

75<sup>th</sup>

High Reunion

1991



# Remember the Times

HIRT  
FAMILY REUNION  
Wednesday, August 16, 1916

## *The News In Review*

President Wilson urges legislature for 8-hour day to head off rail strike ... US and Canada sign treaty to protect migratory birds ... National Park Service established

## *A Round Of Applause*

Best Movie  
Best Actor  
Best Actress  
Poems  
Operetta  
World Series

Joan the Woman  
Wallace Reid  
Geraldine Farrer  
Chicago Poems by Sandburg  
Lilac Time by Shubert & Berte  
Boston over Brooklyn

### PRESIDENT

Woodrow Wilson

### VICE PRESIDENT

Thomas Riley Marshall

## *On A Nostalgic Note*

Pretty Baby ... If You Were the Only Girl in the World ... You Belong to Me ... I Ain't Got Nobody ... Li'l Liza Jane ... Bugle Call Rag ... Nola ... Beale Street Blues ... Yaacka  
Hula Hickey Dula ... Throw Me a Rose

## *How It Was, How It Is*

	1916	1991
3 Br. Home	\$2,875	\$94,300
Avg. Income	\$806	\$34,213
New Ford	\$360	\$11,835
Eggs, 1 doz.	\$.38	\$1.20
Bread, 1 lb.	\$.07	\$.71
Milk, 1 gal.	\$.36	\$2.72
Bacon, 1 lb.	\$.29	\$2.09

## *Introducing...*

Windshield wipers for cars ... Professional Golfers Assoc. (PGA) formed, tournament held ... Submachine gun invented by Brig. Gen. John Thompson, the Tommy Gun ... New coins issued: the Mercury dime, standing figure of liberty quarter and walking liberty 50-cent piece ... Second Rose Bowl game became annual event

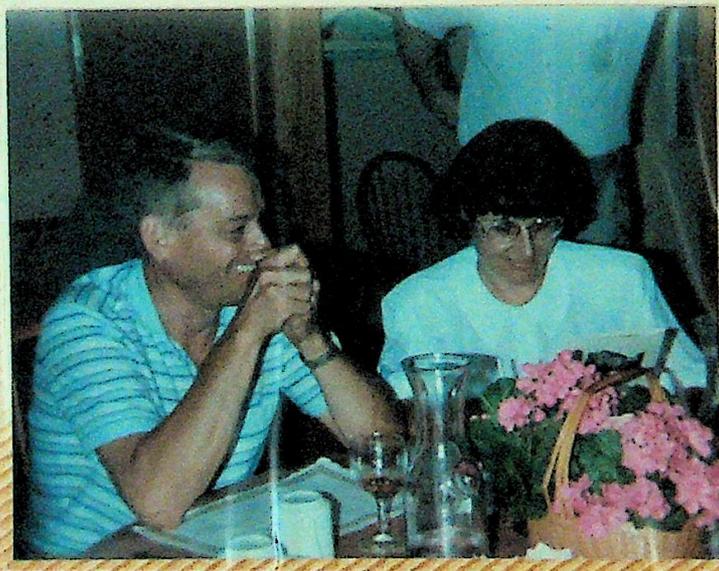
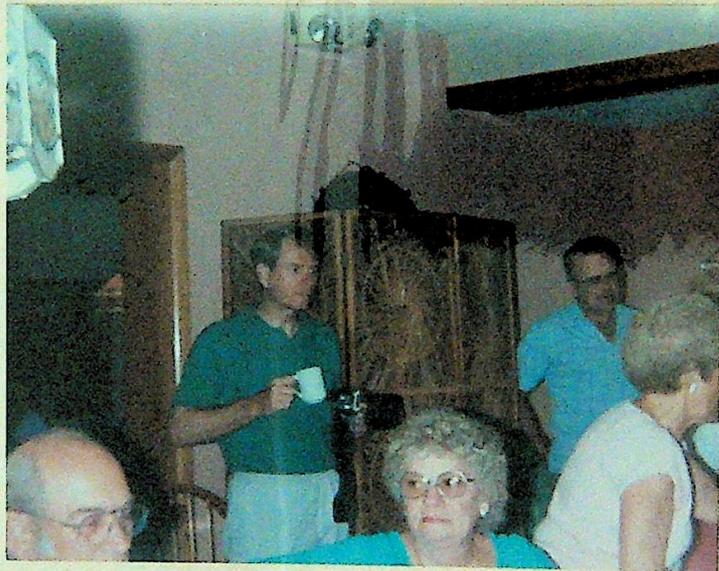
## *Remember This?*

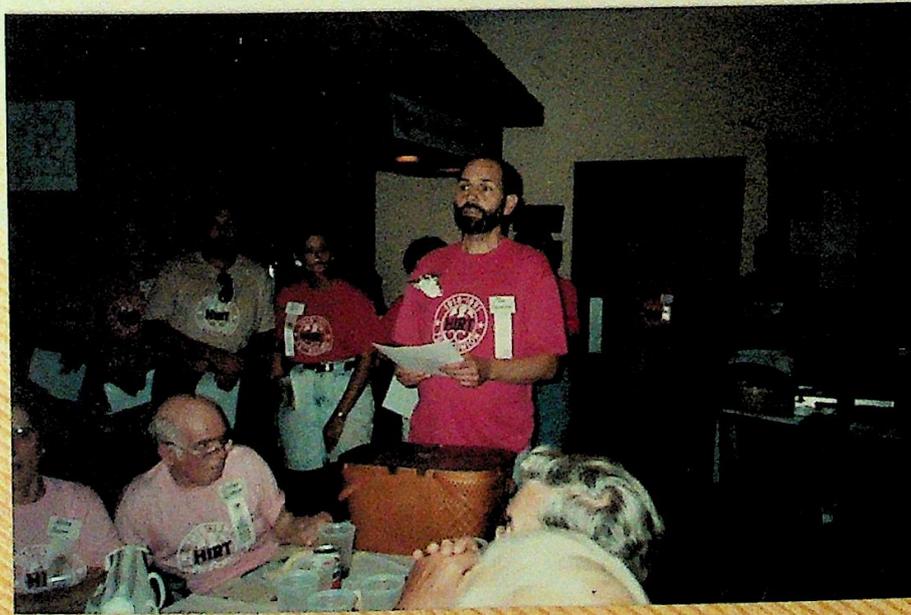
Boeing Company founded ... "Pay as you ride" Maxwell Car ad ... The term "cartoon" popular ... David Sarnoff urged American Marconi to market radio music boxes ... The Campbell's Soup Kids appeared in ads ... Nash Motors founded by Charles W. Nash ... Baseball games were popular ... Cars: Lancia roadster, Mercer touring car, Hudson and Renault

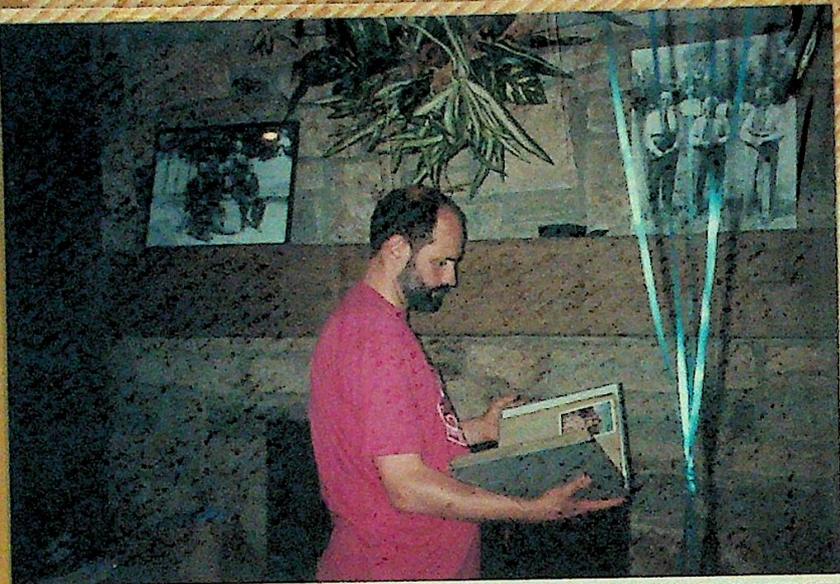
## *A Slice Of Life*

Norman Rockwell created 1st cover for Saturday Evening Post ... Russian Ballet with Anna Pavlova performed in NY ... Wilson's campaign slogan "He kept us out of war" ... Planter's Mr. Peanut created by 13-yr-old who won \$5 in contest ... Hawaiian music, ukuleles and guitars ... Grizzly bear and turkey trot danced

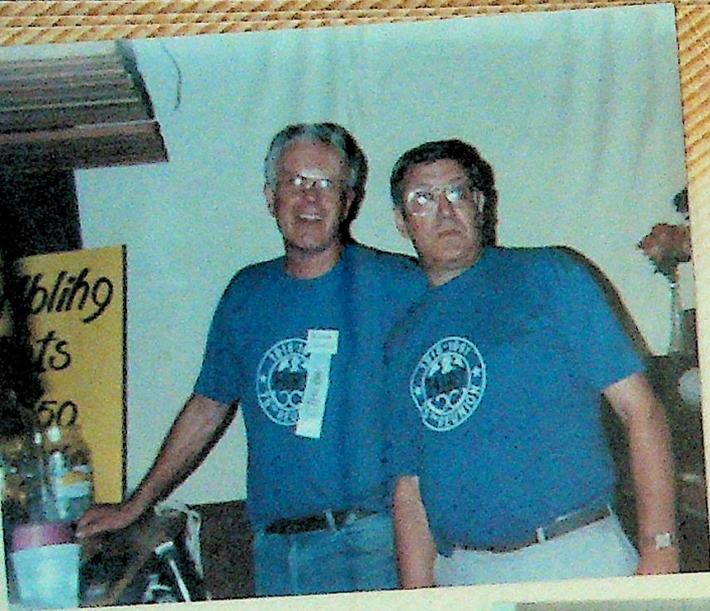


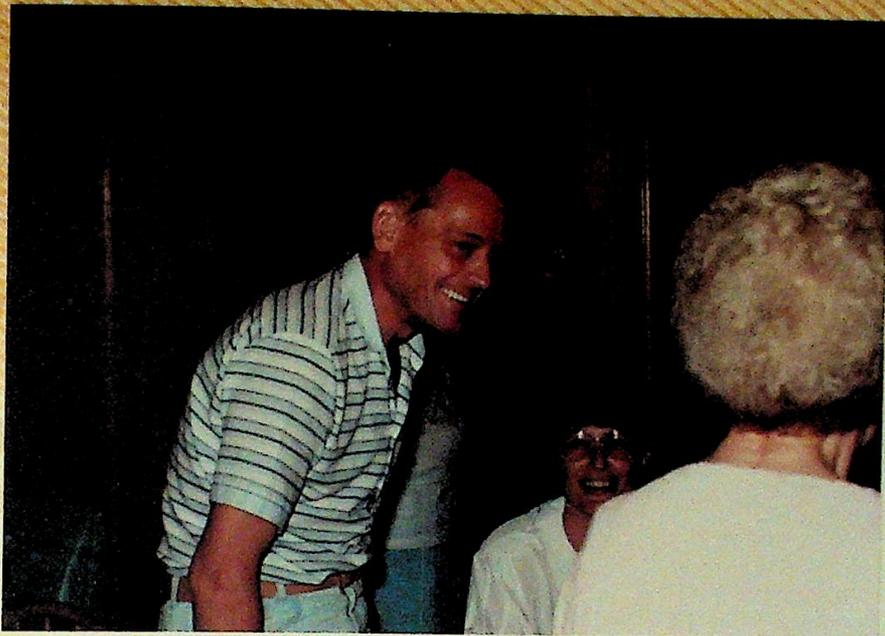


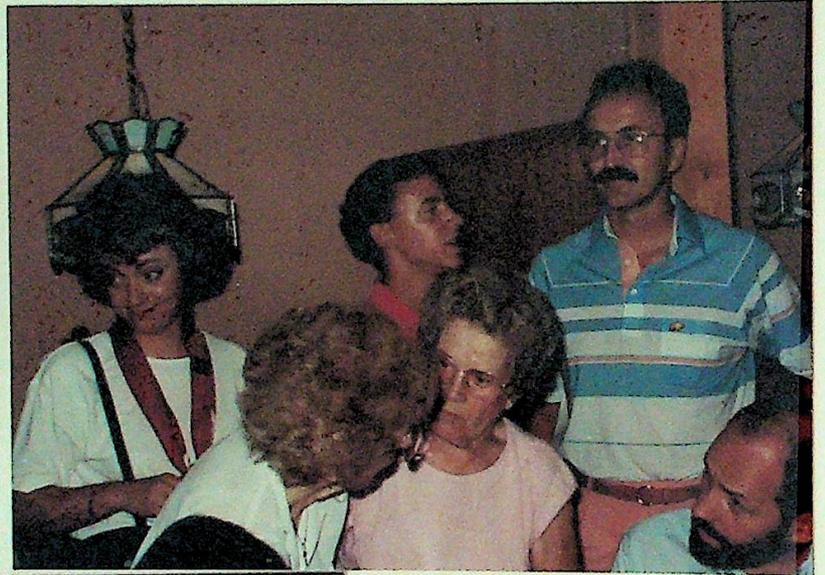
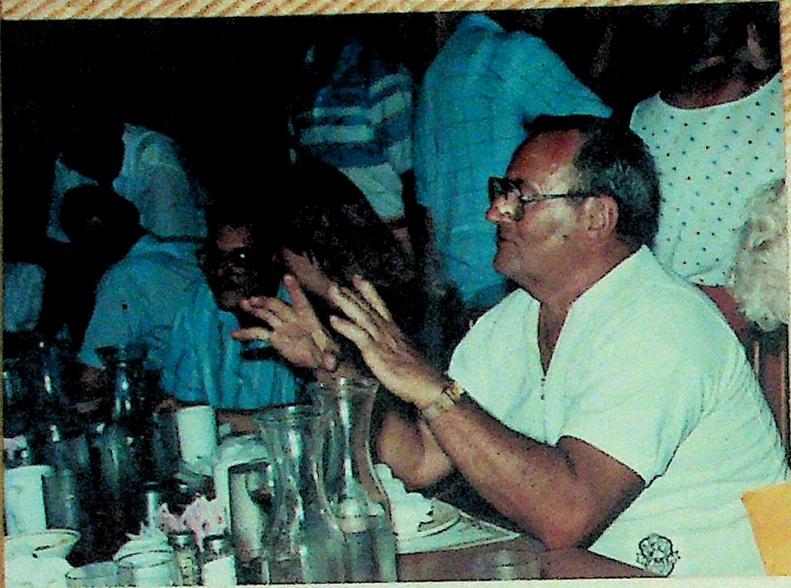




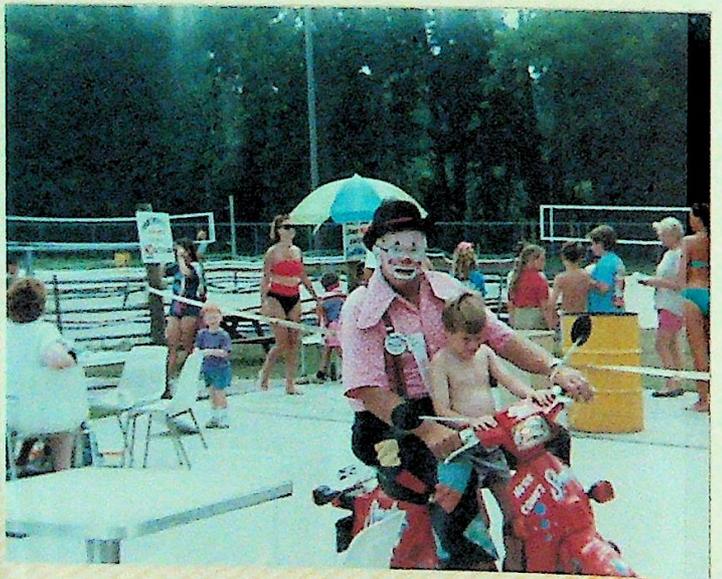
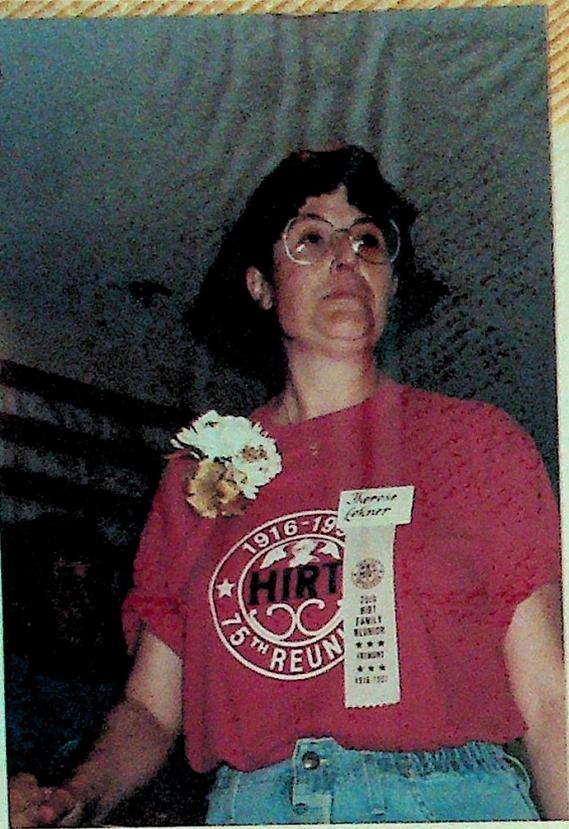


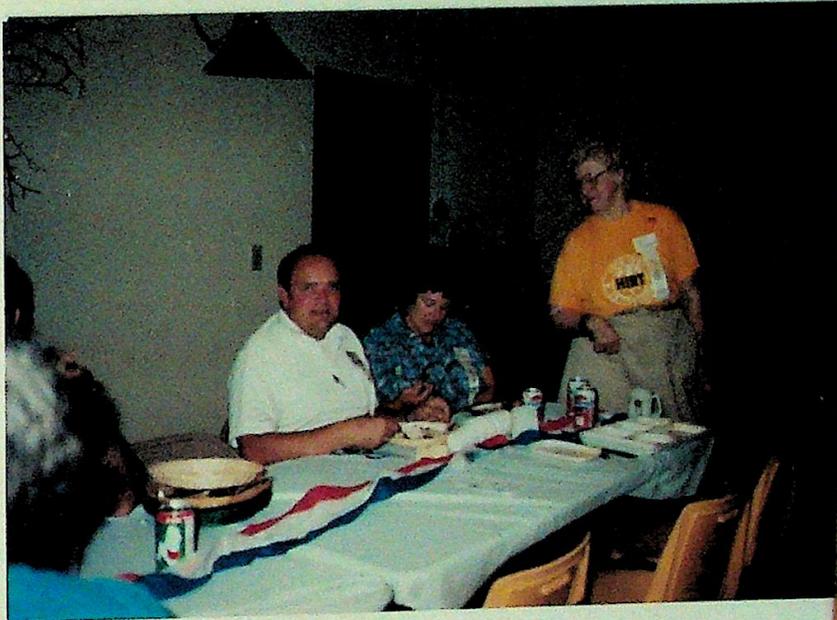


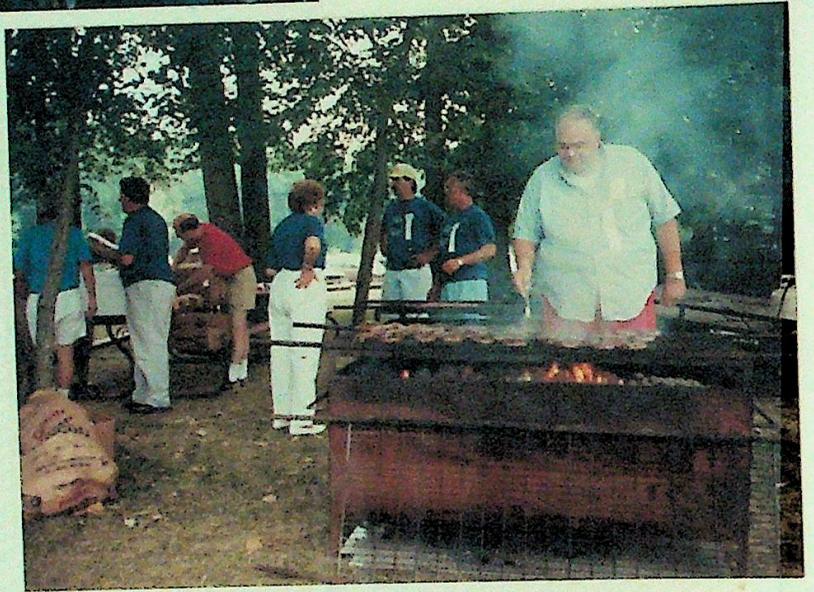




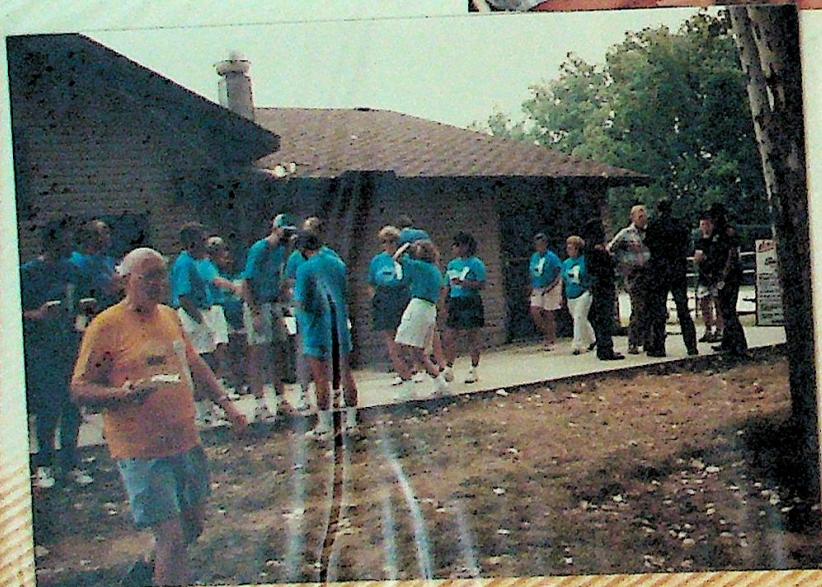


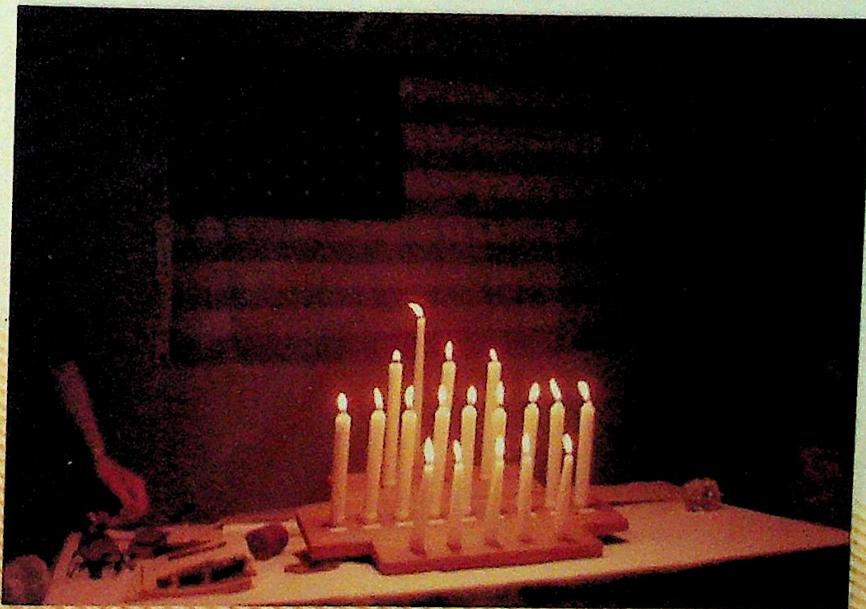
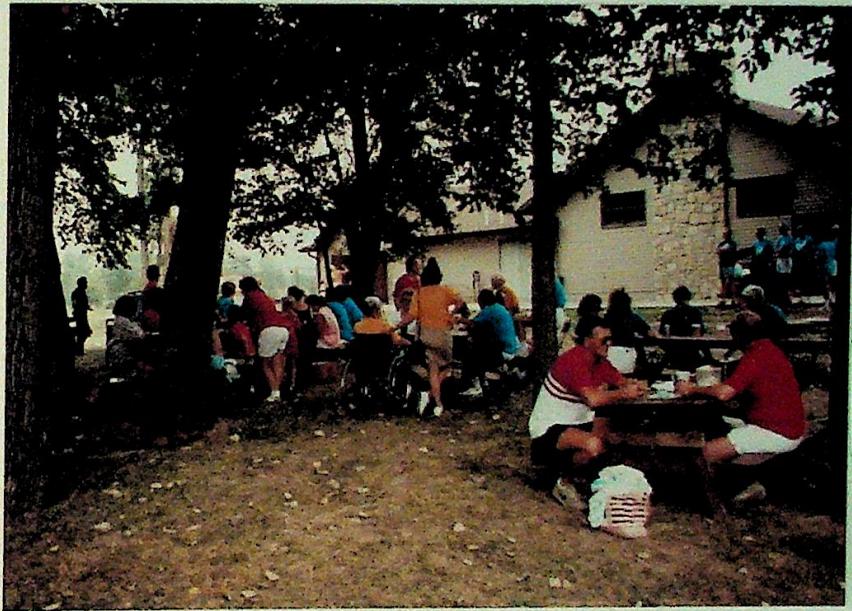






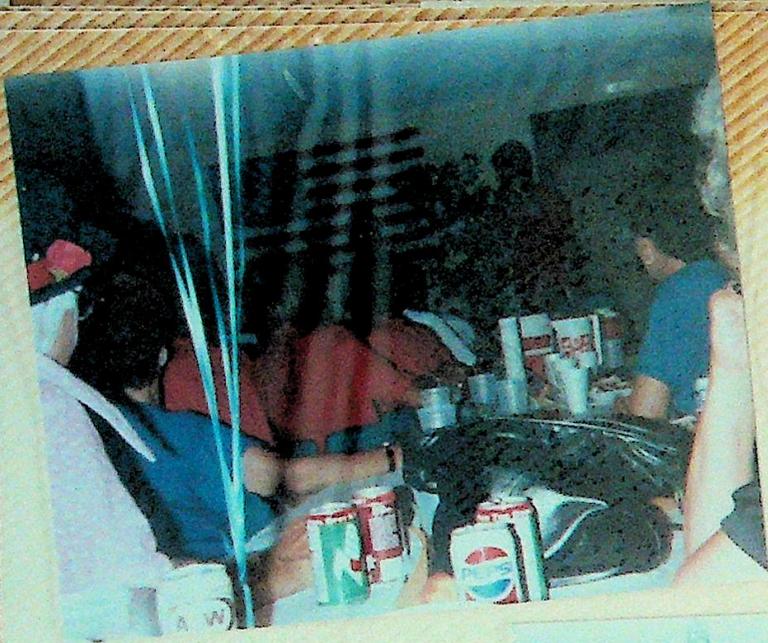


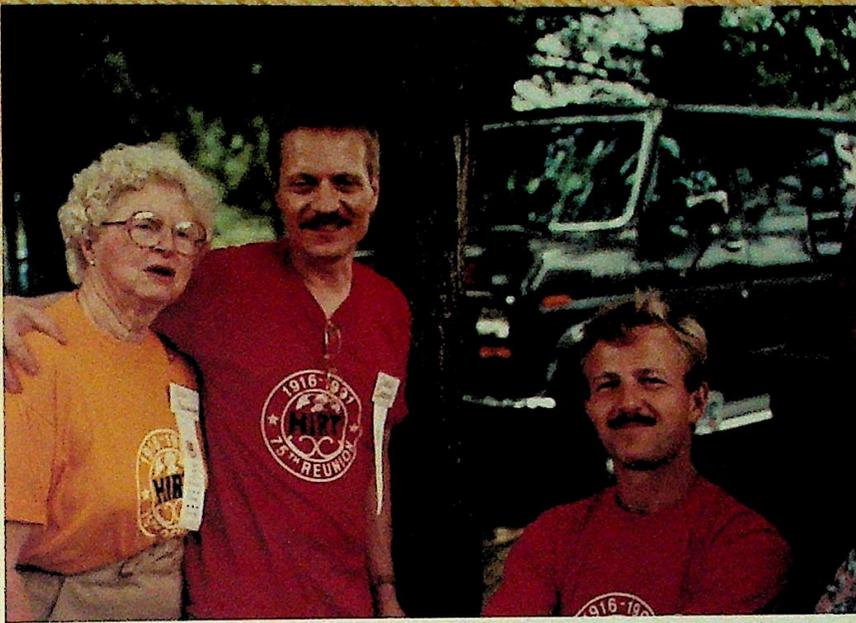


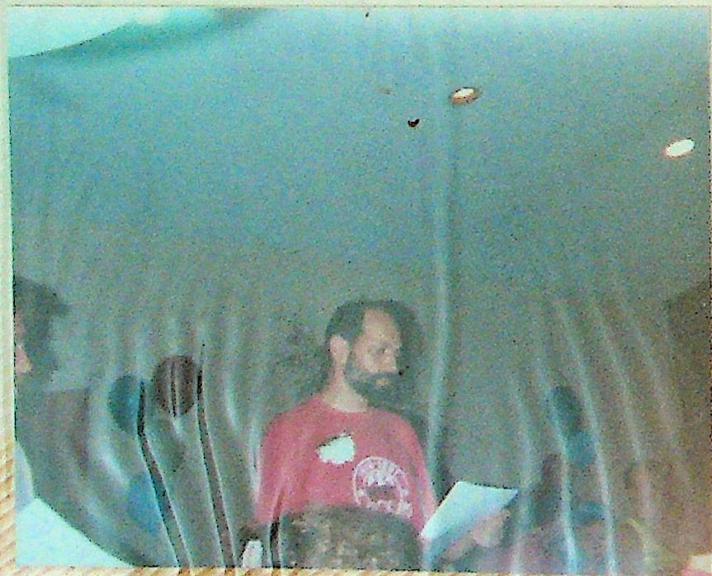
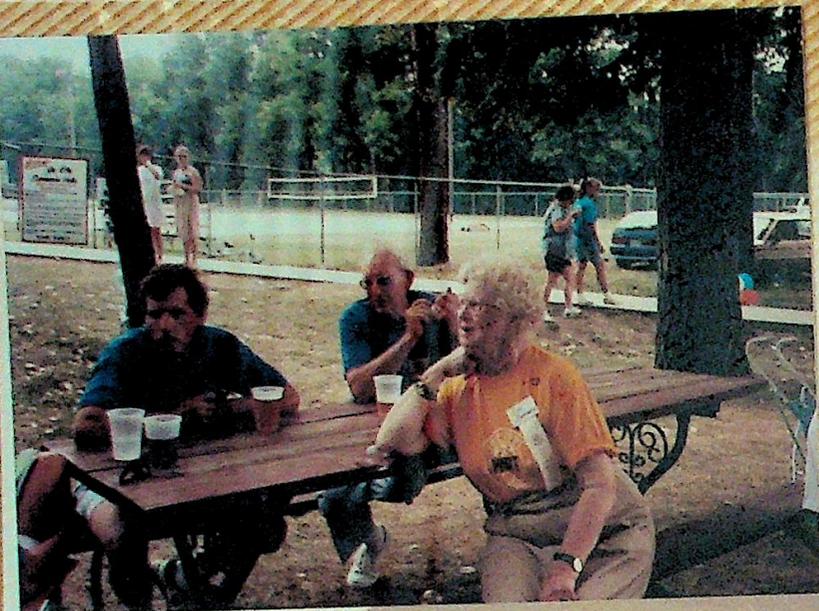


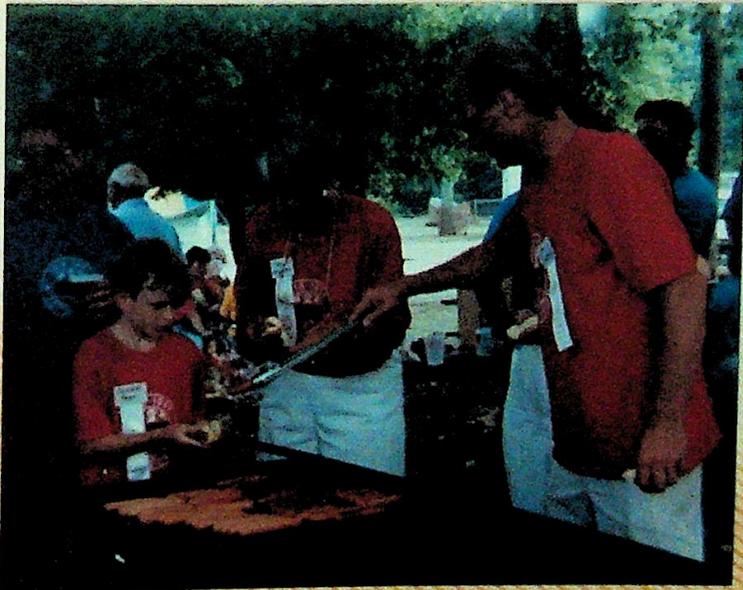


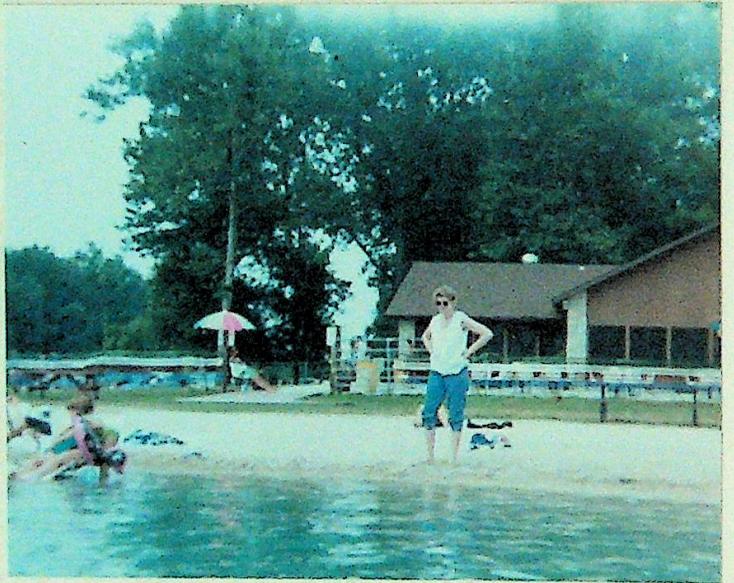
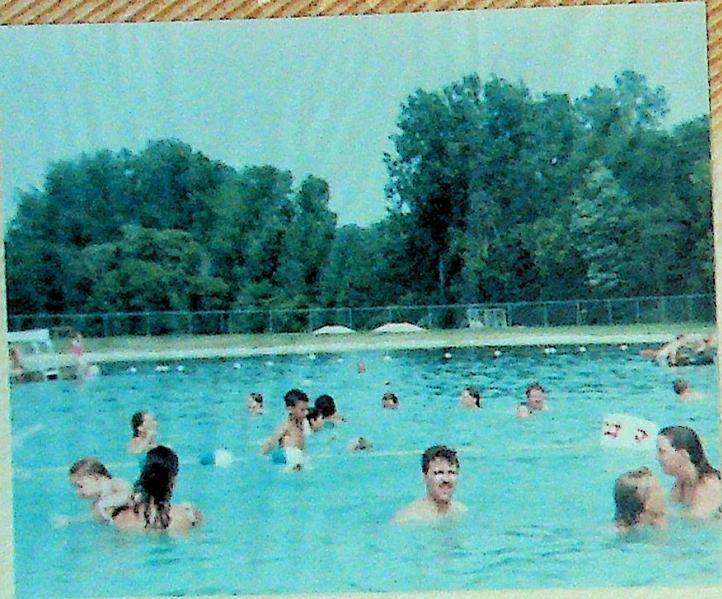


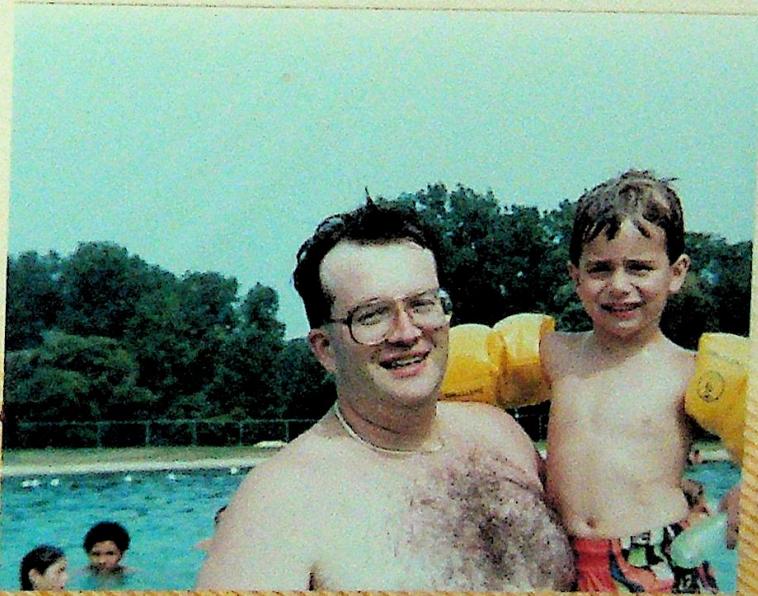


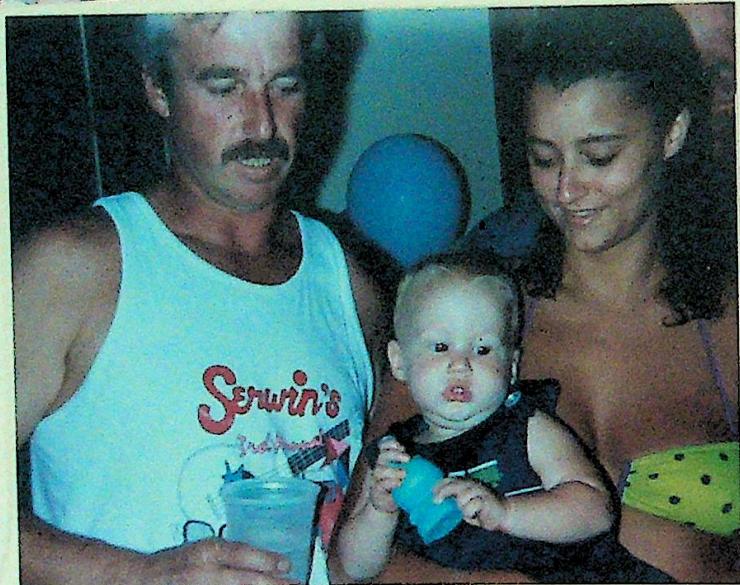
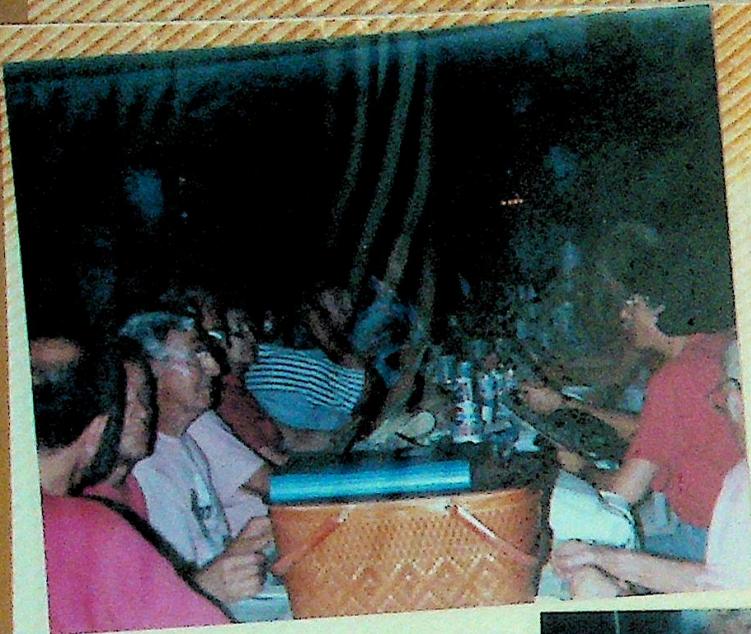


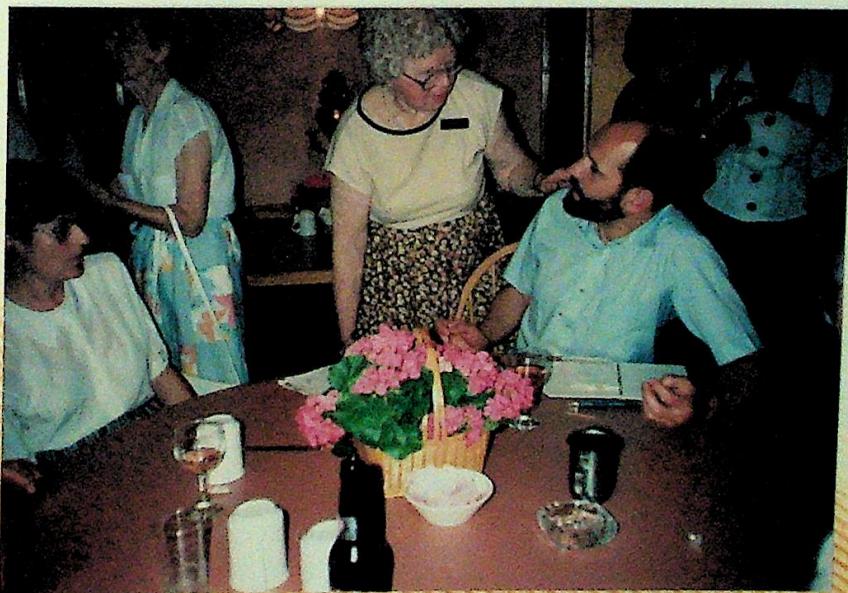
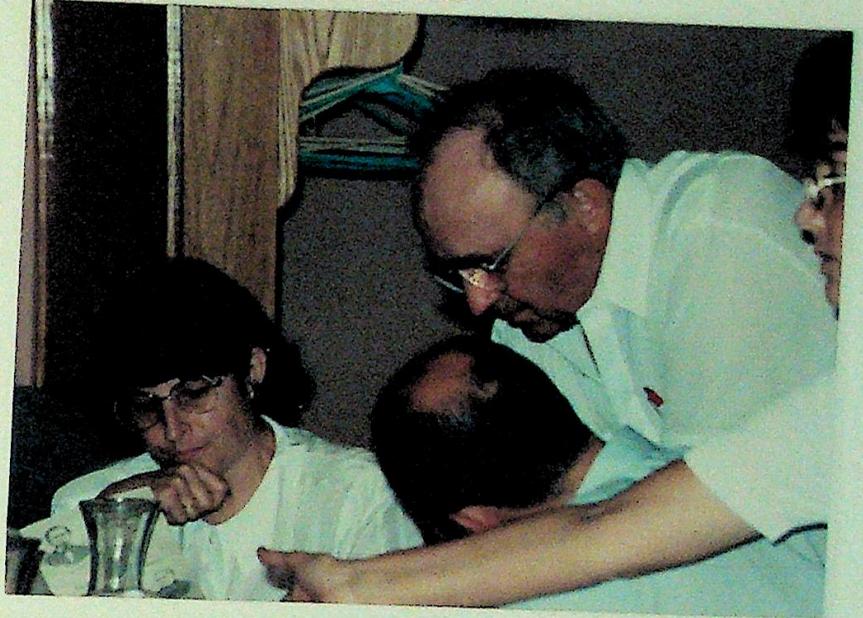














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Today's theme is what morose  
can't be



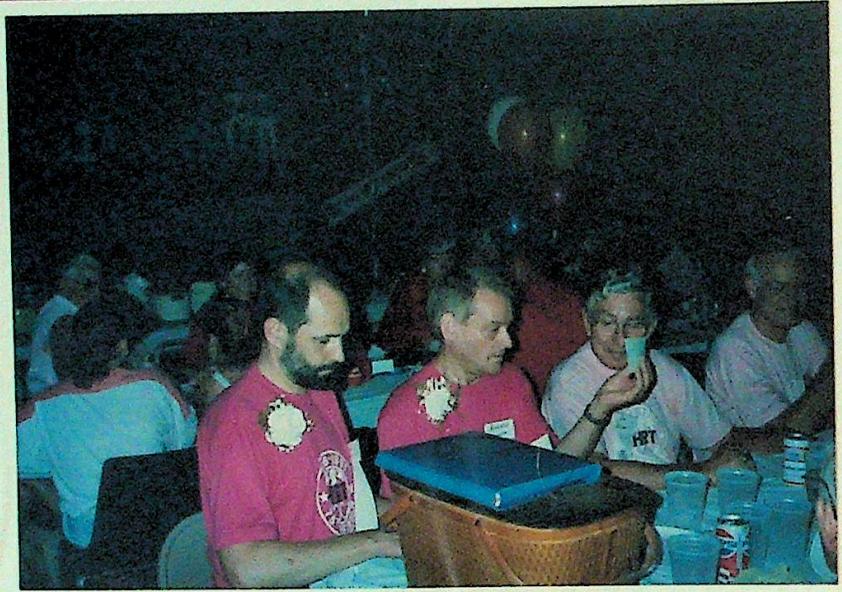
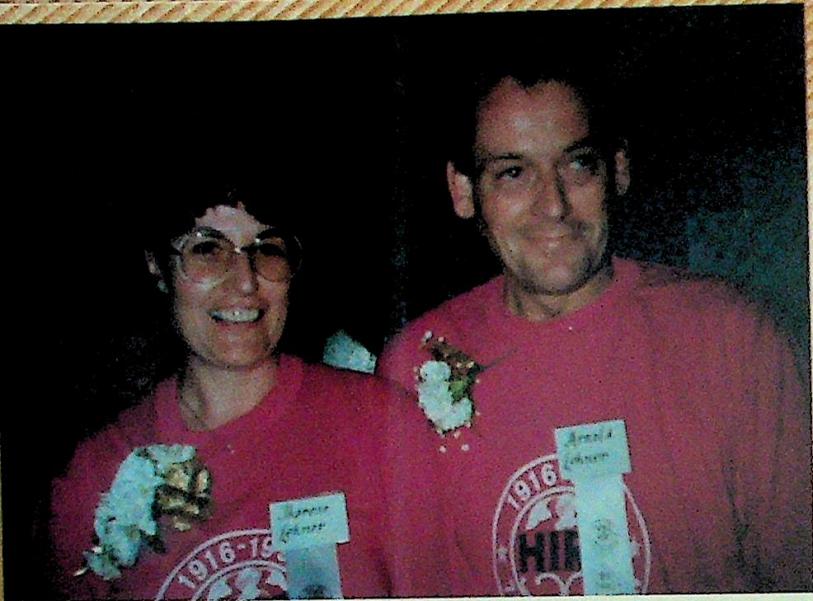
FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1929 vice president Hilda Schwartz, left, and classmate Ruth "Rudy" Peffly help Susan Sheffer identify class pictures for

mother's photo album. Sheffer is the daughter of Mary Ann Sheffer, who was in the class of 1929.

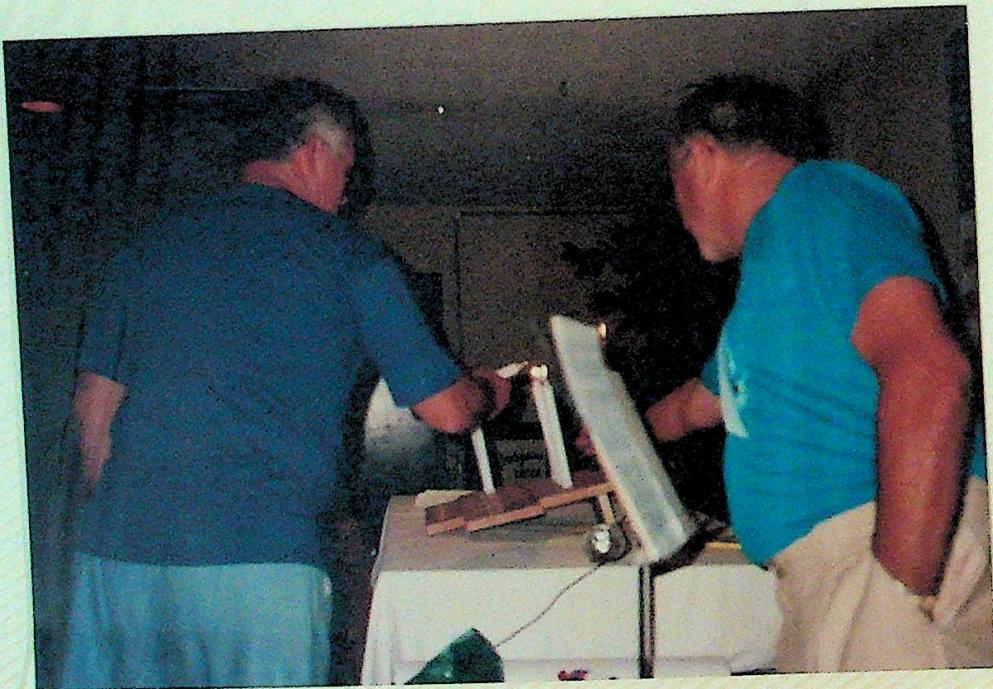
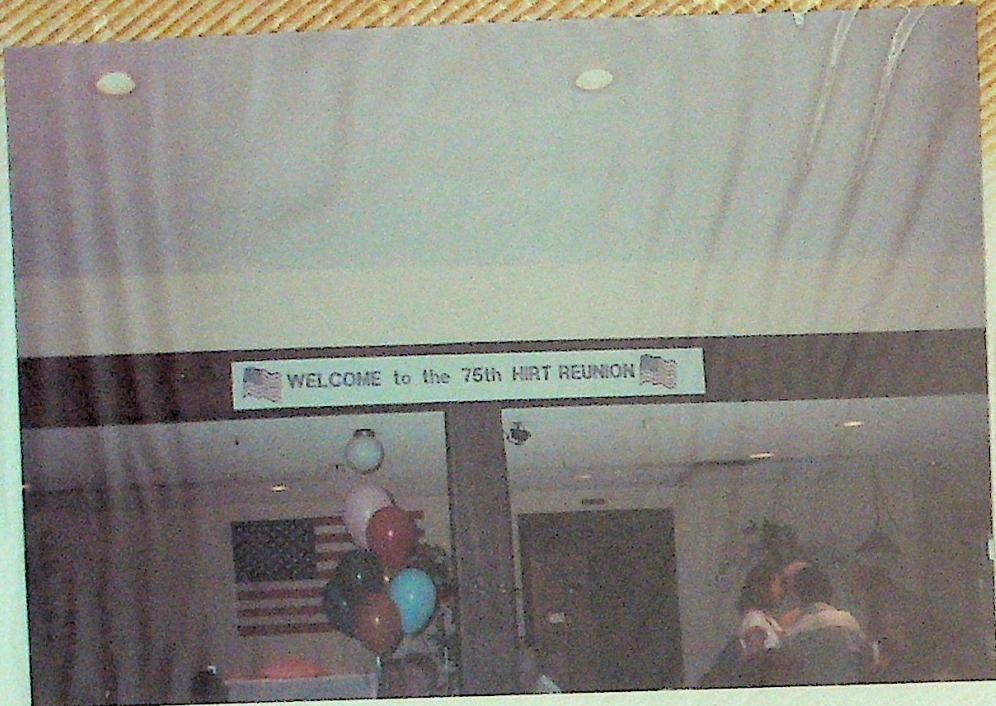
News-Messenger/Liz Margolis



















THE SWISS ANCESTORS OF THE HIRT FAMILY IN FREMONT/OHIO

Uli Hirt from Rein  
inn-keeper in Stilli  
married May 2, 1612  
Madlen Lehner from Stilli

|

Hans Hirt  
inn-keeper and miller in Stilli  
vicegovernour in the district of Schenkenberg  
died 1683 or 1684  
married December 12, 1631  
Barbara Keller from Hottwil

|

Heinrich Hirt I  
baptized November 6, 1636  
miller in Stilli  
died probably 1681  
married June 22, 1657  
Anna Hirt from Hinterrein  
baptized February 11, 1638  
married 2) Lienhard Wächter

|

Heinrich Hirt II  
baptized August 23, 1674  
miller in Stilli  
died May 25, 1755  
married probably 1697  
Barbara Finsterwald from Villigen  
baptized July 21, 1678  
died April 26, 1756

|

Heinrich Hirt III  
baptized September 27, 1703  
miller in Stilli  
died September 17, 1793  
married February 25, 1729  
Verena Strössler from Stilli  
baptized August 19, 1708  
died April 24, 1782

Heinrich Hirt IV  
baptized January 24, 1745  
miller in Stilli  
named "Gütterli"  
died December 1, 1797  
married January 24, 1766  
Margreth Märkl from RUFenach  
died March 24, 1814 (age 70 years)

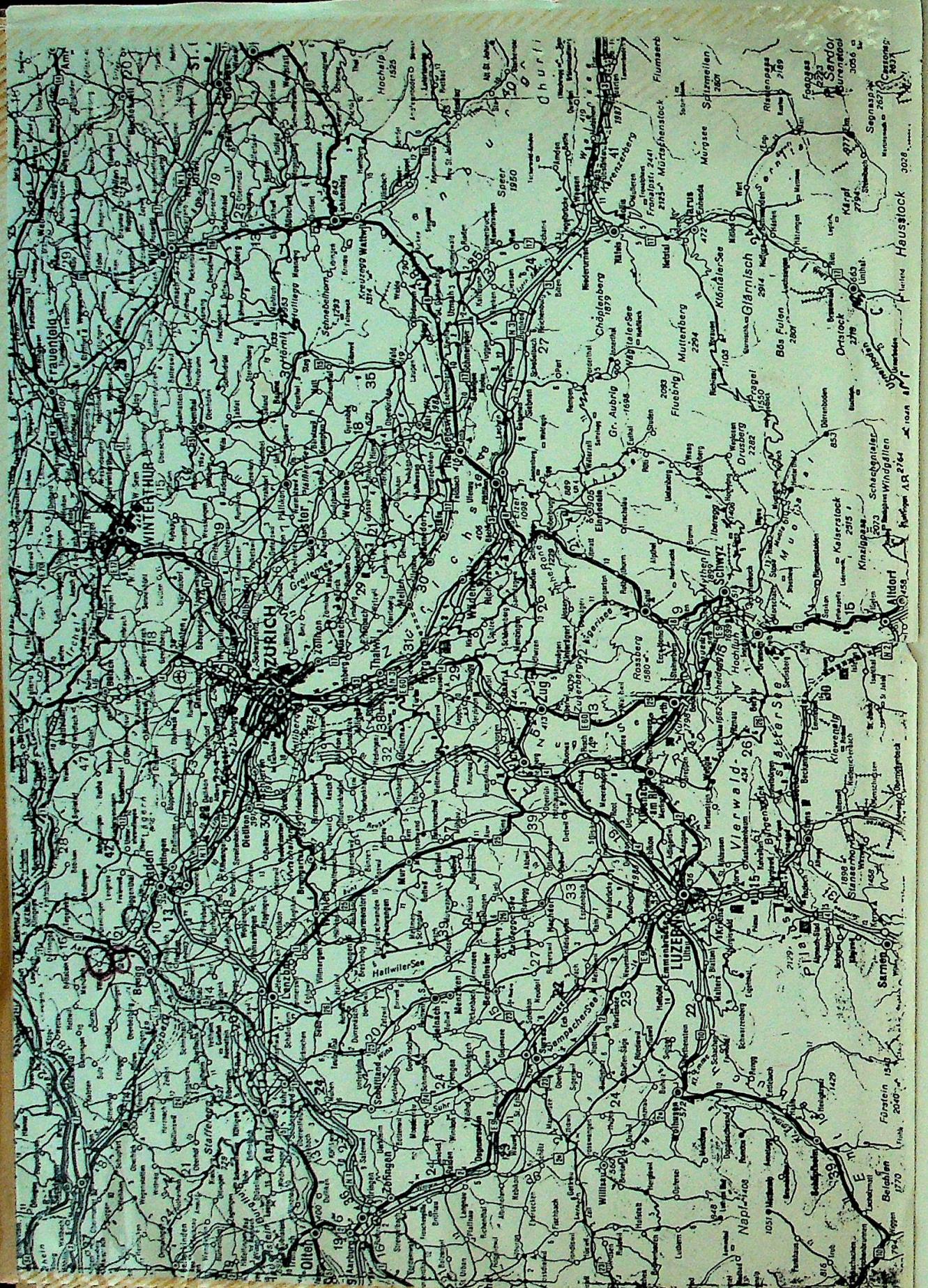
Heinrich Hirt V  
baptized October 13, 1776  
miller in Stilli  
died December 28, 1839  
married March 14, 1800  
Elisabeth Hirt from Hinterrein  
baptized March 21, 1779  
died August 7, 1849

Kaspar Hirt  
born August 3, 1820 in Stilli  
emigrated 1848 and 1854 to Ohio/USA  
died February 3, 1881 in Riley Township, Sandusky County, Ohio  
married 1854 or 1855 in Philadelphia  
Verena Vogt from Villigen  
born November 24, 1826 in Villigen  
died November 3, 1884 in Riley Township, Sandusky County, Ohio

Many descendants in USA







September 19, 1991

Dear Ruth,

Thank you for your letters with the "HRT-Reunion" articles.

Kerdy thanks also for the wonderful days in the USA. Especially for the days in Fremont, the friendly society at the "HRT-Reunion".

After our visit in Twinsburg we drove to Washington D.C. For this beautiful capital we had unfortunately only one day to visit. We would have liked to stay longer.

On the trip from Washington to New York we had very strong thunder-showers. It cooled down this very hot city. It is noisy, nervous and very dirty. We often talk about the beautiful and quiet days in Ohio.

We think fondly of our trip to the Statue of Liberty and the museum of emigrants at Ellis Island.

After several quiet days in Stilli the stay daily-life began.

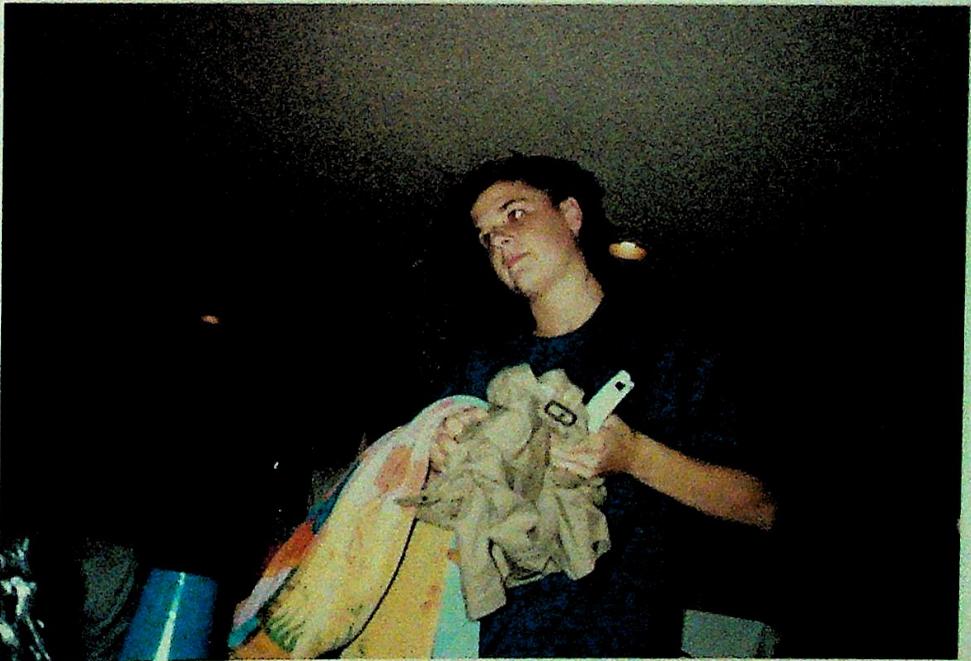
Sincerely

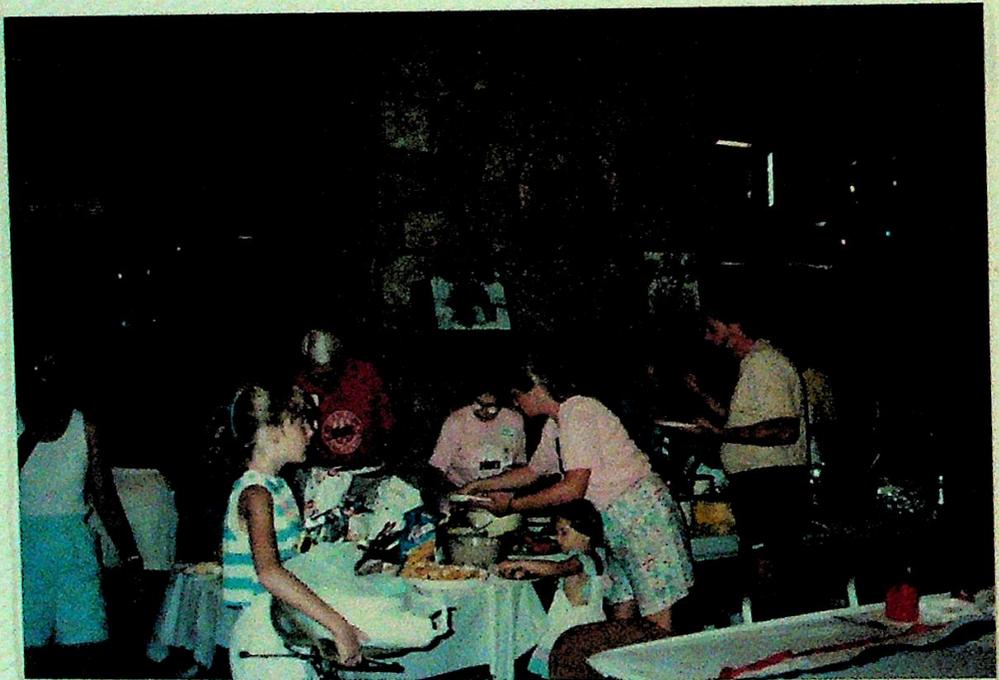
Theresa and Arnold





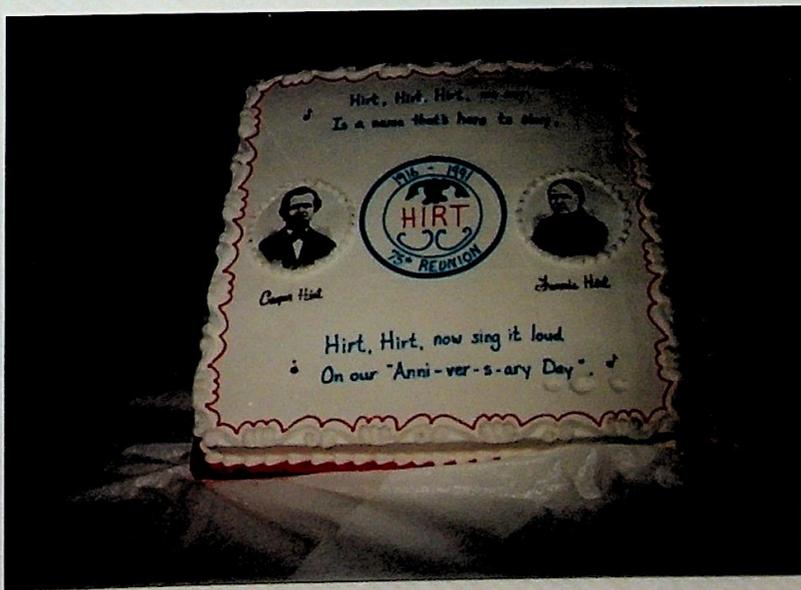


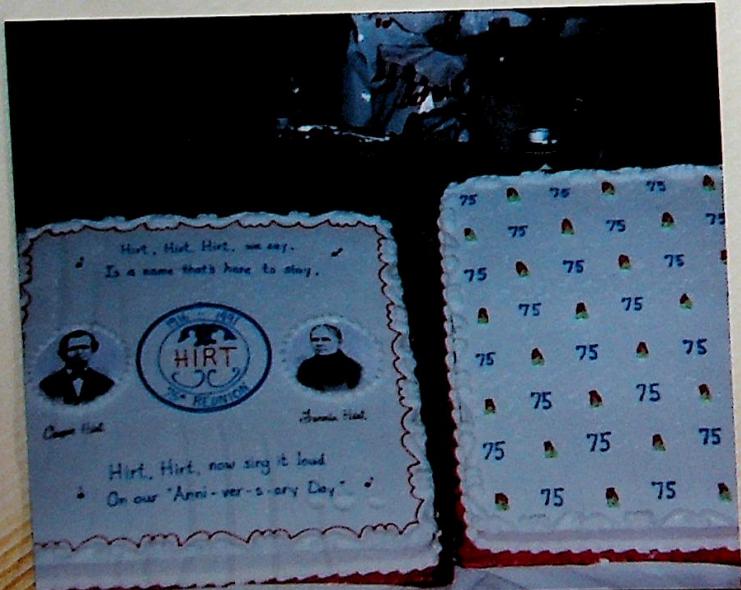
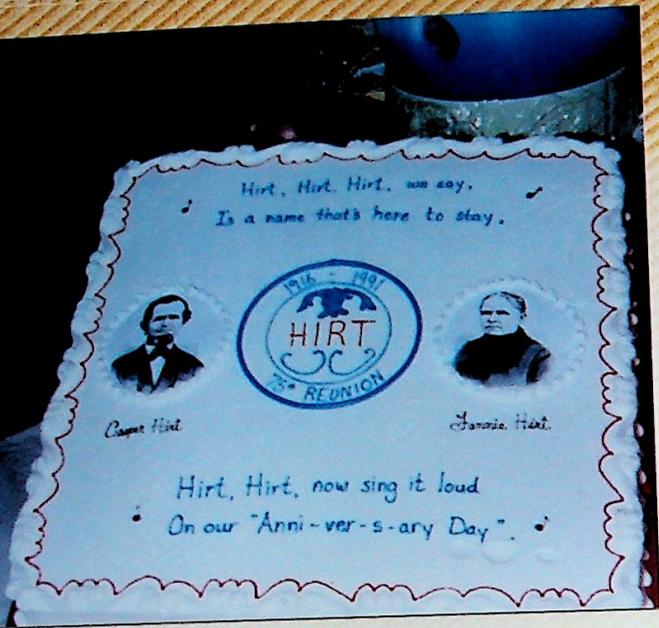


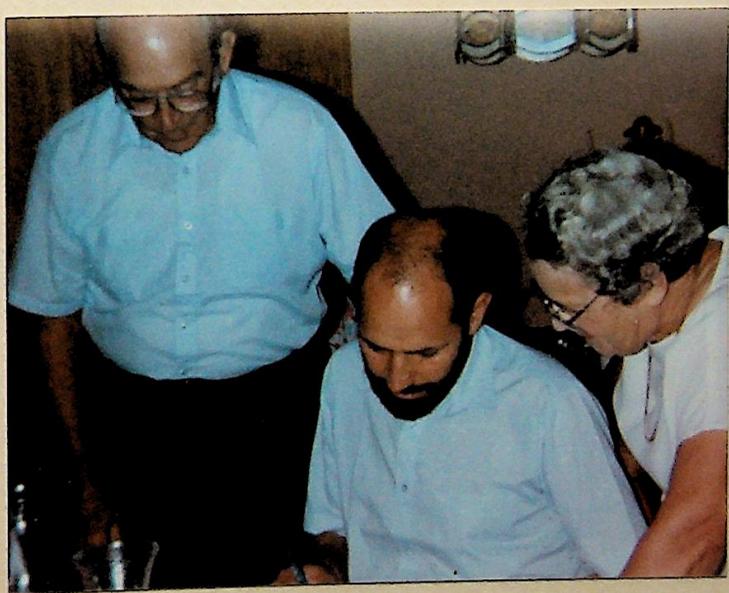












Speech at the Hirt Family Reunion in Fremont, July 21, 1991

Dear members of the Hirt family

Thank you for your invitation to your reunion here in Ohio. Leta Baumann and Helen Beier have been writing me for more than ten years and invited me to come to this festivity. You know that I come from Stilli in Switzerland like your ancestors and I also live in that village. Some of you have visited Switzerland and have come to Stilli, too. But most of you have never been in that region and therefore I will tell you about the history of our village, where Kaspar and Charles Hirt grew up.

Stilli is situated on the river Aare in a lovely area. Its territory is very small. Most communities in Switzerland are about 800 years old, but Stilli is much younger. In the Middle Age there was only one farm there, where one family - also named Stilli - lived. But in 1446 a ferry was established there to cross the river. There were two ferry-boats, a large one for vehicles, carriages and herds of cattle; a smaller ferry-boat served foot-passengers. But this establishment needed some ferrymen and that's why four further families came to that place and they built their houses there. This was the beginning of the community of Stilli in 1446.

People of Stilli were not satisfied with the ferry-business. They acquired the title to catch fish in the river Aare; there were many salmons at that time. One family also built a grain-mill and an inn for the through passengers. Later on they also began with the carriage of persons and merchandise on the great Swiss rivers; they went upstream to Berne, Lucerne and Zurich and made transports downstream to the river Rhine. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century they also floated tree logs. So people of Stilli were shipmen and raftsmen who travelled some times as far as Rotterdam in the Netherlands. In the village they also founded workshops for smiths, carriagemakers and shipbuilders. The women didn't work on the river, but they were agricultural labourers for self-sufficiency; they worked on the land and attended to the cows and the pigs. - So the population of Stilli increased from about twenty to fourhundred inhabitants. The eldest families are named Stilli, Müller, Lehner, Baumann and Finsterwald.

Your first ancestor in Stilli was Uli Hirt. He came from Rein, a neighbour village, where the church of Stilli stands. Uli Hirt must have descended

from a wealthy family. Therefore he was able to buy the inn of Stilli in 1608. Four years afterwards he married Madlen Lehner. The history of the Hirt family in Stilli was able to begin! - The son of Uli and Madlen was Hans Hirt, a very clever man. In 1652 he also bought the grain-mill of Stilli. About 1661 he became vicegovernour of the regiment of Berne in the district of Schenkenberg. So he was the most influential man in that region for more than twenty years and he received many taxes and became very rich. Henceforth the law-court of the district had its sessions in the inn of Stilli. Hans Hirt became a powerful man; he lent money and the debtors were obliged to sit in his restaurant in order to drink his wine and therefore they became dependent on him. So he was also a contested man. Hans Hirt had two sons and about four or five daughters. Both sons died before him. After Hans Hirts death a nephew took over the inn and the grandsons inherited the mill. So the Hirts became the miller-dynasty of Stilli for nine generations until the end of the nineteenth century. For many hundred years this mill stood on the river; the wheel was installed between two boats and was turned by the flowing water; the millstone turned in a little house, covered by a thatched roof, as you see in this picture. This kind of mill was always endangered by high waters; in the year 1762 the river ascended so quickly that both mill-boats sank and the cables broke loose. In 1833 a raft ran into the mill and destroyed it. After this the Hirts built a new mill on the solid ground of the riverbank; but this kind of mill cost much more because it needed a little canal which led the water to the wheel.

For five generations the millers of Stilli were named Henry Hirt. Henry IV was the grandfather of your Kaspar Hirt. He lived from 1745 to 1797. The people of Stilli called him the "Gütterli", that means the "flask". I suppose that he liked to drink wine. Therefore he was given this nickname, and all his descendants were called the "Gütterlis" until this century. Your ancestors were the "Gütterli-Kaspar" and the "Gütterli-Karl" and we remember Mrs Elisa Hirt Unger in Brugg who was called "Gütterli-Lisi". And so you all are "Gütterlis", too!

As you know Kaspar Hirt was born on August 3, 1820. He was the youngest son of Henry Hirt V and Elisabeth Hirt (she came from Hinterrein, a neighbour village of Stilli). His father was the owner of the half mill and he had probably one cow, some pigs and a horse for transportation on the roads. Kaspar was born in the home of his ancestors near the mill and near the inn of Stilli. It was a little stone house with a tiled roof, but very plain.

In 1831 Kaspar's father exchanged it for a new and very beautiful house which still stands to-day. Here Kaspar grew up from his eleventh year. The house of his birth was pulled down in order to make a park for the inn; but you can see it on the eldest picture of Stilli.

Kaspar's parents had twelve children. Three of them died in their childhood; two were retarded and therefore they were unmarried. Kaspar's eldest sister Margaritha married Samuel Finsterwald; they have many descendants in Stilli still to-day; Margaritha was the great-great-grandmother of Arnold Lehner who is also here with his wife Therese; his ancestors were ferrymen, shipmen, fishermen and shipbuilders; his grandmother was my aunt who gave me a lot of information about the past of Stilli.

Kaspar went to school in Stilli and he was confirmed in the church in Rein. I don't know what work Kaspar did in his youth. I suppose that he was also a shipman and he helped in the mill and in the fields. But in the nineteenth century the business on the river went down. The transportation of ships were hindered by the dams of the power stations for the new industrial establishments. The railway lines were built and competed with the ships. So people of Stilli lost their traditional earnings and the young men had to look for other work. Many of them emigrated to America. Kaspar Hirt started off in March 1848. His father had died nine years prior, but his mother was still alive. Kaspar had a fortune of 550 Swiss francs; 400 of this he needed for the voyage and the beginning of his stay in America; 150 francs he left in Switzerland. About his future course of his life, you know more than I; it's written in your Hirt history.

In 1853 an elder brother of Kaspar called John Henry Hirt (born 1809) also emigrated to America. He had been a miller and had possessed half the mill of Stilli together with his brother Johannes. So John Henry sold his portion and left Stilli. He went to Ohio where he lived in Kaspar's home in Riley Township as an unmarried man until his death.

During these events Kaspar's eldest brother Johannes ran the mill in Stilli. He was born in 1805 and married Verena Autenheimer, daughter of the smith of Stilli, in 1833. They had nine children; four of them died in their childhood. Two sons, Friedrich and Samuel, inherited the mill; the only sister married Jakob Horlacher, innkeeper in Umiken. The other two sons emigrated also to America. First John Kaspar, a tailor (born 1833),

went to Chicago in 1855; there he married and had some children; but his family didn't want to have any contact with the Swiss relatives in America and therefore we don't know anything about his descendants. - His younger brother Charles Hirt (born 1843) must have been in America twice. In the Hirt history you can read that he came to his uncles Kaspar and John Henry and attended the Jacob's school in Riley township, Sandusky County, in order to learn the English language, I suppose. Later he kept a saloon in Fremont, Ohio. We don't know in which year Charles emigrated the first time, I think little after 1870. I found a letter which he wrote from Fremont in October 1876; there was great unemployment and crisis; for him America was not the fool's paradise; he also suffered from the climate. So he returned to Switzerland, but not for a long time. In 1879 Charles emigrated to America for the second time; he took no money with him; but after a short time he came back to Switzerland for ever. He bought the mill in Mülligen and in 1882 he married his cousin Anna Maria Autenheimer; she gave birth to three children Charles, Fred and Marie. But in 1887 his wife died. Three years later Charles's mill in Mülligen went bankrupt. So his family was dissolved, Charles came to his uncle in Stilli, Fred and Marie to their aunt Elisabeth Hirt Horlacher in the inn in Umiken. Charles ended as an unfortunate man and he died in 1903.

At the beginning of the twentieth century the third generation of the Hirt family emigrated to the United States of America. In 1907 Fred Hirt, son of Charles, crossed the ocean. He went to Fremont and stayed in the house of his cousin Frederic Franklin Hirt in Vickery, Ohio. Then he searched for employment in Chicago and he wanted to visit the family of his uncle John Caspar. But his widow received him in such an unfriendly manner that he left Chicago in the same night; he travelled to California where he remained until his death in 1967. - In 1908 Fred's sister Marie also emigrated to America. She travelled to her relatives in Fremont, where she was so welcome that she stayed there forever. One year later she married Charles F. Kistler, a nephew of Verena Vogt, Kaspar Hirt's wife. Charles took his bride to his home near Erlin. Their daughters Helen Beier and Mary Hutchinson and son Lester are here in this reunion and have kindly offered us accommodations. Another son Walter is deceased.

So my speech has reached the present time. Now Stilli is no longer the village of shipmen. The ferry has been replaced by a large bridge. The railways and the motor-cars have superseded the ships. The electric power stations and the dirty water in the rivers prevent the salmon from coming

up to our regions. So Stilli became a modern community. Some old houses and the lovely situation on the river remember the past, and in our restaurants we still eat excellent fish, as those of you who have visited our village know.

Before ending my speech we want to present you a gift which is very symbolic. First, we bring you a flag of Switzerland; we suppose you know the white cross on the red background. Second we give you a flag of the state of Aargau; the three stars mean the three regions of this district; the three rivers are the Aare, the Reuss and the Limmat, which flow together into the Rhein. Third we present you the flag of the community of Stilli; here you see the tools of the ferrymen, the shipmen and the fishermen as traditional businesses of our village. In the middle there is an anchor; on one side you see an oar for driving and rowing downstream; on the other side you see a so-called prick which the raftsmen needed for the tree logs and the shipmen for bringing their boats upstream.

We hope you enjoy having these three flags. Perhaps you will hang them up at your family reunions in memory of your ancestors and as a symbol for your solidarity. We wish you good luck and many many reunions of the Hirt family in the future.

Max Baumann



ZOLLINGER AG  
TEGERFELDEN  
056 / 45 16 21

