

## Schmidt Family Memories

1989 – Dad's 80<sup>th</sup> Mother's 79<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

PAULA remembers laying my cheek on Mom's fur collar on the way to church.

BILL recalls a time when Emery Roberts came up to the farm with his team of horses and sleigh through very deep snow. He not only took us for a ride on the sleigh, but some of us got to ride on the small sleds tied behind the big sleigh. It was rather difficult to stay on the sleds. The little runners of the sleds would get into the big tracks of the sleigh and we would turn over and falloff into the snow. The other challenge was the snow coming up off the horses' feet as they ran through the snow and we tried to avoid having the sleds get into the foot tracks of the horses. Even with all the "hazards", we still had a terrific time.

PAT remembers when the Schlise and Thomas kids lived next door.

BOB remembers taking the cows down across the road every morning.

CHICK remembers lying in bed and listening to thunderstorms roll through and then hearing them come back a short time later.

LYNN remembers when we were picking stones east of the barn. Mary picked up a stone and threw it to the wagon. I was on the other side and came up from picking my own stone up and got hit between the eyes and ended up with two shiners.

MARY remembers that large jar of cod liver oil. Everyone got a large spoon full.

JEAN remembers a warm summer night, about 1 A.M., having Dad turn on the light at the top of the stairs and hearing, "Come on, the cows are out."

Dad says – I am thankful Mother left me bowl all I wanted to. Our team was league champs on every night except Monday. We won the first half but lost the roll off in five games by six pins. I had 1008 for 5 games. I always averaged between 175 and 181 for many years.

PAT remembers when Grandma Schmidt and Aunt Lena came to help Mother can.

MOTHER remembers that when Jim was born Pat was still in diapers so the hired girl (Marion Frisk Angerer) said that she would potty train him and she did. One day just east of the house, near the lane, he tried to get away from her and his pants got caught in the electric fence. He was continuously jolted by the fence. She had to get him loose and he was really shaken up by this experience.

PAULA remembers having candles throughout the house when the electricity went out.

BILL says -- Do you remember the times when we went down to Jorgensons to go ice skating? Sometimes late in the winter there would be a big thaw. Then it would freeze up again so that there would be large ice skating ponds in some of the fields. Then we would go skating at night after chores. We would gather up some wood to make a huge fire on the ice. We would skate and fool around out there for hours and never seems to get cold.

BOB remembers cultivating an extremely large garden.

CHICK remembers going in the attic and looking at all of those treasures.

MARY remembers it was a real challenge trying to ride bike when you got the cows or took them across the road. Staying on the path they made took some expertise!!

JEAN remembers going to midget auto races in DePere with Dad.

DAD remembers going to Camp Pendleton to see Bill Olsen. We left on Thursday morning and were back home again the next Thursday night at 10:30. 5700 miles in one week. Jean and Janice Virlee helped drive Uncle Jim's Pontiac wide open all the way out and back. I was so tired I fell asleep going into Stockton and woke up driving down the freeway.

PAT remembers when Emery used to come up and give the girls "whisker rubs".

DAD remembers when the boys were all caught up in the go-cart craze they would have trouble starting their machines. JoAnne could always go out and get them running without fail. They would be extremely upset with her.

MOTHER remembers that Pat was always Uncle John's favorite and could do nothing wrong in John's eyes. Whether it be hiding his pipe or anything else for that matter.

DAD remembers Paula dancing the living room and she stepped on her canary.

JEAN remembers spending time at Uncle Pat and Aunt Lena's.

PAT remembers when going swimming down at Uncle Pat's at the lake was a treat.

MOTHER remembers that at Maplewood Uncle John was living with us. Jean was about 4 years old. She decided to walk to the neighbor's farm (Busse's). Instead of going on the road she went through the muddy field and got totally stuck in the mud. John had to go out and get her and he grumbled all the way out and all the way back. She was covered with mud.

MARY remembers those endless multiplication and divisions cards we had to do at Corpus Christi school. 8 problems or so and all the numbers were at least 6 digits.

CHICK remembers trying to panic Mother by telling that either Mary, Lynn, or myself fell out of the front tree AGAIN! She never panicked and we couldn't figure out why.

DAD remembers when Bill was about 5 or 6 years old we went down to visit Sadie and Willis Waterworth at Columbus (which was a long drive). When we arrived we were all very hungry and sat down at the table to eat. Bill eyed the table which was loaded with wonderful food and looked at Sadie and said, "What, no potatoes?"

PAULA remembers bowling with Dad on Sunday afternoons.

BOB remembers looking at all the "canned" vegetables and fruits in the basement.

BILL remembers going to school at Silverdale. We especially had those Christmas performances for all the people in the neighborhood. Everyone crowded into that one room. There was a big curtain suspended from a wire reaching from one side of the room to the other. We would stand behind that curtain waiting to perform and then got our change to do our best. Then we all got up in front to sing and I particularly remember singing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town". We learned well to "better watch out, better not cry and better not shout". That still comes out at times when I wish there was more ease with expressing emotions and feelings.

LYNN remembers once when I was going to show Joe how to put out a fire and almost burned down the barn.

JEAN remembers jumping off the beams in the barn into the loads of hay.

DAD remembers the nice time I had going to the International Retreat Convention at Detroit with Fr. Borusky. I thought I was too busy August 1st but Pat and Mother and Fr. Borusky said I should go. We saw a Ford Mustang built in 42 minutes at the Ford factory. I heard Cardinal Wright give a very good talk. Thanks much Pat and Mother.

PAT remembers when we stopped at Goettleman's to see Grandma Pfeifer.

BOB remembers playing baseball in the front yard after school with kids from the neighborhood.

BILL recalls going down to the woods in the summertime to pick blackberries.

PAULA remembers brushing snow off the pond and the ice being as smooth as glass.

MARY remembers the following home remedies:

When you get a bee sting, cover it with a glob of damp garden dirt.

For curing earaches -- Warm salt in a cast iron pan and put it in a cloth bag. Go to bed and lie with your ear on the bag.

Sore throat -- Before going to bed wrap a wet rag (wash cloth) around the front of the neck. Then wrap a dry hand towel around the neck and pin it with a large safety pin.

DAD remembers taking 14 head of our Guernseys to the Door County Fair and getting many blue and purple ribbons. Then taking 11 to Kewaunee County Fair and winning every-thing there. My good friend, George Blahnik, was glad to see us win. He sure taught me a lot about life.

MOTHER remembers that when Grandma Pfeifer (my mother) died, I bought our first big freezer with some of the inheritance money. It was put down in the basement. When we would have company I would have some of the kids go down to get ice cream to serve and it seemed that we were always out of ice cream. The reason for this was that the kids would sneak into the basement thru the out-side door, grab a box of ice cream and take it out into *the apple orchard, north of the house, and eat it.* I was always amazed at how many empty ice cream boxes were found out in the orchard when we would clean up in the spring.

DAD remembers during his high school years Bill worked at the Fruit Growers cherry canning factory and always gave us his paycheck. One Saturday night he was not working and asked if he could have some spending money to go out. I asked him how much he would like and he said, "Oh give me a dollar." I guess a dollar went a lot farther in those days.

CHICK remembers having Frank Schmidt take us to the Lake after milking; going swimming and roasting marshmallows.

MOTHER remembers that Marge always wore bobby socks and crinoline skirts. She always wore at least 3 or 4 of the fluffy crinoline petticoats and could hardly get thru the doorway. Dad gave her a ride to school every day and one day when she swished into the car with all of her skirts he had had it. He told her that she had to go in and take some of those off before he would take her to school. She was MAD but he waited for her to go in and change while he sat in the car and smoked his pipe. She finally came back "thinner."

PAULA remembers the slap of a cow's wet tail against your face.

PAT remembers when we walked to school at Silverdale.

MARY remembers distinctly asking Mom to scratch "my wings" when I had the chicken pox. Also, I remember sleeping in Mom and Dad's bed then because their room was cool and dark.

BOB remembers throwing down silage from a frozen silo.

MOTHER remembers that no matter what Chick was asked to do she always said, "O.K.".

PAT remembers when Uncle John would tell us stories.

MOTHER remembers that Lynn always loved architectural drawings. When he was in high school he drew some very elegant house plans.

JEAN remembers hanging by my legs off the limb of the big tree out by the road (usually just following a big meal).

MOTHER remembers that between Jim and Bob I don't know who did the most going on the go-carts. They were constantly on them.

DAD remembers Dick Grenke parking the chopper wagon at the top of the hill on Joe's farm and when I had it full, he unhooked it and it ran into the woods. Did he ever laugh!

JEAN remembers having Grandma Schmidt come out and spend the day darning socks.

MOTHER remembers that one Sunday Dad was babysitting while I was at Church. Jim was playing on the disk and cut his chin open on the disk blade. When I came home there was blood EVERYWHERE. He, of course, was not taken to the doctor and did not have any stitches.

MOTHER remembers when Joe was a senior in high school he wanted to give a party at the house. I fixed a lot of sandwiches and munchies and agreed that Dad and I would stay upstairs so that they could have the downstairs to themselves for the party. During the evening I went down to use the bathroom and looked into the kitchen (which was empty) and saw a whiskey bottle sitting on the table. I grabbed the bottle and in an effort to get rid of it as quickly as possible, stuffed it into the bottom of the wastebasket and went back upstairs. The next morning I checked and it was still there. It was the last party that Joe had at the house.

MOTHER remembers when Paula was in high school. She and Fay Zettel were out for the evening at a school function and along the way they picked up Jan Meyer (who had a big mouth and loved to brag). They all went to "The Fawn" restaurant. While they were there Jan was bragging about all the apples that they stole that evening and that they had the trunk simply FULL of stolen apples. They were overheard by a customer who called the police. Who, in turn, called me. When she came home I confronted her about her whereabouts and told her that I would have to look in the trunk of the car. There were no apples in there. She said that they had gone by an orchard and each girl took one apple and promptly ate it. She was VERY upset.

BOB remembers cutting cedar fence posts in the woods during the winter.

JEAN remembers making root beer on the back porch using an old capping machine that was kept in the attic, putting the bottles in the basement to cure and hearing some of them explode in the middle of the night.

MOTHER remembers that Bob and Jim always got the same allowance. Bob ALWAYS had money and Jim NEVER did.

MARY says I now hate cold showers, etc. How could we ever swim in Lake Michigan? It was so cold that your feet ached.

MOTHER remembers that when Bill left for the Jesuit Seminary he had been told to bring along NOTHING. On his way out to the car he stopped at the back steps and reached into his pocket and gave me a little plastic coin container that held about 40¢. I still have it.

PAT remembers when we took the LONG bus ride to Sturgeon Bay High School (all the way out to Little Sturgeon).

MARY remembers getting goiter pills every day at Silverdale School. Actually they were like candy.

DAD says that he sure enjoyed farming with Bill and Pat. It was a sad day for me the day Bill left.

BOB remembers getting haircuts on the back porch from Dad.

BILL remembers the times when the Erskine's came up during the summer and camped out across the road in the woods. There were the many days of picking cherries and my nickname from Aunt Leone of "Pig on a Ladder". When we were a little older we spent time with the various migrant people that stayed in the cherry shacks at Krause's and Peterson's.

CHICK remembers feeling special about being invited to Aunt Mildred's house for dinner.

JEAN remembers lying under a blanket on the front lawn when it was windy and taking a nap after lunch.

PAULA remembers playing in the granary when it was full.

MOTHER remembers when Marge and Kathy Kellner Schmidt came back from a music festival and were all excited about running in and giving us the good news. It was very cold and I had just finished scrubbing the back porch. They came racing up the steps and both of them fell flat on the porch floor.

DAD AND MOTHER remember the day Mary was born it was the dropping of the Atomic Bomb at Hiroshima. Dad was combining that day at Rose's.

BOB remembers seeing Waldo Stuth go whizzing by with his big V-plow after a big winter snowstorm.

CHICK is still trying to figure out how she got her nickname of "Chick".

MOTHER says Chick got her nickname of "Chick" because I had made a gathered skirt for her in a border print that I got at Prange's that had chickens and nests in the border. When she wore it to school the other kids started to call her "Chick" and it has stuck until today.

PAT remembers when Dad bought all those Hudson and Kaiser - Frazer cars.

MARY remembers that the boys' favorite way to tease me was cutting a little bit of my hair off of my pony tail with their jackknife. Mom wondered why the ends of my hair were so crooked.

PAT remembers when sleeping in those bunk beds was fun.

CHICK remembers jumping on the beds in the upstairs front bedroom.

MOTHER remembers when JoAnne had mono during the pea harvesting time and it really bugged her because she wasn't able to get out the fields to be in the middle of everything.

BOB remembers baling hay on halves with any neighbor that had some.

PAT remembers when we went to Corpus Christi on Saturday morning for catechism classes.

CHICK remembers having our tonsils taken out as a group and then eating ice cream and Jell-O.

JEAN remembers being in college when the tonsil "Party" took place. She was the only one born without tonsils. The picture made all of the National wire services and was in newspapers all over the country.

MOTHER remembers when Bill was working at the Fruit Growers while in high school and he was driving home after work about 3 or 4 A.M. and he been rear ended on the bridge. He came into the bedroom and was VERY upset. It was serious in his mind only -- minor damage to the car.

MOTHER remembers one year when Jim was about 8 years old. We had all been at the County Fair and brought everything back home; animals that were exhibited, 4-H club exhibits, produce, etc., plus all of the kids. When we arrived back at the house we got a call from Uncle Pat. Jim had been left at the Fairgrounds so he walked into town and called from there for us to come and pick him up.

CHICK remembers Dad giving us money on December 23rd or 24th to go down and buy Mother something for Christmas.

MOTHER remembers that Bob always loved neat electronic stuff and models (the more complicated the better). His room was ALWAYS a mess (the sign of a very creative person).

PAT remembers when Uncle Jim and Aunt Helen would come from Green Bay to visit.

CHICK now trying to (as an adult) figure out how we all did anything together as a family at the same time.

PAT remembers when we stopped at Mathieson's grocery on the way home from Church to buy a Sunday paper.

MOTHER remembers when JoAnne was about 3 months old she was taken to Dr. Grota for a whooping cough shot. When the Doctor was preparing the shot I said, "Be careful or she will bit you." Dr. Grota replied, "Not a 3 month old baby." I told him, "Just look into her mouth." He was amazed that she had a tooth.

PAT remembers when we had the old apple orchard north of the house.

JEAN remembers taking piano lessons from Miss Boyd. I walked there during a study hall from high school.

BOB remembers listening to Emery's hounds howling on a calm night and watching the lighthouse beacon flash across the wall in the bedroom.

MOTHER remembers when Mary was born I got my first blood clot and had to stay in bed. Aunt Leone came to help and camped in the woods across the road. She made elaborate work charts for all of the household chores.

BOB remembers storing apples under a rug up in the hay mow in the winter.

DAD remembers all the kids always willing to help with everything so I could combine all over the County from Dykesville to Little Sturgeon and up to Sister Bay. We combined everything from radish seed, alfalfa and clover seed to oats, barley, wheat, flax and buckwheat.

PAULA remembers sliding down the banister.

MOTHER remembers that one evening Grandma Schmidt and I were getting supper and standing at the kitchen sink looking south toward the barns. The boys (Bob and Jim) had tied a rope around a chair and were hoisting her up the OUTSIDE of the silo. I was afraid to go out and yell at them for fear that they would drop her. (her = JoAnn)

MARY remembers when it was 10 P.M. Dad watched the weather and the news and then everyone went to bed (whether you were tired or not).

CHICK remembers Dad's ability to always be home at 12:00 Noon for dinner or so Mother always said.

BOB remembers snooping through all the "treasures" in the in the attic.

JEAN remembers going to all eight grades in a one room school and walking home for lunch every day (how I envied the kids who brought their lunches and stayed at school).

MARY remembers riding in the car with Marge "trying" to drive. It was fun the way the car would hop.

BILL remembers pumping water up from the old cistern with the hand pump that was in the kitchen. And the way the old back porch was even when Pinky was there for a couple of summers. I wonder what ever happened to Pinky. He was a delightful vagabond.

JEAN remembers taking lunches out to the men working in the fields during the hot summertime.

MOTHER remembers when we were living in Maplewood. I was going downtown with Grandma Schmidt and Bill. Everyone was dressed perfectly - shoes polished and best clothes Jean went outside and the rooster chased her, knocked her down and pecked her in the middle of her forehead. There was blood everywhere. Ten minutes later Uncle John had the rooster ready to go into the stewpot while Jean was getting cleaned up.

MARY says - Have you ever seen an Easter basket that has gone through the washing machine? I have! What a mess!! Easter grass, chocolate candy, and jelly beans all over the table cloth that Mother was washing.

JEAN remembers doing mountains of dishes while everyone else went to the barn for chores.

BILL remembers Dad's generosity when someone was in need. Just one example was the time when someone's (think his name was Birdsall) barn burned down in Maplewood. A day or two later we went with the tractor, wagons and baler along with helping hands to get all of his hay

into the barn. There was a large group of neighbors who pitched in and although it was a lot of work, it was still exciting and fun.

JEAN remembers hanging clothes outside during the winter and freezing my fingers or hanging clothes down in the warm basement.

MARY wonders why is it that strands of Easter grass or Christmas tinsel or needles from the tree reappear about four months after the holiday.

BOB remembers pushing a wheelbarrow up a frosty plank on the manure pile on a frigid morning.

JEAN remembers peeling HUGE amounts of potatoes for dinner (which of course was called supper). (Buh-day-does)

PAULA remembers getting a drumstick whenever the ice cream truck came.

MARY wonders when did Mother ever find time to make a wedding dress for Chick's and my bride doll. Also, we never suspected a thing. And I thought that we knew every single present before Christmas.

BILL remembers that there were times when we would go down the lane to get the cows. Then on the way home we would ride on Jackie because she was so tame. I wonder if Dad ever knew we did that with his favorite cow. Then when we were about high school age we rode the calves in the big pen in the barn until the time when Pat hurt himself. He got crowded into the wall by the calf he was riding and jabbed himself with a nail that was sticking out of the wall.

CHICK remembers being told, "Children are to be seen and not heard" as the adults were in the kitchen loudly playing cards.

MARY remembers how muddy the road would get between the Thomas house and the school in the spring. I don't ever remember getting stuck however.

PAT remembers when we had Guernsey cows.

JEAN remembers climbing the tower at Potawatomi (Pot) park (how very tall it seemed).

MOTHER remembers when we had a light colored, two door, Dodge and when Lynn was on one of his first driving solo experiences with the young Petrina boy they went down to Helmholtz's by the beach. He liked one of the girls that lived there. To make mischief they crawled up on the roof and shook the TV antenna. Mrs. Helmholtz called the police. The boys got scared and ran thru the woods and went home; leaving the car parked on the road. In the morning the truth came out.

JEAN remembers eating watermelon out of our hands and spitting out the seeds while sitting on the back steps.

PAULA remembers lying down for a nap with Mom and sneaking away as soon as I thought she was asleep.

PAT remembers when we picked cherries at Herman Krause's. BOB remembers getting a "ride" on the top bed of a bunk bed and having pillow fights.



MOTHER remembers when Paula was young (about 3rd or 4th grade) she went to school at Vignes and she would go to school on the bus and I would get a call later in the day that she was sick and had to be picked up. This went on for about a week. I finally took her to the doctor and it turned out that she was dehydrated and really ill.

PAT remembers how we swung on the hay fork rope in the barn.

DAD says I want to say thank you to all of you and your Mother for making my life a happy and satisfying one. I always tried my best to help everybody.

God bless you all.