mary, Ed and Carol of Dayton, Joan of Columbus and Nancy of Denver, Colorado, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Niekamp, Jack and David of Kettering, Cindy of West Lafayette, Ind., Andy Jr. of Bowling Green and Mark of Columbus, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spitzer, Mike, Jim, John and Stephin of West Lafayette, Ind.

All of us met at the Racquet Club in China for the big Thanksgiving feast. The restaurant at the club served the traditional turkey and stuffing. They also had corn and mashed potatoes with gravy, and green beans, and lima beans, and so on... You could eat all you wanted to of everything. I feel sorry for anyone who skipped dessert. Not only did they have pumpkin pie with whipped cream but almost any other kind of pie you can think of. I have never seen such a fine assortment of delicious looking pies. Nobody could have left hungry.

After the meal some of the grandchildren went swimming in the pool. Others enjoyed the whirlpool. The pinball and miniature bowling games attracted some of us. Nobody took advantage of the racquetball or tennis courts. Most of the people just enjoyed the over-all sporty atmosphere of the club.

Eventually we all ended up at Grandpa and Grandma's house and talked about the going affairs including the election of a new <sup>(President)</sup> president. We had a family picture taken and then snacked on some <sup>food</sup> which each of the families had brought. After things started to wind down we all headed for home around early evening which brought a close to another family reunion.

I thank the Lord for having an opportunity to be with my family another year.

Jack Niekamp

Thanksgiving Day  
November 26, 1981

This years Thanksgiving get-together was held in Dayton at the Wilke house. It didn't seem quite the same because this year not everyone was able to come. Grandma had left for Florida in early November, leaving Grandpa to fend for himself until the first of December. Nancy Wilke stayed in Denver where she lives and Cindy Niekamp remained at Harvard University where she attends school. Despite their absences we managed to enjoy ourselves.

The Spitzer family drove to Dayton from Lafayette, Indiana to spend the day. In the Schwieterman family Bill and Jim came up from the University of Cincinnati, Joe came by train from Northwestern University and Aunt Marilyn, Uncle Don, Bob and Tom travelled to Dayton from Maria Stein. Because Grandma wasn't here Grandpa came down with the Schwietermans. In the Niekamp family Andy came from Bowling Green, Mark from Ohio State, and Aunt Janet, Uncle Andrew,

Jack and Dave drove all the way across town from Kettering. From the Willke family Mary came from the University of Dayton, Joan from Ohio State and Mom, Dad, Ed and I were already here.

The Spitzer clan was the first to arrive so the boys got the added treat of going for a walk in the woods at Cricket Hollow Boy Scout Camp with the Willkes acting as their guides.

For Thanksgiving dinner we had plenty of the traditional foods. Luckily we had a lot because the hungry crew quickly devoured most of the turkey, dressing and other goodies.

After the meal many of the grandchildren went outside to play football. When we came inside we watched Ed playing football on some of the home movies that the Schwietersmans had taken during one of his games.

The party started breaking up around 6:00.

Carol Willke

Thanksgiving Day  
November 25, 1982

This year's Thanksgiving was a unique one. Nancy brought two of her friends home with her from Denver. Their names are Paula and Margo Kukor. They were also in town for Nick Schultze's wedding. Thanksgiving was different without the ever-lasting fun-loving Spitzers. The Spitzer family was unable to come to the Thanksgiving party which was held in Kettering at the Niekamp house. Also, Cindy Niekamp was unable to attend this fine occasion. Cindy is in her last year at Harvard University. Grandma left early for Florida so she couldn't attend either, but all of us were able to wish her a Happy Thanksgiving over the phone.

The Schwieterman family drove from Maria Stein to Kettering. Also, Bill and Jim came <sup>they</sup> from University of Cincinnati and Joe from Northwestern University. From the Willke family Nancy came from Denver, Mary from Dallas, Joan from Ohio State University, Ed from the University of Dayton & the rest of

the family came from Vandalia. In the Niekamp family Andy came from Bowling Green, Mark from Ohio State University, and the rest of us were already here.

The Thanksgiving get-together started around 12 o'clock when people started to arrive. <sup>The</sup> hors d'oeuvres that were served were delicious and didn't last long. We ate shrimp cocktail, pickled mushrooms, and cheese dip in a big loaf of bread. Grandpa had good taste choosing and bringing the wine which was a big hit.

After the hors d'oeuvres we ate a big Thanksgiving meal. It included Uncle Don's Greek salad mixed in a huge bowl. People teased him that the bowl was really a planter. Aunt Esther brought some of her deliciously made pies for all of us to devour after the filling turkey dinner.

After the feast some played football in the backyard while the others were involved in a Euchre game. Later, some watched music television and football. The party ended around 6 o'clock. David

On Thanksgiving Day the Willke relation got together to celebrate the holiday and each other. Although we all missed Grandma who was in Florida, the party was a success. The Schwieterman residence in Maria Stein was the location of the party.

The families came from all directions. Grandpa simply walked from his house across the street. The Willke clan drove from Vandalia and the Niekamps arrived after riding from Kettering. In addition, Nancy flew in from Denver and Mary flew in from Dallas. Of the college cousins Jack was on break from Indiana University, Bob from Purdue, Mark from Ohio State, Jim from U.C., Bill from U.C., Ed from Dayton, and Joan from Ohio State. Also present were Cindy and her friend John ,who both work at General Motors. Of the girlfriends present, there was Jim's friend Theresa Brown, and Bob's friend Brenda Keller.

The Schwieterman's prepared a fine meal consisting of turkey, dressing, and other traditional foods. The delicious meal was enjoyed by all and finished in near record time. With help from many of the aunts the dishes were reduced quickly to a small pile.

After dinner the party continued. The adults entertained themselves by talking while the younger generation found amusement through football and the Schwieterman computer to which Andy seemed to be glued. Tom's activities were limited due to his recent wisdom teeth operation. All in all, the party seemed to reflect the close nature of our relation and bring out the best in all of us.

*Tom Schwieterman 1983*

### Thanksgiving 1984

On Thanksgiving, 1984, the Willke relations got together at the Spitzer's house, in Lafayette, IN. Grandpa came from Maria Stein. Grandma was unable to attend because she was in Mt. Dora, Florida. The Willke family from Vandalia came, including Esther and Bill, Mary who is now living in Dayton (after living in Dallas for several years), Joan who is in Vandalia, Ed who is a Junior at University of Dayton, and Carol who is a sophomore in high school. Aunt Marilyn and Bob Schwieterman, who is attending Purdue University, also drove in from Maria Stein. The entire Niekamp family was present: Andrew and Janet, Cindy and her friend Jerry from Dayton, Andy from Dayton, Mark from Pensacola, Florida, Jack who is attending Indiana University, and David, who is a senior in high school. Also present was the Spitzer family, Bob and Rosann, Mike, a freshman in high school, Jim, John, and Steve, who are all attending grade school.

The Thanksgiving Feast included turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, and all of the trimmings. For dessert was pumpkin and pecan pie. The dinner was enjoyed by all, except for Stephen, who wanted a bologna sandwich.

After dinner activities included playing Euchre, which led to some high stakes. Some people also played football. Aunt Marilyn really enjoyed Mike's speech synthesizer.

*Mike Spitzer*



Thanksgiving, 1985 was at the Bill Wilke household in Dayton complete with two turkeys, loads of dressing, six pumpkin pies and Aunt Janet's famous bread dip but incomplete without Grandma and Grandpa and Nancy. Andy Niekamp was reported to have been there during the meal, but wasn't seen after the dessert. Theresa Schwieterman, (the newest addition to the family) arrived after working first shift and later left with Jim to take him to his second Thanksgiving dinner with her family.

Bill Schwieterman was there through the whole day complete with his freshly sprained ankle. Uncle Bill couldn't wait for Bill S. to sit down when he first came in so he could drop large objects near the painful injury so as to tease Bill S.

Jack and Mark Niekamp arrived

from Florida on time for dinner.

They had been visiting Grandma and Grandpa in Florida before they left.

Mark is living in Orlando, Florida and Jack had been visiting him.

The Spitzers all came and occupied themselves a lot with playing ping-pong in the garage, while others played trivial pursuit or basketball outside.

Darryl Brayman, the fiancé of Jean, had his first Wilke Thanksgiving. He was busy informing some of the details of Halley's comet which appears every 76 years and is visible from October 1985 through April 1986.

Joe Crane, Mary's fiancé wasn't there. He was enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with his family near Columbus.

Uncle Don seemed ready for his hip surgery in Dayton which was the following Monday.

Carol Wilke had recently been 'Athlete of the Week' for the Dayton

newspaper and got recognition  
from the relatives for that.

Jack Niekamp told of how he'd  
be going to Holland to school next  
semester.

The party started breaking up  
around 6:00.

Joan Wilke  
1985

1986  
Page 1

1986 was a little unusual as we had four weddings in the family. Four of our grandchildren; Nancy, Mary, and Joan Willke and Joe Schwieterman were married. No Thanksgiving get-together was held.

On April 5, Joan was married to Lt. Darryl Brayman of North Adams, Mass. They were married in Chapel Two, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Fairborn, (Dayton) Ohio. Darryl is stationed there serving as an electrical engineer.

On June 7, Mary and Joe Crane of Reynoldsburg, Ohio were married at the Immaculate Conception Chapel, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio. Joe is a commercial photographer working for N.C.R. They live in Centerville, Ohio.

On August 23, Nancy married Jim Larson of Norwalk, Connecticut. They were married in an outdoor ceremony in Allenspark, Colorado. Jim works in environmental health and Industrial Hygiene. They are presently living in Broomfield, Colorado.

On September 20, Joe married Nancy Burtle of Auburn, Ill. The ceremony took place at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Auburn, Ill. Nancy is a Certified Public Accountant. They live in Chicago, Ill.

Our first grandchild to be married was Jim Schwieterman. He and Theresa Brown of Minster, Ohio were married at St. John Catholic Church, Maria Stein, Ohio on July 20, 1985. Theresa has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Nursing. They are living in Cincinnati, Ohio.

At Christmas time (1986) Bob Schwieterman announced his engagement to Brenda Keller of Maria Stein. They will be married July 2, 1988. Brenda is a senior at the University of Dayton in the School of Education.

Of our grandchildren - Cindy is the farthest away from home. She left in July for Paris, France where she will be working for 2 or 3 years as an employee of General Motors.

The summer of 1986 was a busy time for Andy Niekamp and me. We spent many hours video taping the history of my life. We have five hours of tape which needs to be edited before it is ready for publication. We intend to do this next summer.

In January we were all sorry to hear about the separation of Janet and Andrew's marriage. Janet and Andrew were married in June 1958, and had lived together for 27 1/2 years. Janet

is presently living on Marshall Road,  
Kettering, Ohio.

This year I celebrated my 80th birthday. As a gift Mark Nickamp who was working in Orlando, Florida, at the time, gave me my first ride on a motorcycle. It was something I always wanted to do so Mark granted me that wish.

Ed and I have spent the past 8 winters in Florida: - One year at Melbourne Beach and 7 in Mt. Dora. We leave in October and return home to Maria Stein in the spring.

World Headline News: The space shuttle "Challenger" exploded in mid-air a few seconds after take off on January 28, at the John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

Alfida E. Willke  
1986.

In 1967, Ed and I, took our four oldest grandchildren, Bill, Joe, Nancy and Cindy to a dude ranch out west. As the years went by we continued that program. When our grandchildren reached the age of 7 to 14 years, (or thereabouts) they knew it was their turn to go west with us. Now, twenty years later, we were down to the last two; John and Stephen.

Although Ed and I had not been out west for 5 years we decided to go with them. Rosann, Marilyn, Bill and Janet also decided to go. We had a delightful week together at Rimrock Ranch. We also had the pleasure of having Nancy and Jim Larson with us for the week-end. They were living in Broomfield, Colorado then. Also that same week we had with us Gene Linke and his 5 step-grandchildren.

Ed and I feel it was a special privilege and blessing that we were able to take all of our 19 grandchildren to a dude ranch (stretched out over a period of 20 years) and at the end to have all our 4 children with us.

It was a "Grand Finale" to our ranch life Ed and I enjoyed so much. Fate was good to us.

(Continued)

1987

Page 2

Bill Schwieterman finished a 3 year term or residency in Internal Medicine at Mt. Sinai Hospital, in New York City. He is now working at the National Institute of Health, in Washington, D.C., doing cancer research.

Jack Niekamp received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business, from Indiana University. After graduation he earned a CPA Degree on his first attempt. He accepted a position with Honeywell, an accounting firm, in Minneapolis, Mn.

Carol Willke graduated from Vandavia Butler High School. She is now attending the University of Dayton in the School of Industrial Engineering Technology.

Marilyn gets an A+ for her efforts in learning the computer system they installed in the office this year. It probably was the most challenging thing she did in her lifetime.

World Headline News:

Iran-Nicaraguan Contra Scandal. On October 19, the Wall Street Stock Market, crashed 508 points in one day.

Alfrida E. Willke  
1987.



1988  
Page 1.

1988 was a busy year as we had one wedding and quite a few graduations.

The wedding of Bob Schwieterman and Brenda Keller, of Maria Stein, took place on July 2, at St. John Catholic Church. Brenda graduated from the University of Dayton, School of Education in 1987.

Bob graduated from Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., on May 14, in the School of Industrial Management. Bob and Brenda are living in Lansing, Michigan, where Bob is working for EDS a subsidiary of General Motors Corp. Brenda does substitute teaching.

Next in line to graduate was Mike Spitzer, who graduated from Central Catholic High School, Lafayette, Ind., on May 27. Mike is enrolled at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., in the School of Computer Science.

On June 11, Jim Schwieterman graduated from the University of Cincinnati Medical School. He presently is taking a 3 year residency in Family Medicine at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Dayton, Ohio. He and Theresa are living in Dayton.

We had 2 grandsons and 1 grandson-in-law receive their Masters Degree. They were -

1988

Page 2.

Andy Niekamp MBA - Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, Mark Niekamp MBA - Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana and Jim Larson received a Masters Degree in Environmental Health / Industrial Hygiene in Colorado.

This summer was quite adventuresome for Mark and David Niekamp. In early June they ventured out on a cross country bike trip. They pedalled their bicycles from San Francisco to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. They made the gruelling 3500 mile trip in 38 days. During the summer of 1984, Mark, Jack, and two friends, Charley Schuerholz and Rob Werner had a similar experience. This time they left with their bikes from Seattle, Washington, crossed the Rocky mountains, and ended their journey in Norfolk, Virginia. They made this gruelling 4000 mile trip in 49 days. On this trip they asked for donations to raise money which was given to the Dayton Children's Medical Center.

This summer Janet escorted some students to Augsburg, Germany (Dayton, Ohio - Sister City) and to Steyr, Austria (Kettering, Ohio - Sister City) for three weeks. Janet is dean of academics at Alter High School, Kettering, Oh.

Marilyn and Don had a good trip to Nepal

1988

Page 3

where they visited Keith Kuenning, who is stationed there, in the Peace Corps. They also visited Malaysia and other areas in that vicinity.

Bill and Esther had a trip by plane to Golden, Colorado where they visited Nancy and Jim. They also made a trip by plane to Bedford, Mass., where they visited Joan and Darryl.

Besides that they went to Bloomington, Indiana where they saw a football game at Indiana University. Marilyn and Don accompanied them. Tim Jordan, Marcella and Carl's grandson was one of the star players on the team. Esther often mentioned how much she + Bill enjoyed the beauty of the fall scenery. It was October and the colors of the foliage were at their peak in all 3 states when they were there.

On July 11, I had a growth removed from my neck which was diagnosed as a goitre. This was my second thyroid surgery. The first one took place in 1963.

"World Headline News"

Vice President, George Bush was elected president of the U.S. Dan Quayle, Senator from Indiana, was elected Vice-President. George Bush became the first incumbent Vice Pres. in 152 years to be elected president.

The space shuttle "Discovery" was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida on Thursday,

1988  
Page 4.

September 29. It was the first shuttle launched since the "Challenger" exploded in mid-air in January, 1986.

Forest fires destroyed million acres of forest in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

It was the hottest and driest summer Ed and I can remember.

Alfrida E. Willke  
1988.