

*A Family
Portrait*

THOMAS F. NIEKAMP

1979

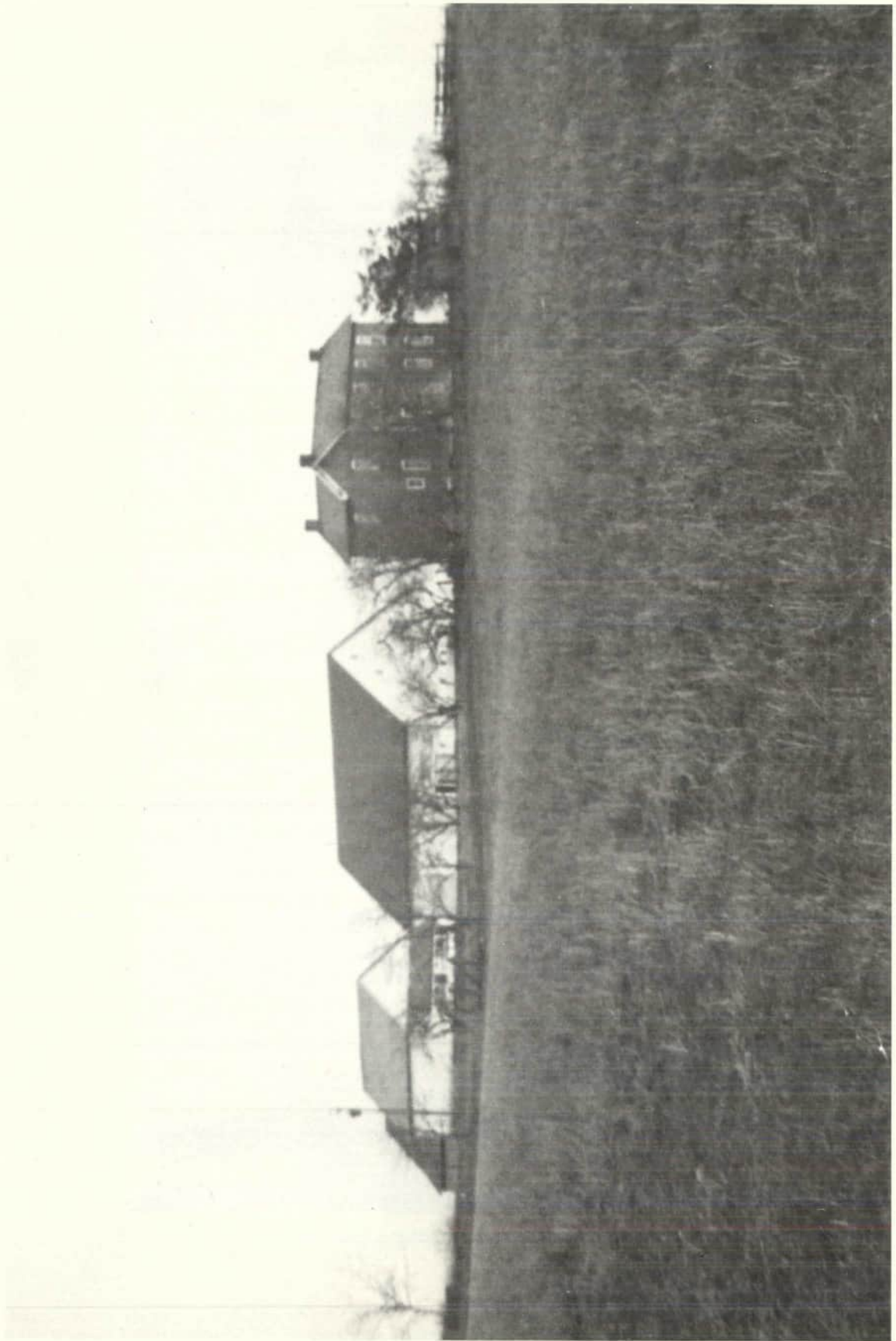


*" Be fruitful, and multiply,
and replenish the earth, "*

Genesis 1:28



JOHAN GERD FRIEDRICK NIEKAMP



Germany in the nineteenth century was a country of compulsory military service, religious strife and economic as well as political instability. Small wonder then does history record the migration of hundreds of thousands of Germany's people to the United States of America.

Johan Gerd Friedrich Niekamp son of Johan Henrich and Catharina Margarethe, nee Mormann, Niekamp was born on April 9, 1811 in Essen, Oldenburg, Germany. In the year 1833 Johan Gerd Friedrich Niekamp made the decision that so many of his fellow countrymen did and migrated to the United States of America.

Upon arriving in America J. G. Friedrich Niekamp located in Cincinnati, Ohio where he worked for a time as a laborer. After a brief period he moved to Tippecanoe (now known as Tipp City) in Miami County. Most probably Fred made the journey from Cincinnati to Dayton via the Miami and Erie Canal as that section had been completed in 1829. It would also appear quite likely that Fred would have worked for a time on that section of the Canal from Dayton to Defiance as this part of it was finished in 1842. Many immigrants coming to this part of Ohio did work for a time on Canal construction to earn much needed money. Standard pay for this type of work being thirty cents a day, sunrise to sunset.

On March 3, 1840 Fred Niekamp was married to Catharine Niehauss in Emmanuel Catholic Church in Dayton, Ohio. The ceremony was performed by Father H. D. Juncker.

Catharine Niehauss was from Dayton and was born there probably in the year 1817.

Three children were born to Fred and Catharine while living in Tippecanoe; namely John, Joseph and Clemmens.

The Miami County Common Pleas Minute Book lists the naturalization of Frederick Niekamp on August 10, 1840. Fred's occupation is given as a farmer.

Scrantons History of Mercer County - 1907 notes that Fred Niekamp hauled the logs that were used in building the first log house in Tippecanoe.

During his early years in America it soon became evident that Fred possessed the same qualities that characterized so many of the German immigrants. They worked hard, had strong family ties and were good land workers. Also the German farmer that came to America preferred to farm a soil with a limestone underlayer; for exhibiting this characteristic they became known as "sweet soil farmers".

Fred and Catharine were strong and loyal members of the Catholic Church. When it became evident that Tippecanoe would not become a Catholic settlement they decided to move farther North along the Canal lands to Southern Mercer County. Southern Mercer County was but a few miles West of the Miami and Erie Canal and at that time was beginning to attract many German Catholics.

Marion Township in Mercer County was organized on December 7, 1841. The Township trustees at the time authorized the payment of a bounty for wolf scalps.

In 1841 there were still two small bands of Indians living in this area. They were known as the "Big Chickasaws" and the "Little Chickasaws". However these Indians were very peaceable and posed no threat for the early settlers.

In Mercer County Court House Celina, Ohio in the office of land recordings is found the following:

Section 10 of Marion Township Feb. 19, 1848 - Gray, Samuel to Niekamp, Fred - Deed E. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 80 acres - \$600.00.

Section 10 of Marion Township May 27, 1848 - Stoker, Cornelius to Niekamp, Fred - Deed Part of Sections N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 40 acres - \$300.00.

Scrantons History of Mercer County - 1907 notes that Fred Niekamp traded an old surrey buggy for a tract of land in Marion Township. This may have been however the Records list the above dollar figures. The

surrey buggy may have been a private dollar arrangement.

Of the land purchased by Fred only about 7 acres were cleared. The remainder was covered with virgin forest.

Today this land is located at the Eastern end of St. Sebastian road. St. Sebastian Road dead ends onto Harrison Road therefore Harrison Road, which runs North and South, forms the Western boundary for the land.

Thus early in the year 1848 Fred and Catharine with their three small boys located in Marion Township of Mercer County. Their first house was a log cabin with a loft. Fred was one of the few settlers of the area who could speak English fluently. Because of this he quite frequently represented the other German Settlers in the Courts at Celina.

In July of 1849 a daughter, Mary, was born.

On September 26, 1852 Catharine died.

On April 19, 1853 Fred was married to Anna Catherine Stammen. They were married in St. John Catholic Church by Father Aloysius Schelbert. Anna Catherine had come to this country from Holland.

The first Catholic Church of the immediate area was St. John's at Maria Stein. This Church was built of logs and was constructed in 1837. The earliest Catholics of Marion Township belonged to St. John parish.

In 1853 a Catholic Church was built at what is now St. Sebastian. At that time the near area was all woods. After the Church was built the small village came into being.

With the establishment of St. Sebastian parish Fred and Anna became members of St. Sebastian Church.

Ten children were born to Fred and Anna Catherine Niekamp namely; Henry, Philomena, Gerhard, Peter, Frank, Elizabeth, Catherine, Julia, Theodore and a babe that died in infancy. Elizabeth, Catherine, Julia and Theodore all died young.

In the ensuing years Fred worked diligently at clearing the land and improving his farm. He was a successful farmer and a respected citizen of Mercer County.

In 1872 Fred built a large six room brick home to replace their original log house. For many years, even well into this century, the log house was kept standing and used for a storage building.

During the years 1878 and 1879 St. Sebastian parish built a new brick Church to replace the original one. Fred served on the building committee for the construction of the new Church.

Within three days time during the month of February in the year 1880 Clemmens Niekamp and his wife, Catherine, died. Two small children, Frank and Anna, survived. Frank the oldest was but four years of age. Fred and Anna Catherine Niekamp, the grandparents, took these two children into their home and raised them as their own.

November 1, 1880 is recorded the Deed of a 60 ft. right of way from Fred Niekamp to the Toledo Delphos and Burlington Rail Road Co. The T. D. & B. R. R. Co. was an extension of the system of narrow gauge roads which converged at Delphos and Toledo. In 1881 it was extended by Mendon Oregon, Celina, Montezuma, Chickasaw and on to Dayton. In time it became known as the C. H. & D. (Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton) Rail Road. This Rail Line ceased operating in 1923 with its right of way reverting back to the original owners.

The Rail Line through Fred's farm ran diagonally from Southeast to Northwest. As the community of Chickasaw did not have regular Sunday Mass until 1903 (A Chapel was built there in 1894 for occasional services) many of the people of that village would walk along the Railroad tracks through Fred's farm and thence West to St. Sebastian for Church services.

Fred and Anna Catherine's son, Peter, continued living at home helping his father with the farmwork. On September 25, 1884 Peter was married to Francis Bertke, the young couple making their home with Fred and

Anna. On May 6, 1887 Fred deeded the 120 acre farm to his son Peter. Fred and Anna lived the remaining years of their lives on the homeplace being well cared for in old age by Peter and Francis.

May 19, 1894 Anna died. A few months later on August 18 Fred passed away.

On June 13, 1894 Peter bought 40 acres of land from Casper Clune. This acreage was adjacent to the South side of the home farm. However on February 7, 1923 Peter sold 80 acres on the North side of the original home farm to Aloys Stammen.

Upon retirement Peter Niekamp sold the homeplace to his son Leo. Leo and Mary, nee Huber, Niekamp made this their homeplace working the land until Leo's retirement. Today Leo and Mary's son, Thomas R. Niekamp lives on the homeplace. Around the year 1964 Thomas razed the old brick home and replaced it with a beautiful brick ranch style home.

HUSBAND Niekamp, Johan Gerd Friedrich **HUSBAND:** Niekamp
WIFE: Niehauss
 Born April 9, 1811 Place Essen, Oldenburg, Germany.
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Marr. 3 March 1840 Place Emmanuel Catholic Church, Dayton, Ohio
 Died 18 August 1894 Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Bur. St. Sebastian Cem. Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio.
 HUSBAND'S FATHER Johan Henrich Niekamp HUSBAND'S MOTHER Catharina Margarethe
 HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES (2) Catherine Stammen Mormann

WIFE Niehauss, Catharine
 Born ca 1817 Place Dayton, Ohio.
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Died 26 September 1852 Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Bur. St. John Cemetery Place Maria Stein, Ohio.
 WIFE'S FATHER WIFE'S MOTHER

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|--------------------------------|--------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY MONTH YEAR |
| M | 1 Niekamp, John | 18 | Jan. | 1841 | Tippecanoe City (Tipp City) | Miami | Ohio | 14 July 1904 St. Sebastian O. |
| M | 2 Niekamp, Joseph | | | 1843 | " " | " | " | |
| M | 3 Niekamp, Clemmens | 1 | Nov. | 1845 | " " | " | " | 14 Feb. 1880 St. Sebastian O. |
| F | 4 Niekamp, Mary | 27 | July | 1849 | St. Sebastian | Mercer | " | 28 Nov. 1931 Guadeloupe, O. |
| | 5 | | | | | | | |
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| | 7 | | | | | | | |
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| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
|----|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Anna Dabbelt | 24 April 1866 | St. Sebastian Mercer County, Ohio. |
| 2 | Unmarried | | |
| 3 | Catherine Lindhaus | | |
| 4 | Rudolph Klosterman | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | #1 (2) Catharine Borgert | 17 Jan. 1882 | St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio. |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | | | |

SOURCE Information & Explanations

RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION
 The above Husband is a
 of

COMPILER OF THIS RECORD
 Name: Thomas F. Niekamp
 571 Columbus St.
 Address: St. Henry, Ohio
 45883.
 Telephone:

HUSBAND: Niekamp
HUSBAND: Niekamp, Johan Gerd Friedrich
WIFE: Stammen
 Born April 9, 1811 Place Essen, Oldenburg, Germany.
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Marr. 19 April 1853 Place St. John Cath. Ch. Maria Stein, Ohio
 Died 18 August 1894 Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio
 Bur. St. Sebastian Cem. Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio
 HUSBAND'S FATHER Johan Henrich Niekamp HUSBAND'S MOTHER Catharina Margarethe
 HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES (1) Catharine Niehauss Mormann

WIFE: Stammen, Anna Catherine
 Born Oct. 1824 Place Holland
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Died 19 May 1894 Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio
 Bur. St. Sebastian Cem. Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio
 WIFE'S FATHER Albert Stammen WIFE'S MOTHER Wilhelmina

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|---------------|--------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| M | 1 Niekamp, Henry | 24 | May | 1854 | St. Sebastian | Mercer | Oh. | 20 | April | 1929 |
| F | 2 Niekamp, Philomena | 15 | Mar. | 1855 | St. Sebastian | Mercer | Oh. | 21 | June | 1925 |
| M | 3 Niekamp, Gerhard | 27 | May | 1857 | St. Sebastian | Mercer | Oh. | 10 | Feb. | 1922 |
| M | 4 Niekamp, Peter | 10 | Feb. | 1859 | St. Sebastian | Mercer | Oh. | 30 | Aug. | 1942 |
| M | 5 Niekamp, Frank | 28 | Feb. | 1864 | St. Sebastian | Mercer | Oh. | 30 | May | 1946 |
| F | 6 Niekamp, Elizabeth | | | | | | | | | |
| F | 7 Niekamp, Catherine | | | | | | | | | |
| F | 8 Niekamp, Julia | | | | | | | | | |
| M | 9 Niekamp, Theodore | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Niekamp, in infancy baby died | | | | | | | | | |

| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
|----|-----------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Catherine Koch | | |
| 2 | John Ronnebaum | | |
| 3 | Elizabeth Mestemaker | | |
| 4 | Francis Bertke | 25 Sept. 1884 | |
| 5 | Elizabeth Klostermann | | |
| 6 | Died young | | |
| 7 | Died young | | |
| 8 | Died young | | |
| 9 | Died young | | |
| 10 | | | |

SOURCE Information & Explanations
 In the 1850 census Anna Catherine Stammen is listed as being born in Germany. However a death certificate lists birthplace as Holland.

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 The above Husband is a of

COMPILER OF THIS RECORD
 Name: Thomas F. Niekamp
 571 Columbus St.
 Address: St. Henry, Ohio
 45883.
 Telephone:



MR. & MRS. JOHN NIEKAMP
(CATHERINE BOGERT)

FRANCIS

CATHERINE

GERHARD



MR. & MRS. JOHN NIEKAMP
(CATHERINE BOGERT)
2nd marriage

CHILDREN STANDING ARE OF FIRST WIFE ANNA

HUSBAND Niekamp, John Henry **HUSBAND:** Niekamp
 WIFE: Dabbelt
 Born Jan. 18, 1841 Place Tippecanoe, Ohio (Tipp City, Ohio)
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Marr. April 24, 1866 Place
 Died July 14, 1904 Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Bur. St. Sebastian Cem. Place " " " " "
 HUSBAND'S FATHER Frederick Niekamp HUSBAND'S MOTHER Catherine Niehauss
 HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES (2) Catherine Borgert

WIFE Anna Dabbelt
 Born June 20, 1845 Place Germany
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Died July 9, 1881 Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Bur. St. Sebastian Cem. Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio.
 WIFE'S FATHER Dabbelt, Bernard WIFE'S MOTHER Schuelty, Gertrude

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|------------|--------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| F | 1 Niekamp, Catherine | 29 | Jan. | 1867 | Sebastian | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 2 Niekamp, Gerhard | 31 | Jan. | 1869 | Sebastian | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | 3 Niekamp, Francis | 3 | Aug. | 1872 | Sebastian | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | 4 Niekamp, Regina | 20 | Oct. | 1874 | Sebastian | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
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| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
|----|-------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 1 | John Severt | | |
| 2 | Philomena BROEKER | | |
| 3 | Gerhard WOLTERS | | |
| 4 | Unmarried | | (Probably died young) |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
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| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| SOURCE Information & Explanations | RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION |
| | The above Husband is a |
| 1 Family Record and Album of John Henry Niekamp. | of |
| 2 Private Interviews. | |
| | COMPILER OF THIS RECORD |
| | Name: Thomas F. Niekamp |
| | Address: 571 Columbus Street |
| | St. Henry, Ohio 45883 |
| | Telephone: |

John Henry Niekamp the first born child of Fred and Catharine, nee Niehauss, Niekamp was born on January 18, 1841 at Tippecanoe (Tipp City), Ohio. When John was but seven years old his family moved to Marion Township in Mercer County, Ohio.

All the many hardships and the hard work that a pioneer family in America faced in the mid-eighteen hundreds John grew up with. Clearing land, planting and harvesting crops, building fences and constructing necessary farm buildings was the daily routine. Hunting, trapping and fishing was a form of recreation but also a means of providing food and a little money for the family. Formal schooling was meager; hard work was the order of the time.

When John was 24 years old we find recorded in the Mercer County Courthouse the following land Deeds:

Feb. 13, 1865 - Green, Thomas to Niekamp, John - Deed - NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 40 acres - Purchase price \$1200.00. Also Feb. 13, 1865 - Green, Thomas to Niekamp, John - Deed - E side W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 35 acres - Purchase price \$1200.00.

The farm John purchased was located in Range 3 - Town 6 - Section 32 of Franklin Township. At the present date this farm is situated in the Northeast corner of the juncture of Clover Four Road and Cassella & Montezuma Road, being about two miles South of Montezuma, Ohio.

A year later on April 24, 1866 John Niekamp was married to Anna Dabbelt. The marriage probably took place at St. Sebastian Church, their home parish; however all St. Sebastian Church records were lost in the disastrous Church fire that occurred on January 12, 1903.

Anna Dabbelt was born in Germany and came to this Country with her parents, Barnard and Gertrude, nee Schuelty, Dabbelt when she was twelve years old. The family left Germany in 1857 landing in New Orleans after a voyage of eight weeks and two days. From New Orleans they traveled by steamboat to Cincinnati.

John and Anna had four children, Catherine, Gerhard, Francis and Regina. John was a hard working, successful farmer making many improvements on his farm through the years.

On July 9, 1881 Anna died and on January 17, 1882 John was remarried to Catherine Borgert of St. Sebastian. The vows were spoken in St. Sebastian Church with Father Erhard Glueck officiating.

To this union was born five children, Ben Herman, Albert Henry, Aloysious, Henry and Andrew.

Andrew was born on September 14, 1891 and a little over five months later on February 25, 1892 Catherine died leaving John a widower for the second time. This also meant that much of the rearing of the young children of the second marriage had to be done by their half-sisters, Catherine and Francis.

On August 11, 1892 is recorded a Deed for 79.25 acres from John Gerlach to John Niekamp purchase price being \$3800.00. This acreage was adjacent to the Southeast corner of John Niekamp's farm. However two years later on October 4, 1894 this same acreage (79.25) was sold to John Graeber for \$3900.00.

On March 2, 1897 is recorded a Deed from John Niekamp to Gerhard Wolters for 91.50 acres purchase price being \$3550.00. Gerhard Wolters, John's son-in-law who had come to America from Munster, Westfallen, Germany had married Francis Niekamp on April 22, 1896.

In his last years, probably around 1898, John along with several of his youngest sons went to live with his Half-brother, Frank Niekamp. John lived in the summer kitchen of Frank's home. Frank resided on a farm along Sebastian Road about one mile West of St. Sebastian.

On July 14, 1904 John died his youngest child, Andrew, being but twelve years old.

Gerhard Wolters a highly regarded farmer lived on his farm until he retired at which he and his wife Francis moved to Coldwater, Ohio. Upon retirement Gerhard sold the farm to his son Gregor. After some years Gregor sold the farm to his brother Richard. Richard did not reside on the farm and after a period of time sold the farm to his son-in-law Jerome Selhorst.

Jerome and his wife Mildred worked the land and made many improvements among them the building of a new home in the year 1955. Just a few years ago Jerome and Mildred retired to Coldwater, Ohio and now their son Norman Selhorst, great-great-grandson of John Niekamp, resides on the original John Niekamp farm.



ALOYSIOUS

CATHERINE

ANDREW

FRANCIS

HENRY

HUSBAND Niekamp, John Henry **HUSBAND:** Niekamp
WIFE: Borgert
 Born Jan. 18, 1841 Place Tippecanoe, Ohio (Tipp City, Ohio)
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Marr. 17 January 1882 Place St. Sebastian Church, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Died July 14, 1904 Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Bur. St. Sebastian Cem. Place " " " " "
HUSBAND'S FATHER Frederick Niekamp **HUSBAND'S MOTHER** Catherine Niehauss
HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES (1) Anna Dabbelt

WIFE Borgert, Catherine
 Born April 4, 1856 Place Germany
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Died Feb. 25, 1892 Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Bur. St. Sebastian Cem. Place " " " " "
WIFE'S FATHER **WIFE'S MOTHER**

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|---------------|--------|------------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| M | 1 Niekamp, Ben Herman | 17 | Nov. | 1883 | St. Sebastian | Mercer | Oh. | 10 | Aug. | 1929 |
| M | 2 Niekamp, Albert Henry | 5 | Aug. | 1885 | " | " | " | 7 | Sept. | 1897 |
| M | 3 Niekamp, Aloysious | 5 | Mar. | 1888 | " | " | " | 20 | May. | 1945 |
| M | 4 Niekamp, Henry | 15 | Dec. | 1889 | " | " | " | April 2, | 1970 | Mich. |
| M | 5 Niekamp, Andrew | 14 | Sept. | 1891 | " | " | " | 29 | Sept. | 1975 |
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| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
|----|---------------------|------|-------|
| 1 | Unmarried | | |
| 2 | Unmarried | | |
| 3 | (1) Francis Rindler | | |
| 4 | Emma Deppen | | |
| 5 | Alma Bertke | | |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| SOURCE Information & Explanations | RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION |
| | The above Husband is a |
| 1. Family Record and Album of John Henry Niekamp. | of |
| 2. Personal Interviews. | |
| | COMPILER OF THIS RECORD |
| | Name: Thomas W. Niekamp |
| | Address: 571 Columbus St. St. Henry, Ohio 45883. |
| | Telephone: |

ETHEL

LESTER

PAUL

THOMAS

JOAN



MR. & MRS. ANDREW NIEKAMP SR.

ANDREW JR.

PHYLLIS

KATHLEEN

JAMES





1942
br, LESTER, JAMES, ANDREW SR., ALMA, ETHEL, PAUL
fr, KATHLEEN, PHYLLIS, ANDREW JR., JOAN, THOMAS



APRIL 1946
br, ETHEL, PAUL, THOMAS, LESTER
mr, ANDREW SR., ALMA, JOAN
fr, JAMES, PHYLLIS, ANDREW JR., KATHLEEN



SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY 1946
PAUL MISSING, IN SERVICE.



1955
br, JAMES, JOAN, THOMAS, PAUL, ANDREW JR., ETHEL, LESTER
fr, ALMA, KATHLEEN, PHYLLIS, ANDREW SR.



45th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
JAMES MISSING, LIVING IN TEXAS.



GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY 1971
br, PAUL, JAMES, KATHLEEN, THOMAS
mr, PHYLLIS, JOAN, ETHEL, ANDREW JR.
fr, ALMA, ANDREW SR.

Andrew Niekamp the youngest child of John and Catherine, Borgert, Niekamp was born on September 14, 1891 at St. Sebastian, Ohio. When he was a little over five months old his mother died. At age 12 his father died. Frank Niekamp, an uncle, was appointed guardian of Andrew and his two brothers, Aloysious and Henry. Until Andrew was 16 years of age he worked for his uncle Frank. Reflecting back in later years Andrew recalled an incident at this time in his life when in the spring of a certain year he had to work plowed ground walking barefoot behind a team of horses and harrow.

Andrew's formal schooling consisted of but 6 years at the St. Sebastian one-room country school. This school was located one mile west of St. Sebastian, having been built in 1885. Librata, Niekamp, Eyink a school mate and also cousin to Andrew recalls Andrew as being a typical boy; remembering one occasion when the teacher, Mr. Stein, made Andrew kneel on a piece of wood at the front of the room for being too "ornery". Anthony Bills, friend and schoolmate, recalls another time during recess when Andrew was playing with a rope and pulley which was fastened in a tree. The pulley broke loose striking Andrew on the head knocking him unconcious. Tony thought sure Andrew was dead.

At sixteen years of age Andrew went to work for John Reichert of Cassella as hired hand. John a farmer and ditch contractor was a hard taskmaster. Cleaning ditches and creeks with a team of horses and a scoop from daylight till dark was required of a lad of 16. After a year or so of this Andrew's older brother, Henry, came and found more suitable employment for him at another farm.

In the following 5 years Andrew worked for several farmers as hired hand. Among them were Anton Kremer and Henry Balster of near Carthagena and Ben Homan of Chickasaw.

In 1913 at age 21 Andrew was of legal age and received his share of his fathers estate, \$500.00. Deciding to go to barber school at Cincinnati he was on the last train to leave the station at Dayton before the terrible flood waters of 1913 covered that city.

Having received his barbers license, Andrew went to Jenkins, Kentucky to ply his trade. Jenkins was a coal mining town. A rough, wild area where men still carried Pistols much as in the old West. Andrew recalled one day when two men became involved in an argument in a saloon and then went into the street for a shoot-out. The victor carried a .32 pistol while the unfortunate victim carried a long barrellled .22 pistol.

Moonshining (the illegal manufacture of whiskey) was prevalent in Kentucky at that time. Another incident recalled was when the son of an elderly man of the trade sought out Andrew to ask if he would come back into the hills and cut his fathers hair. Andrew obliged and found the old gentlemen to be a good natured individual.

Following a disagreement with his room-mate one night Andrew left Kentucky to come back to Ohio. The room-mate in question had, after drinking rather heavily that particular night, come to their room and began spitting tobacco juice on the floor; whereupon Andrew bodily threw him out. The next day the local Sheriff, a friend of Andrew's warned him that the fellow was out to get him. Andrew decided to leave Jenkins.

On returning home the barbering trade was forgotten. Work was scarce so it wasn't long before Andrew along with his brother Al traveled to Iowa where they found work as hired hands. Andrew hired on with John Jaeger of Dixon, Iowa. Here he did general farm work.

March 18, 1918 Andrew, 26 years old, was called back home to Mercer County, Ohio to be inducted into the U. S. Army. Inducted at Celina, Ohio he was sent by train to Camp Sherman at Chillicothe, Ohio. There he was assigned to the 9th. Co. 3 Training Battalion, 158 Depot Brigade, Sct. M 41 with Serial No. 1963775.

The 15th. of January 1919 he was promoted to Sergeant of 5th. Co. 2nd. Training Battalion, 158 Depot Brigade. After his promotion he was

put in charge of a barn of horses. At one time Camp Sherman housed 40,000 doughboys and 12,000 horses and mules.

The most tragic of all occurrences at Camp Sherman was the flu epidemic of the fall of 1918. In the month of October alone 1,177 service men died. So many men died that a theatre in downtown Chillicothe was converted into a temporary morgue. The bodies were stacked up like cordwood there while awaiting shipment back home to respective families. In later years Andrew would often recall of when he used to visit the sick and dying in the hospital ward without ever contracting the disease.

On November 11, 1918 Armistice was signed signalling the end of World War 1. On July 12, 1919 Andrew Niekamp Sergeant of the 7th. Billeting and Supply Co. was honorably discharged. Remarks noted on the official discharge were; physical condition - Good, character - Excellent, pay - \$102.15 including bonus.

Back in Mercer County, Andrew found work as hired hand for Andrew Schwieterman at Cranberry Prairie. Here he met Alma Bertke, daughter of Bernard J. Bertke the proprietor of Cranberry General Store.

On June 14, 1921 Andrew and Alma were married in St. Francis Catholic Church at Cranberry Prairie. Alma Bertke the daughter of Bernard J. and Catherine, Knapke, Bertke was born at Cranberry Prairie and was one of a family of twelve children. She attended school at the Cranberry one room school receiving a grade school education only. Up to the time of her marriage her entire life had been spent at home doing housework and assisting in the family General store.

Until their first child, Ethel, was nine months old the Niekamp family lived in Cranberry in a frame house on the East side of Cranberry Road across from and a little North of the Church. Early in the year 1923 the family moved to 528 North Mill St. Celina, Ohio as Andrew was then working at Mersmans Bros. Furniture Factory. Living here for a short time the family then moved to 510 North Mill St. The next three children, Lester, Paul and Thomas, were born at the 510 North Mill St. address. Around the year 1929 Andrew purchased a frame house on 515 North Walnut St. Joan, John (who died at birth) and Andrew Jr. were born there.

Unfortunately the year 1929 also ushered in the Great Depression. Unemployment was epidemic. Andrew a foreman at Mersmans Bros. was soon working but one or two days a week at the rate of 27½ cents per hour. Unable to afford their just purchased home amid such economic conditions they sold the home in 1934 and moved to St. Sebastian, Ohio. At St. Sebastian they rented the then vacant combination home and General store building.

With the help of Alma's brother, Frank, who was then owner of the Cranberry General store they restocked the store and operated it as a going concern. It was about this time, too, that Andrew started working at New Idea Inc. at Coldwater, Ohio where there was an opportunity for more steady employment. As the family was living in the country they purchased a cow for milk, raised a few pigs each year for meat, kept some chickens for eggs and each summer put out a large garden.

Phyllis and Kathleen were born while the family resided at St. Sebastian.

Successfully operating the St. Sebastian General Store for four years suddenly the establishment was sold out from under them.

April 11, 1938 the Niekamp family moved to Cranberry Prairie where they rented a house a mile west of the village on the Ft. Recovery Minister Road and almost directly across from the Southern end of Coldwater Creek Road. The family lived at this residence for about three years then moved one mile South of Cranberry, renting a home on Huwer Road just East of Cranberry Road.

James the youngest child was born at the residence on the Ft.

Recovery-Minster Road.

Each summer a large garden was planted and the few farm animals were kept much the same as when the family lived at St. Sebastian. Also during their stay at Cranberry Andrew worked for a short time at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. at St. Marys later returning to New Idea Inc.

World War 11 had much the same impact on the Niekamp family as it did on so many other families. Elmer Rinderle, Ethel's husband, served in the U. S. Army. Ethel with her two children, Donna and Elmer Jr. lived in with the family for a time. Lester was in the Army, landing shortly after D-Day in France and being wounded in action on two separate occasions. Paul after graduating from High School enlisted in the Navy and later after the war Andrew Jr. served with the Army in occupied Austria.

During the War years in early spring of 1943 the Niekamp family moved away from Cranberry renting a house at 402 West Main St. in St. Henry, Ohio.

After the war Lester purchased a house at 361 West Main St. in St. Henry. Late in the year 1947 the family moved into this house. The family lived at this address until 1954 when they moved to 172 North Sycamore St. in St. Henry. The rest of their years were spent at this residence.

Within a short period after the war New Idea Inc. experienced a good deal of labor unrest resulting in several lengthy strikes. Andrew worked at a few short term jobs during this time eventually returning to Mersman Bros. at Celina.

At age 65 Andrew retired from Mersman Bros. With the exception of the untimely death of their oldest son, Lester, in the year 1957, Andrew and Alma's golden years were spent in peace and contentment. Andrew's hobbies were gardening, fishing and cracking hickory nuts during the winter months. Alma enjoyed reading, sewing and card playing. Both enjoyed the many visits with their children and grand-children, especially the grand get-together at Christmastime.

Alma a devout Catholic and daily communicant died on November 10, 1973. Almost two years later on September 29, 1975 Andrew passed away.

Andrew's lifetime spanned a period of great change and technological advancement. As a young boy on the small family farm he witnessed yet the harvesting of wheat with a hand cradle and as an old man he saw the landing of a man on the moon.

HUSBAND: Niekamp
WIFE: Bertke

HUSBAND Niekamp, Andrew J.
 Born Sept. 14, 1891 Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Marr. June 14, 1921. Place St. Francis Church Cranberry, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Died Sept. 29, 1975 Place St. Henry, Ohio.
 Bur. St. Henry Cemetery Place St. Henry, Ohio.
 HUSBAND'S FATHER John Henry Niekamp HUSBAND'S MOTHER Catherine Borgert
 HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES

WIFE Bertke, Alma A.
 Born Nov. 27, 1901 Place St. Francis Cranberry, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Died Nov. 10, 1973 Place St. Henry, Ohio.
 Bur. St. Henry Cemetery Place St. Henry, Ohio.
 WIFE'S FATHER Bernard J. Bertke WIFE'S MOTHER Katherine Knapke
 WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|-----------------------|--------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| F | 1 Niekamp, Ethel Margaret | 30 | Mar. | 1922 | St. Francis Cranberry | Mercer | Oh. | | | |
| M | 2 Niekamp, Lester Andrew | 1 | Feb. | 1924 | Celina, Ohio | Mercer | Oh. | | | |
| M | 3 Niekamp, Paul Henry | 18 | Aug. | 1926 | Celina, Ohio | Mercer | Oh. | | | |
| M | 4 Niekamp, Thomas Frank | 17 | June | 1928 | Celina, Ohio | Mercer | Oh. | | | |
| F | 5 Niekamp, Joan Florence | 28 | Mar. | 1931 | Celina, Ohio | Mercer | Oh. | | | |
| M | 6 Niekamp, John | 3 | Feb. | 1932 | Celina, Ohio | Mercer | Oh. | | | |
| M | 7 Niekamp, Andrew Joseph | 21 | Aug. | 1933 | Celina, Ohio | Mercer | Oh. | | | |
| F | 8 Niekamp, Phyllis Marie | 9 | Sept. | 1935 | St. Sebastian | Mercer | Oh. | | | |
| F | 9 Niekamp, Kathleen Alma | 24 | Sept. | 1936 | St. Sebastian | Mercer | Oh. | | | |
| M | 10 Niekamp, James John | 8 | Feb. | 1941 | St. Francis Cranberry | Mercer | Oh. | | | |

| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
|----|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | Elmer Rinderle | 10 May 1941 | St. Francis Cranberry, Mercer Co., Oh. |
| 2 | Beverly Morris | Jan. 1948 | |
| 3 | Dorothy Rutkowski | 5 Oct. 1946 | Custer, Wisconsin R. R. (Shantytown) |
| 4 | Mary Lee Beckman | 15 Oct. 1949 | St. Henry, Mercer County, Ohio. |
| 5 | Maurice L. Rammel | 20 May 1950 | St. Henry, Mercer County, Ohio. |
| 6 | Unmarried Died at Childbirth | | Buried I. C. Cemetery Celina, Ohio. |
| 7 | Janet O. Willke | 14 Jun. 1958 | Maria Stein, Ohio Mercer County. |
| 8 | Joseph Miller | 9 Aug. 1958 | St. Henry, Ohio Mercer County. |
| 9 | Gerald S. Pulskamp | 13 June 1959 | St. Henry, Ohio Mercer County. |
| 10 | Maria Margarita Morales | 9 July 1964 | San Antonio, Texas. |

SOURCE Information & Explanations

RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION
 The above Husband is a
 of

COMPILER OF THIS RECORD
 Name: Thomas F. Niekamp
 Address: 571 Columbus St.
 St. Henry, Ohio
 45883
 Telephone:



DONNA



ELMER JR.



BETTY



CONNIE



DAVID



ANITA



MR. & MRS. ELMER RINDERLE SR.



KATHY



SUSAN



DIANNE



JEANNIE



LOIS





Ethel Margaret Niekamp was born March 30, 1922, at home in Cranberry Prairie, Ohio. She was the first of ten children born to Andrew Niekamp and Alma Bertke.

When she was nine months old she and her parents moved to North Mill Street, Celina, Ohio where her father worked at Mersmans. After living at this address for about two years, Ethel and her family moved to 510 North Mill Street, just a few houses down the block.

Because of near blindness she didn't start school until the age of seven. Ethel was seeing a doctor in Lima, Ohio every week. He treated her and fitted her for glasses which brought her eyesight almost back to normal.

In 1931, her family bought their first home on 515 North Walnut Street, Celina, Ohio. It was there, Ethel's first sister Joan, was born. She was so welcomed after three brothers.

After attending Immaculate Conception School for five years, in 1935 she and her family moved to St. Sebastian, Ohio in the home-store combination, just east of the Catholic Church. It was in the one room school house where she received her last three years education. Ethel and her brothers walked the distance of a mile and a half every day. Her after school hours were spent in helping her mother in the grocery store, which her mother managed, and helping to care for her brothers and sisters.

In 1938, at the age of sixteen, she applied for a working permit after graduating from the eighth grade. Her first employment was maternity cases where she cleaned, cooked and took care of the children. She worked in seven different homes doing this type of work.

On April 11, 1938, Ethel and her family moved to Cranberry Prairie, Ohio, in the house formerly known as "the old Kraft place" on Ft. Recovery-Minster Road, just west of the store.

In 1939 she went to Celina, Ohio to do housework for Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dixon Sr. After working a pleasant year and a half for them, she applied for work at the Buckeye Overall Co. Coldwater, Ohio, for better wages since she was contemplating marriage.

On May 10, 1941, Ethel married Elmer J. Rinderle, son of Henry and Clara Rinderle, of St. Henry, Ohio. They were married in the St. Francis Catholic Church in Cranberry Prairie, Ohio at eight o'clock in the morning with Rev. Robert Mayer C.P.P.S. officiating. Friends of the couple, Bill Dues and Geneva Hein, were witnesses. A dinner was served to the immediate family at the bride's parents home. The couple left for a short honeymoon that afternoon to Monroe, Michigan. They returned the following day to be able to return to work on Monday.

After their marriage they lived with her parents from May until the following February 1942. On this date they moved to 110 Market Street, Coldwater, Ohio.

August 28, 1942, a daughter was born to them. In May 1943, Ethel's husband was drafted into the United States Army. She resided at the Coldwater address with her daughter, Donna and also her brother, Paul, who roomed and boarded with her until September 1943, when she and her daughter moved in with her parents on West Main Street, St. Henry, Ohio. In October of 1943 a second child, a son, was born to her.

August 1944, Ethel received word of her husband being shipped overseas. Since they would not grant him a furlough, she and her daughter, went to Leesville, Louisiana, where he was stationed at Camp Polk. Ethel left her ten months old son with her parents who cared for him. Since her husband did not pass his physical and would soon be discharged from the service, she remained with him.

In March, 1945, her husband was transferred to Ft. Knox, Kentucky. She and her daughter transferred with him to Rineyville, Kentucky. In April a third child was born at St. Joseph's Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky. After a few weeks home from the hospital, Ethel's mother and

sister-in-law, Loretta Rinderle, came by bus and brought Ethel and Elmer's son to them.

In November 1945, Ethel's husband was honorably discharged from the service and returned to St. Henry to again live with her parents for four months. In March 1946, she and her husband bought their first home from Clarence Rinderle on West Main Street, St. Henry, Ohio.

Again, Ethel went to work at Mersman's, Celina, Ohio in 1947. She worked until the fourth child was on the way at which time she retired to have the baby, four more children were born at this time.

November 1955, the house was sold as it was getting small. She and her family moved to the country where they rented a home on the Harry Luken farm on R. R. 1, Post Road, St. Henry. They lived here about a year.

In 1956, Elmer and Ethel bought the big old Lauber home on 361 Center Street, St. Henry, from Harry Bennett. Another daughter was born in March 1958. In the Fall of 1958, Ethel went to work nights at Hemmelgarn's Egg Plant in Philothesa. There she worked until December 1960.

February 1961, another daughter was born. Her last child, also a daughter, was born in August 1962.

In April 1965, Ethel went back to work at the Buckeye Overall Co., Coldwater, Ohio until September 9, 1965, when she started working at Huffman Bicycle, Celina, Ohio.

Again, they moved to the country, as they sold the big house on Center Street to find something smaller. This was in 1972, when they rented a farm home belonging to Ray Bruggeman on R. R. 1, St. Henry, Ohio on Olding Road.

On May 10, 1974, they bought a new home on 481 Bernard Avenue, St. Henry, Ohio, where they now live.

Ethel retired from Huffman's on January 20, 1978, to be with her husband who was one hundred percent disabled from World War 11.

Ethel and Elmer are the parents of eleven children.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Madonna (Donna) Jean (Mrs. James Hart) | Aug. 28, 1942 |
| Elmer Henry | Oct. 22, 1943 |
| Elizabeth (Betty) Jo (Mrs. James B. Clark) | April 24, 1945 |
| Constance (Connie) Sue (Mrs. Robert Bruggeman) | April 19, 1948 |
| David Paul | Dec. 16, 1949 |
| Anita Joan (Mrs. James Harting) | Feb. 9, 1951 |
| Kathleen (Kathy) Ann (Mrs. Dale Wenning) | April 16, 1953 |
| Susan Mary (Mrs. James Donauer) | May 16, 1955 |
| Dianne Phyllis (Mrs. Gary Hart) | March 10, 1958 |
| Jean Alma | Feb. 23, 1961 |
| Lois Ann | Aug. 16, 1962 |

HUSBAND Rinderle, Elmer J.

HUSBAND: Rinderle

WIFE: Niekamp

Born April 21, 1916 Place St. Henry, Ohio.

Chr. Catholic Place

Marr. May 10, 1941 Place St. Francis Cath. Ch. Cranberry, Ohio. Mercer Co.

Died Place

Bur. Place

HUSBAND'S FATHER Henry A. Rinderle

HUSBAND'S MOTHER Clara P. Steinke

HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES

WIFE Niekamp, Ethel Margaret

Born March 30, 1922 Place Cranberry Prarie, Ohio. Mercer Co.

Chr. Catholic Place

Died Place

Bur. Place

WIFE'S FATHER Andrew J. Niekamp

WIFE'S MOTHER Alma A. Bertke

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|------------|--------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| F | 1 Rinderle, Madonna J. | 28 | Aug. | 1942 | Coldwater | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 2 Rinderle, Elmer H. | 22 | Oct. | 1943 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | 3 Rinderle, Elizabeth J. | 24 | April | 1945 | Rineyville | | Kentucky | | | |
| F | 4 Rinderle, Constance S. | 19 | April | 1948 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 5 Rinderle, David P. | 16 | Dec. | 1949 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | 6 Rinderle, Anita J. | 9 | Feb. | 1951 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | 7 Rinderle, Kathleen A. | 16 | April | 1953 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | 8 Rinderle, Susan M. | 16 | May | 1955 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | 9 Rinderle, Dianne P. | 10 | March | 1958 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | Rinderle, Jean A. | 23 | Feb. | 1961 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | Rinderle, Lois A. | 16 | Aug. | 1962 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |

| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
|----|---------------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | James A. Hart | 2 Sept. 1961 | St. Henry Cath. Ch. St. Henry, Ohio |
| 2 | Ruth B. Speck | 28 June 1969 | St. Wendelin Cath. Ch. Mercer Co. Ohio |
| 3 | James B. Clark | 25 April 1964 | St. Henry Cath. Ch. St. Henry, Ohio |
| 4 | Robert R. Bruggeman | 29 April 1967 | St. Henry Cath. Ch. St. Henry, Ohio |
| 5 | Marcella K. Sams | 20 June 1968 | St. Henry Cath. Ch. St. Henry, Ohio |
| 6 | James E. Harting | 6 Nov. 1970 | St. Henry Cath. Ch. St. Henry, Ohio |
| 7 | Dale J. Wenning | 17 June 1972 | St. Henry Cath. Ch. St. Henry, Ohio |
| 8 | James Donauer | 6 Aug. 1977 | St. Henry Cath. Ch. St. Henry, Ohio |
| 9 | Garv Hart | 10 Dec. 1977 | St. Henry Cath. Ch. St. Henry, Ohio |
| 10 | | | |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| SOURCE Information & Explanations | RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION |
| | The above Husband is a |
| | of |
| | COMPILER OF THIS RECORD |
| | Name: Thomas F. Niekamp |
| | 571 Columbus St. |
| | Address: St. Henry, Ohio 45883. |
| | Telephone: |



MR. & MRS. LESTER NIEKAMP



JUDY



Lester Andrew Niekamp, the oldest son of Andrew and Alma Niekamp, was born on February 1, 1924. At this time the family lived on North Mill Street in Celina, Ohio.

At the age of six he entered the first grade at Immaculate Conception Elementary School. In 1934 the family moved to St. Sebastian where Lester attended the one room country school located one mile west of the church on Goettemoeller Road. He was taught by Andreas Pulskamp and later by Tony Heitkamp. In April 1938 the Niekamps moved to Cranberry Prairie where Lester finished the eighth grade. The following year he attended St. Henry High School.

During the summers Lester worked as a farmhand for George Will and Albert Niekamp of St. Sebastian, Bill Link of Cranberry and Norbert Osterholt of St. Henry.

Quitting school at the age of 16, he went to work at Mersman Brothers at Celina, Ohio. Later he worked for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company at St. Marys and New Idea Inc. at Coldwater.

Lester was inducted into the army during World War II. On March 15, 1943 he was sent to Camp Swift, Texas for basic training. He was in Company "G" of the 303rd Infantry. Upon completion of his training he was shipped overseas to Northern Ireland to become part of the great buildup for the intended invasion of Germany.

Landing in France shortly after D-Day, he saw continuous action until wounded on July 8, 1944. Pvt. First Class Niekamp recovered sufficiently to return to active duty on the 9th of August. On the 21st of November Lester, now a Staff Sergeant, was again wounded in action. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

On July 15, 1945 he arrived at Bushnell General Hospital, Brigham City, Utah for convalescence. From here he was sent to Camp Atterbury, Indiana where he received his discharge from the army. He had spent 13 months of his service time overseas.

After the war Lester worked for a time in a factory in St. Louis, Missouri. Returning to St. Henry in 1946 he resumed work at New Idea Inc. Coldwater.

In 1947 Lester bought a large two story frame house at 361 West Main Street in St. Henry. The Andrew Niekamp family lived here until 1954.

Lester married Beverly Morris of Portland, Indiana in January of 1948. They made their home with Lester's parents in St. Henry. Lester sold this house in 1954 when he, Beverly, and their adopted daughter, Judy, moved to a home they purchased on East Elizabeth Street in Coldwater.

Lester died on December 12, 1957. Funeral services were held in the St. Henry Catholic Church.

HUSBAND Niekamp, Lester Andrew **HUSBAND:** Niekamp
WIFE: Morris
 Born Feb. 1, 1924 Place Celina, Ohio.
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Marr. Jan. 1948 Place _____
 Died December 12, 1957 Place Ft. Recovery R. R. Mercer County, Ohio.
 Bur. St. Henry Cemetery Place St. Henry, Ohio.
 HUSBAND'S FATHER Andrew J. Niekamp HUSBAND'S MOTHER Alma A. Bertke
 OTHER WIVES _____

WIFE Morris, Beverly
 Born Feb. 20, 1930 Place Dunkirk, Indiana.
 Chr. Catholic-Convert Place _____
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
 WIFE'S FATHER Charles Morris WIFE'S MOTHER Jesse Morris
 WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS Vern Schulte

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|------------|--------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| F | 1 Niekamp, Judith Ann | 20 | April | 1950 | Salzburg | | Austria | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
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| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
|----|-----------------|------|-------|
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| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
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| | |
|---|--|
| SOURCE Information & Explanations Judith Ann Niekamp was born Juliane Marfics. She arrived in New York July 7, 1952. She is an adopted daughter of Lester and Beverly Niekamp. | RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION The above Husband is a of |
| | COMPILER OF THIS RECORD Name: Thomas F. Niekamp 571 Columbus St. Address: St. Henry, Ohio 45883. |
| | Telephone: |
| | |



MIKE



PAT



RON



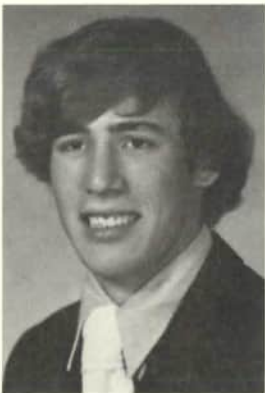
BOB



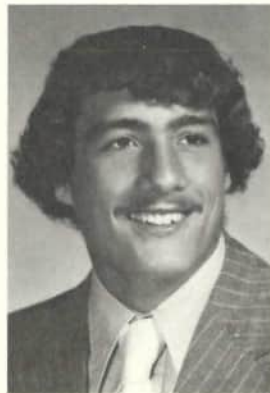
PAUL JR.



MR. & MRS. PAUL NIEKAMP



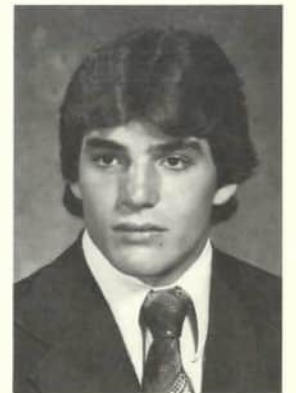
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JACK



JOE



TIM





Paul Henry Niekamp was born at home on Mill Street in Celina, Ohio, August 18, 1926. He was the third of nine children born to Andrew and Alma Bertke.

Paul attended two years of grade school at Immaculate Conception School in Celina, Ohio. At that time the family moved to St. Sebastian, Ohio. He attended four years of grade school there and the family operated a general store.

The store was sold around this time and the family moved to Cranberry Prairie. He attended the 7th and 8th grade there and the 9th and 10th years at St. Henry High School commuting by bus from Cranberry Prairie.

The family moved to St. Henry in 1943 and lived on West Main Street next to the Nite Club. Julie Rose owned the Nite Club, it had a big horse-shoe bar in it. Dances were held every Saturday night and it was a very popular place to go. It drew young people from all around communities including many from Indiana.

Paul graduated from St. Henry High School in 1944. While in High School he was able to participate in basketball and baseball. He was also a member of the high school band. Upon graduation, at age 17 he enlisted in the U. S. Navy. He was in active duty in the Pacific theatre of war, participating in the Phillipines borneo and invasion of Korea. He was a coxsain aboard the L. C. I. (G) 69. At the end of the war he returned to the U. S. and received an honorable discharge.

While in Service Training at Great Lakes Paul met Dorothy E. Rutkowski while on leave in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On October 5, 1946 they were married at St. Martins Church, a little white frame missionary Church, in Ellis, Wisconsin.

He worked a very short time at Good Year Rubber Plant in St. Marys, then took employment at Fullenkamp Dist. Co. now known as Mercer Beverage Company delivering beer for 25 years. For the past 6 years Paul has served as Supervisor and Sales Manager for above company.

Paul and Dorothy had nine sons, Michael, Patrick, Ronald, Robert, Paul Jr., Thomas, John, Joseph and Timothy.

During the growing-up years of the children Paul had several extra jobs, one of which was tending bar at the Land-O-Dance Nite Club. He was clerk-treasurer of St. Henry Village for ten years and also income tax consultant for ten years.

Paul's favorite hobbies were baseball, bowling and fishing.

During his early years of marriage he pitched for St. Henry Vets and Botkins and Fort Loramie.

Paul and Dorothy are currently residing on Cherry Street, St. Henry, Ohio.

HUSBAND Niekamp, Paul Henry **HUSBAND:** Niekamp
WIFE: Rutkowski
 Born Aug. 18, 1926 Place Celina, Ohio
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Marr. Oct. 5, 1946 Place St. Martins Catholic Ch., Ellis, Wisconsin.
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
HUSBAND'S FATHER Andrew J. Niekamp **HUSBAND'S MOTHER** Alma A. Bertke
HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES _____

WIFE Rutkowski, Dorothy Elaine
 Born April 3, 1926 Place Wausau, Wisconsin.
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
WIFE'S FATHER Nick Rutkowski **WIFE'S MOTHER** Iva Mae Bently
WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS _____

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|------------|--------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| M | 1 Niekamp, Michael C. | 15 | Sept. | 1947 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 2 Niekamp, Patrick T. | 15 | Dec. | 1948 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 3 Niekamp, Ronald P. | 14 | Nov. | 1949 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 4 Niekamp, Robert A. | 1 | Feb. | 1951 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 5 Niekamp, Paul Jr. | 19 | June | 1952 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 6 Niekamp, Thomas J. | 18 | Jan. | 1954 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 7 Niekamp, John I. | 24 | Sept. | 1955 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 8 Niekamp, Joseph J. | 25 | Sept. | 1958 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 9 Niekamp, Timothy M. | 13 | April | 1960 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| | 10 | | | | | | | | | |

| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
|----|-------------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | Barbara A. Subler | 31 May 1968 | Holy Family Cath. Ch. Frenchtown, Ohio |
| 2 | Mary Stahl | 8 July 1978 | St. Henry Cath. Ch. St. Henry, Ohio |
| 3 | Doris A. Osterloh | 3 Aug. 1974 | St. Joseph Cath. Ch. Egypt, Ohio |
| 4 | Virginia Hess | 21 June 1972 | St. Aloysious Cath. Ch. Carthagena, Ohio |
| 5 | Judith A. Dapore | 19 Jan. 1974 | St. Denis Cath. Ch. Versailles, Ohio |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | | | |

SOURCE Information & Explanations _____

RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION
 The above Husband is a _____
 of _____

COMPILER OF THIS RECORD
 Name: Thomas F. Niekamp
571 Columbus St.
 Address: St. Henry, Ohio 45883.

Telephone: _____



JOAN



ANN



MR. & MRS. THOMAS NIEKAMP



BILL



PEG



CATHY



JIM



Thomas Frank Niekamp, fourth child of Andrew and Alma, Bertke, Niekamp, was born on June 17, 1928 at 510 Mill St. Celina, Ohio. Around the year 1929 the Niekamp family moved to 515 North Walnut St. in Celina. The newly purchased residence was a nice two story frame house with a basement, furnace, gas cook-stove and half bath. A few happy early childhood memories recalled while living here were: the artificial tree with the little candles at Christmas time, riding the tricycle down the street to watch the building of the Immaculate Conception High School and licking on the small pieces of ice obtained from the iceman's delivery wagon on a hot summer day.

In 1934 feeling the effects of the Great Depression the family moved to St. Sebastian, Ohio. Here the family lived at and operated the St. Sebastian General store; heating and cooking was done with wood stoves and drinking water was carried from the Church pump.

Thomas entered the first grade of school at the St. Sebastian one-room country school. The school was located one mile West of the village and this distance to and from school was traveled by foot. There were but three members in his class. All eight elementary grades were in this one-room building and one teacher taught all eight grades. A large pot-bellied stove at the back of the room was the source of heat in winter time. A hand pump outside in front was for drinking water and two outhouses were the rest rooms.

Among the boyhood misfortunes endured by Tom while living at St. Sebastian were: falling out of a plum tree one summer breaking his left arm and the following summer falling out of the neighbors hay-loft breaking the other arm.

A boyhood pleasure remembered was a family ride on a Sunday afternoon in the green and black Essex car.

On April 11, 1938 the Niekamp family moved to Cranberry Prairie, renting a house one mile West of Cranberry on the Ft. Recovery-Minster Road. Tom attended the Cranberry school which was located in the village of Cranberry directly across from the parish Church. That spring the Cranberry school was still a one room school. However during the summer the school was divided into two rooms and the next school year two teachers were employed, each teacher having four grades. Also that summer the school district purchased a school bus and instituted bus service for the next term. At Cranberry there were seven members in Tom's class. The school was a large brick building with cloakrooms, basement and furnace; although a hand pump outside was the only source of water and outhouses served as rest rooms.

Helping with the garden work in summertime and carrying in wood for the stoves in wintertime were some of Tom's duties. Later when his older brothers worked out as hired hands he had to feed and milk the cows. A summer job was mowing the parish Church grounds in Cranberry.

Favorite sports enjoyed were hunting and trapping. Listening to the Cincinnati Reds ballgames in the summer was another great pasttime but also never forgotten were the evenings in the winter when the family gathered around the radio to listen to various programs.

It was while living at Cranberry that Tom's parents bought their first refrigerator. What a marvelous appliance that was!

After about three years the family moved into a house located one mile South of Cranberry on Huwer Road just East of Cranberry Road.

In 1942 Tom entered the freshman class of St. Henry High School at St. Henry, Ohio. Then in early Spring of 1943 the Niekamp family moved to 402 West Main St. in St. Henry.

It was during the summer of 1943 that Tom first met Mary Lee Beckman. Later Tom and Mary would become High School sweethearts.

Among the many cherished memories of High School days fondly recalled were; ice skating on Beck's pond, going to the movies at Coldwater, and the many meetings with the gang at Stanley Romer's Drug store.

A year-round part time job for Tom (along with two friends, Ralph Ording and Don Vondrell) during High School days was cleaning the Land-O-Dance nite club at St. Henry. Summer employment consisted of working at New Idea Inc. at Coldwater one year and another year working for Joseph Nieport of St. Henry who did custom hay and straw baling.

Graduating in a class of 27 from St. Henry High School in 1946, Tom worked for varying periods of time at Mersmans Bros. at Celina, The Clover Farm Grocery and Meat Market at St. Henry, New Idea Inc. at Coldwater and the Mercer County Farm Bureau which owned a grain elevator at St. Henry.

Late in the year 1947 the Niekamp family moved to 361 West Main St. in St. Henry.

February 12, 1949 Tom and Mary Lee Beckman became engaged.

On October 15, 1949 Thomas Niekamp married Mary Lee Beckman at St. Henry Catholic Church, Father John Martin officiating. The ceremony was at 10 a. m. followed by an all day reception and dance at the American Legion hall at Celina, Ohio. Witnesses were Alferd Huber and Alice Hyland. A honeymoon trip was taken to Philadelphia and New York City.

Mary Lee Beckman was the daughter of Luke F. and Lorine, Stammen, Beckman of St. Henry. Mary was born at St. Henry, received her primary and secondary education in the St. Henry schools and went one year to St. Marys of the Springs College at Columbus, Ohio. Mary returned to College in 1962 and graduated from Ohio Northern at Ada, Ohio in 1968; graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. After graduating Mary worked in the public school system at St. Henry, resigning that position in 1977 to accept a position with the Ohio Historical Preservation Office.

Tom and Mary first resided on Main St. in St. Henry renting an apartment above the St. Henry Post Office. At that time the Post Office was located on the North side of Main St. in about the center of town. Mary's grandmother, Clara Beckman, owned the building at this time and resided in another apartment in the same building.

Joan and Ann were born while Tom and Mary resided at this address. Joan was born in Gibbons Hospital at Celina while Ann and the rest of the children were born at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital at Coldwater. Our Lady of Mercy Hospital was built in 1950.

January of 1951 Thomas started working for the Minster Canning Co. at Minster, Ohio. The Minster Canning Co. was engaged in the processing of canned tomatoes and was owned by Mary's father. Also in 1951 Tom and Mary purchased their first automobile, a 1939 Ford.

In the Summer of 1953 Tom, Mary and family moved to 282 North Sycamore St. in St. Henry, renting a residence at this location. William and Margaret were born while the family lived here.

In 1953 the family bought their first Television set and in 1955 their first automatic washing machine.

June 1, 1957 the family moved into a new Cape Cod style brick home which they had constructed on 571 Columbus St. in St. Henry.

Catherine and James were born while the family resided here.

Throughout the 1950's and early 1960's Tom and Mary were avid baseball fans; following very closely the Cincinnati Reds and their brother-in-law, Wally Post, who was a member of that team. Today they are both keenly interested in bridge and golf.

In 1969 a two car garage and family room was added to their home on Columbus St.

Thomas is still associated with the Minster Canning Co. at Minster

having become a one third owner in 1965. Presently the Canning Co. grows, processes and markets approximately 400 acres of tomatoes and tomato products. The Minster Canning Co. also processes mustard and the farming operation grows a variety of farm crops for market.

HUSBAND Niekamp, Thomas Frank **HUSBAND:** Niekamp
WIFE: Beckman
 Born June 17, 1928 Place Celina, Ohio
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Marr. Oct. 15, 1949 Place St. Henry Catholic Church, St. Henry, Ohio.
 Died Place
 Bur. Place
HUSBAND'S FATHER Andrew J. Niekamp **HUSBAND'S MOTHER** Alma A. Bertke
HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES

WIFE Beckman, Mary Lee
 Born Feb. 15, 1930 Place St. Henry, Ohio.
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Died Place
 Bur. Place
WIFE'S FATHER Luke F. Beckman **WIFE'S MOTHER** Lorine M. Stammen
WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|------------|--------|------------------|----------------------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY MONTH YEAR |
| F | 1 Niekamp, Joan Elizabeth | 1 | July | 1950 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | |
| F | 2 Niekamp, Ann Theresa | 23 | Feb. | 1952 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | |
| M | 3 Niekamp, William Thomas | 15 | June | 1954 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | |
| F | 4 Niekamp, Margaret Mary | 7 | Oct. | 1956 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | |
| F | 5 Niekamp, Catherine Ann | 18 | March | 1959 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | |
| M | 6 Niekamp, James Paul | 30 | Jan. | 1961 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | |
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| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
|----|--------------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | Andrew Fescoc | 27 July 1973 | St. Henry Catholic Church, St. Henry, O. |
| 2 | Howard Stammen | 15 June 1974 | St. Henry Catholic Church, St. Henry, O. |
| 3 | Joanne Hemmelgarn | 24 Oct. 1975 | St. Bernard Cath. Ch. Burkettsville, O. |
| 4 | Phillip Fullenkamp | 30 July 1977 | St. Henry Cath. Ch. St. Henry, Ohio |
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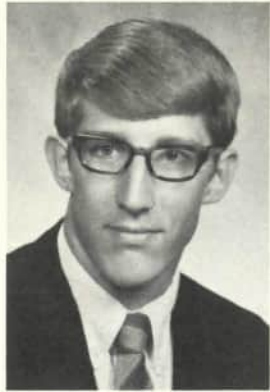
SOURCE Information & Explanations

RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION
 The above Husband is a
 of

COMPILER OF THIS RECORD
 Name: Thomas F. Niekamp
 571 Columbus St.
 Address: St. Henry, Ohio 45883.
 Telephone:



KAREN



STEVE



MARY BETH



JOHN



THERESA



TOM



LAURA



MR. & MRS. MAURICE RAMMEL





Joan Florence Niekamp was born on March 28, 1931, on a Saturday afternoon at 3:50 p.m. The second daughter and fifth child of Andrew and Alma (Bertke) Niekamp was baptized the next day at Immaculate Conception Church in Celina, Ohio with her Uncle Andrew and Aunt Florence Bertke as Godparents.

Her memories of the home on 515 North Walnut Street are few, as the family moved to St. Sebastian when she was not yet five.

At St. Sebastian, she entered first grade in the one room country school with her sister and brothers. Six weeks of school were missed her first year because of sickness. Fond memories of the home and store and old community hall right next to the church are recalled by her, as a good view of all activities were enjoyed by the younger children. At Christmas time it was customary for the family to go in the store and sing Christmas carols while Santa made his visit. She also remembers the many fruit trees, grapes, and large garden that was enjoyed there. Most of all, she remembers the birth of her sisters Phyllis and Kathleen.

In 1938 the family left the home-store in St. Sebastian and moved to a home on Ft. Recovery- Minster Road in Cranberry, Ohio. She remembers her father teasing her mother about the store bell ringing; she is quite sure they both missed the store at first. A large garden and truck patch were also kept at this place.

It was at this home that two big events took place; the birth of a baby boy, James, the last of the family, and several months later the first wedding of the family, her sister Ethel's marriage to Elmer Rinderle.

In Cranberry School, Joan spent the end of the first grade through the sixth grade in the two-room school. During this time she would stay at her cousin Wilma Bertke's home often, and the two would enjoy going on the Huckster truck with her Uncle Frank Bertke. Playing store in the home place of her grand-parents, the Bertke place was also much fun.

Then in the spring of 1944 the family made the move to St. Henry. This move enabled the older members of the family to acquire work more easily.

Many happy memories are looked back upon by Joan during this time as her life became more social. Her first job was a baby-sitting position in the summer of 1944 taking care on the children of Ben Romer. Later she worked in the store where her brother Tom also worked.

Her high school days were busy, fun-filled days, as she was active in many school activities, one of which was cheerleading for four years.

These were also serious and sad times for her, as her two brothers, Lester and Paul, and a brother-in-law Elmer were all in the service during World War 11. She especially remembers the sad farewells each time they left home.

In 1949, she graduated from St. Henry High School, and a job was available for her at the Mercer County Court House, but due to transportation problems, she continued to work at a local restaurant, Jake's Place, in St. Henry.

In August of 1949 she became engaged to be married to Maurice Leo Rammel, son of Charles and Josephine (Garman) Rammel of R. R. #1, St. Henry, Ohio. The following May 20, 1950, they were married by Reverend John Martin at 9:00 a. m. in St. Henry Church. Their first home was on Main Street, St. Henry and was rented from Mrs. Anna Westerhide.

On March 18, 1951, a most happy event occurred as a baby daughter, Karen Sue, was born to Joan and Maurice. Twenty-one months later their first son, Steven, was welcomed. During this time, her husband was employed at the Farm Bureau Elevator in St. Henry and later Celina.

A second daughter, Mary Beth, was born on April 23, 1954, and these were happy, busy times for the growing family.

In early 1955, a big move occurred, as the family moved to 220 E. Silver Street, Wapakoneta, as her husband's work took him to Buckland, Ohio. There a second son John was born on February 5, 1956. That summer, after living eighteen months at Wapakoneta, the family bought their present home at 314 Augustus Street, St. Marys, Ohio.

On October 18, 1958, a third daughter, Theresa was born.

In January, 1959, work again caused a move to Findlay, Ohio, where the family lived for three years at 532 West Main Cross Street. The last two children of the family were born here, a son Thomas on November 30, 1960, and daughter Lora on June 4, 1962.

That summer they moved back to their own home in St. Marys, and they reside there at the present time.

All seven children completed elementary school at Holy Rosary and all have graduated from Memorial High School, St. Marys, Ohio.

Joan began working part-time at a local grocery, Marsh Supermarket in 1966. She worked there for nine years, until the store was sold. During this time she became active in Holy Rosary parish as a religion instructor and has continued to do so for 15 years. She has served on the school board and is presently a lay distributor of Communion.

In February of 1976, Joan began employment with Huffy Manufacturing Company and is working there at present time. Her husband is employed with Goodyear Tire and Rubber.

Joan and Maurice have nine grand-children.

Joan and Maurice are the parents of seven children.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Karen Sue (Mrs. Terry Makley) | March 18, 1951 |
| Steven Thomas | Dec. 13, 1952 |
| Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Scott Kogge) | April 23, 1954 |
| John Paul | Feb. 5, 1956 |
| Theresa Ann (Mrs. Douglas Riesen) | Oct. 18, 1958 |
| Thomas Andrew | Nov. 30, 1960 |
| Lora Louise | June 4, 1962 |

HUSBAND Rammel, Maurice Leo HUSBAND: Rammel
 Born January 30, 1928 Place St. Henry, Ohio WIFE: Niekamp
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Marr. May 20, 1950 Place St. Henry Catholic Church, St. Henry, Ohio.
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
 HUSBAND'S FATHER Charles J. Rammel HUSBAND'S MOTHER Josephine Garman
 HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES _____

WIFE Niekamp, Joan Florence
 Born March 28, 1931 Place Celina, Ohio.
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
 WIFE'S FATHER Andrew J. Niekamp WIFE'S MOTHER Alma A. Bertke
 WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS _____

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|------------|----------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| F | 1 Rammel, Karen Sue | 18 | March | 1951 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 2 Rammel, Steven Thomas | 13 | Dec. | 1952 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | 3 Rammel, Mary Elizabeth | 23 | April | 1954 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 4 Rammel, John Paul | 5 | Feb. | 1956 | Wapakoneta | Auglaize | Oh. | | | |
| F | 5 Rammel, Theresa Ann | 18 | Oct. | 1958 | St. Marys | Auglaize | Oh. | | | |
| M | 6 Rammel, Thomas Andrew | 30 | Nov. | 1960 | Findlay | Hancock | Oh. | | | |
| F | 7 Rammel, Laura Louise | 4 | June | 1962 | Findlay | Hancock | Oh. | | | |
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| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
|----|-----------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | Terry Makley | 24 June 1972 | Holy Rosary Cath. Ch. St. Marys, Ohio. |
| 2 | Sandi Niekamp | 8 March 1974 | Precious Blood C. Ch. Chickasaw, Ohio. |
| 3 | Scott Kogge | 28 July 1973 | Holy Rosary Cath. Ch. St. Marys, Ohio. |
| 4 | Kay Gerlich | 5 Nov. 1977 | Holy Rosary Cath. Ch. St. Marys, Ohio. |
| 5 | Douglas Riesen | 1 Sept. 1978 | Holy Rosary Cath. Ch. St. Marys, Ohio. |
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SOURCE Information & Explanations _____

RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION
 The above Husband is a _____
 of _____

COMPILER OF THIS RECORD
 Name: Thomas F. Niekamp
571 Columbus St.
 Address: St. Henry, Ohio 45883.

Telephone: _____



MR. & MRS. ANDREW NIEKAMP JR.



CINDY



ANDY



MARK



JACK



DAVID





Andrew Joseph Niekamp, Jr. was born on August 21, 1933, at home on Mill Street in Celina, Ohio. He was the sixth of nine children born to Andrew Niekamp and Alma Bertke.

At an early age the family moved to Saint Sebastian, Ohio. They resided in the living quarters of the grocery store which his mother operated while his father worked in the factory at New Idea Manufacturing Company, Coldwater, Ohio. As a very young boy he enjoyed helping his mother stock shelves in the store.

In 1939 the family moved to Cranberry Prairie where they lived in a farm house located one-half mile west of the church. Andrew attended grades one through four at Cranberry Grade School which was a two-room school that consisted of four grades in each room. At Cranberry, Andrew enjoyed helping his older brothers trap muskrat, hunt rabbits and from time to time collect Indian arrowheads and other artifacts.

In 1943 the family moved to West Main Street in St. Henry, Ohio, where he finished his grade school education and later graduated from St. Henry High School in 1951.

At the age of fourteen Andrew, with the help of his oldest sister, Ethel, began the first door-to-door delivery of the Celina Standard newspaper in St. Henry, Ohio. He held part-time jobs at various times at Tubbie Schrage's service station, St. Henry Hardware Company, and Romer's IGA Market.

After graduation from high school he worked at New Idea and Farm Bureau Grain and Elevator Company which was managed by his brother-in-law, Maurice Rammel. He also worked at Mersman Brothers, Celina, Ohio. For a period of time he owned and operated Andy's Restaurant with the help of his mother and sisters, Phyllis and Kathleen. At the restaurant he served soup, sandwiches, pies and ice cream products; he also sold gas and oil.

In September of 1953 while working in the mill room at Mersman's he and a fellow employee went to the Mercer County Court House during lunch hour and volunteered for the draft for military service.

He left the following month for Fort Hayes in Columbus, Ohio, where he was inducted into the United States Army for a period of two years. He received his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and there received additional training in armored tanks. He was transferred to Fort Meade, Maryland, where he did typing in the legal adviser's office. In December, 1954, he was transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, where he embarked for overseas assignment in Camp Roder, Austria, which is about one mile from Salzburg. At that time Austria was occupied by the Allied Forces of the United States, England, and Russia. In 1955 an agreement was reached with Austria and the occupying forces withdrew all military personnel from that country.

He was transferred back to the States where he served his remaining months at Fort Devons, Massachusetts. He was discharged from active duty on the basis of an early release from military duty for the purposes of attending college.

In September, 1955, he enrolled in the School of Business at the University of Dayton. While attending college he worked for three years on the night shift in the factory at the National Cash Register Company. He also received GI Bill educational benefits because of his service in the U. S. Army.

He graduated from the University of Dayton in June, 1959 where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. In September, 1959, he enrolled in the School of Law at Ohio State University in Columbus where he completed the three-year course in two and one-half years by going to summer school sessions. He graduated in January, 1961, with a Juris Doctorate degree. He took the Bar Exam in

February and was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Ohio in May, 1961.

He received training in Quantico, Virginia, for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Subsequently, he resigned to enter the practice of law in Dayton, Ohio. In January, 1965, he was sworn in as assistant prosecuting attorney for Montgomery County by Lee C. Falke, Prosecuting Attorney. As of today's date, January, 1978, he is assigned to the criminal division and prosecutes homicide cases to Common Pleas Courts and juries. He has prosecuted cases in the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court of Ohio. He is a member of the Dayton and Ohio State Bar Associations.

Andrew married Janet Olive Willke, daughter of Dr. and Mrs, E. J. Willke of Maria Stein, Ohio, on June 14, 1958. They were married in St. John Catholic Church in Maria Stein, Ohio at 9:30 a.m. with Reverend George Kraft officiating. Witnesses were James Niekamp and Rosann Willke. The all-day reception was held at the American Legion Hall in Maria Stein. They spent their honeymoon at Vacation Valley Lodge in the Pocono Mountains in eastern Pennsylvania.

When he and Janet were married he had completed three years of college at the University of Dayton and was almost twenty-five years old. After their marriage they lived at 583 Daytona Parkway in Dayton, 1558 West Seventh Avenue in Columbus, and 979 Manhattan Avenue in Dayton. In 1967 they built a new house at 4416 Karen Drive, Kettering, Ohio, where they now reside.

While Andrew was completing his last year of college Janet taught Spanish at Fairview High School, Dayton, Ohio. While he attended law school she taught English and Spanish at Starling Junior High School in Columbus for one year. She is presently teaching Spanish at Alter High School and is chairperson of the Foreign Language Department. She began teaching there in 1971.

Andrew and Janet are the parents of five children.

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Cynthia Ann | May 13, 1959 | Dayton, Ohio |
| Andrew Joseph, 111 | May 15, 1961 | Columbus, Ohio |
| Mark Thomas | August 9, 1962 | Dayton, Ohio |
| John Michael | December 7, 1964 | Dayton, Ohio |
| David James | January 4, 1967 | Dayton, Ohio |

HUSBAND Niekamp, Andrew Joseph **HUSBAND:** Niekamp
 Born Aug. 21 1933 Place Celina, Ohio.
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Marr. June 14, 1958 Place St. John Catholic Church, Maria Stein, Ohio.
 Died Place
 Bur. Place
HUSBAND'S FATHER Andrew J. Niekamp **HUSBAND'S MOTHER** Alma A. Bertke
HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES

WIFE Willke, Janet Olive
 Born Dec. 9, 1936 Place Maria Stein, Ohio. Mercer County
 Chr. Catholic Place
 Died Place
 Bur. Place
WIFE'S FATHER Edgar James Willke, M. D. **WIFE'S MOTHER** Alfrieda Edna Kleinhenz
WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| F | 1 Niekamp, Cynthia Ann | 13 | May | 1959 | Dayton | Montg-omery | Ohio | | | |
| M | 2 Niekamp, Andrew Joseph | 15 | May | 1961 | Columbus | Franklin | Ohio | | | |
| M | 3 Niekamp, Mark Thomas | 9 | Aug. | 1962 | Dayton | Montg-omery | Ohio | | | |
| M | 4 Niekamp, John Michael | 7 | Dec. | 1964 | Dayton | Montg-omery | Ohio | | | |
| M | 5 Niekamp, David James | 4 | Jan. | 1967 | Dayton | Montg-omery | Ohio | | | |
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| | To Whom Married | Date | Place |
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|---|--|
| SOURCE Information & Explanations Niekamp, Andrew Joseph 15 May 1961 is Andrew Joseph Niekamp III | RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION The above Husband is a of |
| | COMPILER OF THIS RECORD Name: Thomas F. Niekamp 571 Columbus St. Address: St. Henry, Ohio 45883. |
| | Telephone: |



MR. & MRS. JOSEPH MILLER



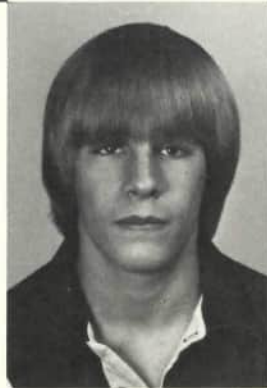
SHARON



GREG



STEVE



MIKE



DAVE





Phyllis Marie Niekamp, seventh child of Andrew and Alma, Bertke, Niekamp, was born on September 9, 1935 at home in St. Sebastian, Ohio. John Rindler and Agnes, Muhlenkamp, Bertke were chosen to be her God-parents in Baptism which took place in St. Sebastian Church.

On April 11, 1938 the Niekamp family moved to Cranberry Prairie. Some of the childhood memories recalled here were: falling off the wood-pile cutting her forehead sending her brother Andrew walking to the Bertke store for bandages. Had the same incident happened today she's sure the wound would have required four to five stitches, the excitement of her sister Ethel's wedding (getting a brand new dress, etc.), and the birth of her youngest brother Jim. She recalls how they all gathered around him for the first time to see him and the concern of her brother Tom watching very closely that too many didn't crowd around him at one time.

The next home Phyllis lived in was located one mile south of Cranberry. The visits to and from relatives are the most vivid in her mind. Traveling to Coldwater, Ohio to visit her married sister Ethel and brother-in-law Elmer Rinderle was a big treat. She remembers taking in a few band concerts there and watching the big trains passing nearby her sister's home.

Phyllis attended the Cranberry School for two years having Juletta Homan, Huelskamp for a teacher. Having brother Andrew and sister Kathleen in the same classroom was not always considered an asset by Phyllis. Miss Homan allowed the children to choose a friend to sit with on Friday's during Art (Art then consisted mostly of coloring a picture). Seems as though Andrew felt Phyllis needed his brotherly advice on how to color and insisted she sat with him during this time. Phyllis not being too conscientious about this matter would have enjoyed sitting with a girlfriend. Another incident recalled was the time Miss Homan punished Phyllis by having her stick her nose in a circle on the black-board. Unfortunately, her parents were kept abreast of all current events.

Phyllis made her First Communion at St. Francis Church, Cranberry, Ohio. This was the same church her Mother and Father and sister Ethel were married in.

In early spring of 1943 the Niekamp's moved to 402 West Main St. in St. Henry, Ohio. She received the next ten years of her education there.

Some of the happenings recalled here were: hobos coming to their house begging for food, a knife grinder carrying his own stone to sharpen knives, scissors, etc., baths taken in the big wash tub in the summer kitchen, chaperoning her sister Kathleen to the outhouse after dark (teasing and scaring her when the wait got long), meeting her future sister-in-law Dorothy Rutkowski for the first time and then later the big disappointment of not being able to travel to Wisconsin for her brother Paul's wedding.

The parent's of Phyllis celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary while living at this residence in June of 1946.

Late in 1947 the Niekamp family moved to 361 West Main St. in St. Henry. Going to Buck's Restaurant and buying a can of popcorn and some pop was all that was needed to provide a night's entertainment of eating and playing cards.

Phyllis recalls her Father as a hard-working man, her Mother always kept a clean house and provided lot's of good home-made food to eat. Her Father's garden, when reaped, was a big treat to all family members. Raising chickens sometimes gave Phyllis the opportunity to help butcher them holding their heads over the block of wood as her Father

did the chopping. Feathers were plucked and lot's of delicious chicken was enjoyed by all.

While residing at this address some of the happy events recalled here were: Tom and Joan's wedding, her Solemn Communion and brother Jim's First Communion on the same day and Graduation from St. Henry High School.

It was at this home Phyllis was introduced to some of the modern conveniences. Being a teenager and having a telephone for the first time in her life seemed all she could ask for. Later came the flush toilet.

Part time jobs consisted of: babysitting, often for her sister Ethel and brothers Paul and Tom, working at the Beckman and Gast Canning Factory, being employed by her brother Andrew at his restuarant. Doing extra chores there entitled Phyllis to drive Andrew's blue chevy around the block a few times.

Phyllis also recalls getting her first store-boughten coat while residing here. She remembers being so proud of it that she asked her Mother to bury her in it providing the circumstances would arrive.

In 1954 the family moved to 172 North Sycamore St. in St. Henry. At this time she was employed at Reynolds and Reynolds, Celina, Ohio. She was employed there for $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, quitting then to get married.

Another modern convenience, a bathtub was most welcomed here. Later came the television set.

In September of 1957 Phyllis met her husband-to-be Joseph J. Miller. Joseph is the son of Joseph and Mary Hemmel garn, Miller, of Coldwater, Ohio. He was born on November 14, 1931 in New Weston, Ohio. He attended Fink School for two and a half years. Schooling was interrupted as Joseph had contacted polio keeping him out of school $\frac{1}{2}$ a year. Joseph received the rest of his education at Coldwater Schools, Coldwater, Ohio graduating in 1950. After graduation jobs consisted of: Tool Designing at Arbor Tool Co. Dayton, Ohio, Frigadaire, Dayton, Ohio and New Idea, Coldwater, Ohio. He was drafted in the U. S. Army in 1952. Basic Training was received at Ft. Leonardwood, Missouri. From there Joseph was sent to Ft. Belvoir Engineering School in Belvoir, Virginia. In 1953 he left on the General Walker Ship carrying 5,000 troops to Korea. He spent sixteen months there.

August 9, 1958 Joseph and Phyllis were married in St. Henry Catholic Church in St. Henry, Ohio. Reverend Valentine Fleckenstein officiated at the 9:30 A. M. ceremony. Witnesses were Gerald Pulskamp and Kathleen Niekamp. The all-day reception was held at Lindhaus Park, south of Ft. Loramie, Ohio. Their honeymoon was spent in Florida.

After their marriage Joseph and Phyllis rented a home at 4030 Cleveland Avenue in Dayton, Ohio. Joseph was employed as a printer at McCalls.

Eleven months later they purchased a home on 4753 Grand Vista Drive in Beavercreek Township of Greene County. Sharon, Gregory, Steven and Michael were born while residing at this address. All four births took place at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Dayton, Ohio. Frank Wenzke M.D. assisted all four births.

In 1968 Joseph and Phyllis moved to Battle, Creek, Michigan purchasing a new home at 163 Hanson Drive. It was while residing here that David the last child was born. David was born at Community Hospital Battle Creek, Michigan. Doctor Yannitelli M.D. assisted the birth.

On June 14, 1971 Phyllis recalls the celebration of her parents Golden Wedding Anniversary. Two beautiful Clydesdale horses pulling a surrey were awaiting her parents in front of St. Henry Catholic Church when the Mass celebration was over. A reception was held at the V F W hall on Rt. 118 north of St. Henry. The horses and surrey provided some entertainment that day giving rides up and down the long lane to the hall.

In May of 1974 Joseph started his own printing business. This became known as Miller Offset Preparation and was located in their home. Equipment for this business included: a commercial camera, stripping table to strip film and do layout work and a plate-maker. It also consisted of a dark room to develop film in. Phyllis assisted him by doing the secretarial work.

Joseph helped his brother-in-law Tom and his wife Mary prepare this family history by doing the camera, film, plates and layout work.

At the present time Phyllis is an active member of her parish community. She has taught religion for six years and she and Joseph have both volunteered their services for the many activities going on there. Just recently both have been asked to be special minister's of the Holy Eucharist.

The family still resides at the Hanson Drive address, Joseph's business continues and Phyllis remains a housewife.

HUSBAND Miller, Joseph **HUSBAND:** Miller
WIFE: Niekamp
 Born Nov. 14, 1931 Place New Weston, Ohio. Darke County.
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Marr. August 9, 1958 Place St. Henry Catholic Church, St. Henry, Ohio.
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
HUSBAND'S FATHER Joseph Miller **HUSBAND'S MOTHER** Mary Hemmelgarn
HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES _____

WIFE Niekamp, Phyllis Marie
 Born Sept. 9, 1935 Place St. Sebastian, Mercer County, Ohio.
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
WIFE'S FATHER Andrew J. Niekamp **WIFE'S MOTHER** Alma A. Bertke
WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS _____

| SEX M F | CHILDREN <small>LINE Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth</small> SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|--|-----------|-------|------|--------------|---------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| F | 1 Miller, Sharon | 16 | Jan. | 1960 | Dayton | Greene | Ohio | | | |
| F | 2 Miller, Gregory | 27 | May | 1961 | Dayton | Greene | Ohio | | | |
| M | 3 Miller, Steven | 27 | June | 1962 | Dayton | Greene | Ohio | | | |
| M | 4 Miller, Michael | 21 | March | 1964 | Dayton | Greene | Ohio | | | |
| M | 5 Miller, David | 10 | June | 1969 | Battle Creek | Calhoun | Mich. | | | |
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SOURCE Information & Explanations _____

RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION
 The above Husband is a _____
 of _____

COMPILER OF THIS RECORD
Name: Thomas F. Niekamp
571 Columbus St.
Address: St. Henry, Ohio 45883.

Telephone: _____



LINDA



STEVE



CAROL



MR. & MRS. GERALD PULSKAMP





The history of Kathleen Alma Niekamp began on a Thursday, September 24, 1936, at 2:30 A. M. She was the eighth of 9 children born to Andrew and Alma Bertke. Her first breath of fresh air was taken at the small country town of St. Sebastian, Ohio. Dr. John T. Gibbons, of Celina, was the attending physician.

She was privileged to have her oldest sister, Ethel, and Gregor Wolters, as her Godparents in Baptism. The Baptism took place in St. Sebastian Church just two days after her birth on September 26, 1936 with Rev. Ernest Hefele, C.P.P.S. conferring the Sacrament. She was baptized in the same baptismal gown that all of her brothers and sisters wore. This tradition was carried on for many years. More than 50 babies, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Andrew and Alma Niekamp were baptized in this same long white gown. This beautiful white garment was fashioned from a First Communion dress belonging to Henrietta Bertke, sister of Alma Bertke, Niekamp. Kathleen's three children were among those who were baptized in this gown.

Kathleen has no memories of her life in St. Sebastian since she moved from there to Cranberry Prairie, Ohio on April 11, 1938, when she was just a little over 1½ years old.

Her school days began in the little brick schoolhouse across from St. Francis Church in Cranberry Prairie. Juletta Homan, Huelskamp was her 1st grade teacher in that 2-room school. Foremost among her memories of life in Cranberry Prairie were visits to the Bertke General Store which was owned and operated by Frank and Agnes, Muhlenkamp, Bertke, brother of Alma. Many happy hours were spent at the Bertke store and home which was also the birthplace of her mother. Other happy memories of those first six years include the wedding day of her sister Ethel to Elmer Rinderle and the excitement over the birth of her brother, Jim.

Moving to the "big city" of St. Henry, Ohio in the Spring of 1943, in the Osterfeld home on West Main St. was a memorable event. She can remember all the fussing about leaving the cat behind and the financial necessity of bringing the cow with them. Since she moved during the school year, her brothers, sisters and her finished out the year at the Cranberry school. Her transportation depended on Mr. Tony Reier of St. Henry who drove the bus for the Cranberry route.

She felt protected and cared for by her older brothers and sisters so her first year of school was a happy experience. She can remember the "home atmosphere" education of her small school at Cranberry. We were encouraged to bring our favorite toys; our dolls were our companions in that first year, a jump ahead of the modern day version of "Show & Tell" of current educators.

In the Fall of 1943, Kathleen began 2nd grade at St. Henry School. But adjusting to a larger school, a 4-room system, was a bit frightening. Because of her small size, it was assumed by her 2nd grade teacher, Leona Panning, that she was a 1st grade student. Too shy and frightened to tell her otherwise, she spent her 1st day of 2nd grade back in the 1st. Tears of disappointment fell like rain drops in a thunderstorm after school hours. She can still remember her sister, Joan, taking her by the hand to the home of Miss Panning explaining the mistake. Many happy years of education followed that crisis, those remaining years spent in the St. Henry school system.

One of the highlights of her elementary education years was her First Communion Day. That event took place in St. Henry Church on May 7, 1944 with Rev. P.A. Kanney, C.P.P.S. Pastor. Six years later, on that same date she received her Solemn Communion on May 7, 1950 with Rev. Valentine Fleckenstein as pastor. Other special events during those years were May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Confirmation

day.

The St. Henry Catholic Church was located just east of the elementary school building. It was customary for all children to attend daily Mass before school began. Even though we were considered a public school, we gathered at school and filed over to Mass every morning. Each day began with Religion as the first subject of the day, taught by the classroom teacher, with the exception of one day a week when the pastor would visit the school and teach. A Mass attendance record card was sent home along with the 6-week period report card for the parents to sign. One of her happiest memories of those days was winning a rosary. Fr. Kanney promised a rosary to every 3rd and 4th grader who'd correctly write, spell and punctuate the "Our Father". To this day she has saved "parts" of that beautiful orange rosary.

Not all of her memories of those early school days were spiritual! Educators at that time believed in spankings and she came mighty close a few times! No doubt because her report cards were often checked with a "whispers too much" checkmark! Another belief at that time was that all children should be right handed. What a struggle to suddenly try to write with her right hand! During the 1st and 2nd grades they were taught to print and she was permitted to use her left hand. Writing began in earnest in the 3rd grade and suddenly she had to try to adjust. It was a frustrating time for her. She can remember her teacher, Juletta Reiger, putting a chalk line on her desk reminding her to stay with the right.

Others who contributed to her elementary education were Miss Louise Noblett and Mr. Lawrence Heitkamp. During those school years, she put many miles on her shoe leather since she walked back and forth to school and addition, came home for a 1-hour lunch period at noon.

Entertainment during those years was centered around movies. Free, outdoor movies at the train depot parking lot and sometimes at the school ground on Saturday evenings, were popular pasttime for kids in the area. On occasion, when money was available, she rode the Greyhound bus, departing from Ed Bruns' Store, to the Coldwater theater. She can remember when the fee for the bus ride was 10¢ and the movie 15¢.

Politics were often discussed at the family table and a political rally in St. Henry was an important event. On September 24, 1944, a prominent citizen of St. Henry, Mr. Harry A. Romer, made his Acceptance Speech as a candidate for Vice President on the America First Party Ticket. That event made quite an impression on Kathleen as she still has a copy of that speech delivered on her 8th birthday.

One of her first "long trips" away from home came in 1950. Her brother Lester and wife Bev and her took a trip to Cleveland, Ohio. She boarded the train at Ansonia, Ohio. She can remember doing many odd jobs to earn money for that trip. Spending money came from babysitting, mowing lawns, a morning paper route, which didn't last too long, and running errands for neighbors. One summer she worked at the home of Ben & Esther Romer doing light housekeeping and caring for the children. Other jobs during her school years included working at the canning factory in St. Henry and helping out at her brother Andy's restaurant.

She lived in four different homes in St. Henry. The Osterfeld home and Bill King home on the west end of town, the Bertke home on Sycamore St. and the Roebuck home on John St. after her marriage in 1959.

Letters were a significant part of her life. There was no home mail delivery in St. Henry so going to the post office daily was her responsibility, both for her family and an elderly neighbor. Mail was always welcomed. Many letters were mailed and delivered during those years, the news sometimes joyful and sometimes sad, but nevertheless looked forward

with great anticipation. She can remember bringing home letters from her brothers Paul and Lester during the Second World War and from Andy while he was in military service. Then there were love letters for Tom from his future bride Mary, away at college; a letter from Mary often meant 5¢ for her pocket! And not too many years later, loveletters arrived for Kathleen from Jerry, while he served in the U. S. Army.

Fantasy and folklore were a part of her childhood, no doubt handed down from earlier generation. For instance, a really pleasant memory that lingers in her mind and one she's often reminded of, is the legend of the red skies. She was always told that when the evening sun cast its reddish hue, she could be sure that Santa was at work in his kitchen making candy for Christmas. And as Christmas drew near, Santa and his reindeer always flew past our window yet somehow we were never quite fast enough to capture that sight. She never doubted Dad's word after Santa appeared in person one night before Christmas to check to see if everyone knew their prayers.

Kathleen has no memories of her actual Grandparents since the last of them, Grandpa Bertke, died when she was about five month old. Grandma to her, though, was Mrs. Elizabeth Osterfeld, who lived with the family for some time during her life at the Osterfeld home. Playing cards was her favorite pastime and she helped her develop those skills.

During her high school years, 1951-1954, she was active in the church choir, and a member of the Catholic Youth Organization. Her interests at school were baseball, basketball, cheerleading and she enjoyed taking part in the Junior and Senior Class plays.

Graduation day was May 20, 1954. Shortly thereafter, she started working in Celina, Ohio, first at the Celina Mutual Ins. Co. for just 5 months and then started in the office at Reynolds & Reynolds in the Fall of 1954, joining her sister, Phyllis. She was employed at Reynolds for the next 5 years, working after she married and until the expected arrival of her first daughter, Linda.

In the Fall of 1955 she met her husband-to-be, Gerald Steven Puls-kamp of Celina, Ohio, at the Eagle Park Dance Hall in Minster, Ohio. Even a little knowledge of baseball paid off; Jerry walked by just as a group of her friends were talking about baseball, the Cincinnati Reds, and her hometown hero, Wally Post.

Jerry is the son of Victor and Loretta Winkeljohn Pulskamp. He was born on June 28, 1934, at Celina, Ohio and attended Immaculate Conception Grade and High Schools. He began working at New Idea, in Coldwater, after graduation and remained there until 1962 except for a 2 year stint with the U. S. Army. He was stationed at various camps in the U. S., Fort Knox, Kentucky, Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, and Fort Hood, Texas. He was discharged on March 10, 1959 and in June of that year Jerry and Kathleen were married.

The wedding ceremony took place at the St. Henry Church on Saturday, June 13, 1959 with Rev. Valentine Fleckenstein officiating. Witnesses for their wedding were Ethel Rinderle and Dick Winkeljohn. The Mass was celebrated at 10:00 A.M. Following the ceremony, a wedding brunch was held at the American Legion Hall in Maria Stein, Ohio. A reception from 2:00-12:00 followed the brunch and dancing continued until late evening, when the new bride and groom left for their honeymoon in Virginia and West Virginia.

Their honeymoon home for the first seven years was located on John St. in St. Henry. Their first-born, a daughter, Linda Jo, was born on March 19, 1960 at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital in Coldwater, Ohio. Sponsors were Joe Miller and Madonna Rinderle Hart. A son, Steven Richard was born just 2½ years later on Nov. 2, 1962 at that same hospital, with

Dr. R. G. Slusher of St. Henry attending physician for both Linda and Steve. Sponsors in Baptism for Steven were Dick Winkeljohn and Dorothy Niekamp.

A change in jobs in 1962 eventually resulted in a move to 77 Circle Drive in New Bremen, Ohio on June 28, 1965. Jerry took a job with Crown Controls and left New Idea where he was employed for 10 years.

Two years later, their youngest daughter, Carol Ann, was born on September 29, 1967, in Joint Twp. Memorial Hospital, St. Marys, Ohio, with Dr. Thomas Beach the attending physician. Baptismal sponsors were Maurice and Joan Rammel.

In New Bremen, both Jerry and Kathleen became active in their parish church, Holy Redeemer. She joined the choir, served on parish council and served as President of St. Anne's Rosary Alter Society. She was installed with the first group of women lectors at Holy Redeemer and was among the first women of the parish to serve Lenten Mass.

Marriage has been their apostolate since they made a Marriage Encounter Weekend at the Maria Stein Retreat Center in 1972. Jerry and Kathleen have been active in the Marriage Encounter movement since that time.

At the present time, they are still residing at 77 Circle Drive and have just experienced having their firstborn, Linda, "fly the nest", taking an apartment home at 115½ North Main St., New Bremen, Ohio. Steve will be a Junior and Carol in 7th grade in the New Bremen schools beginning with the Fall term. Jerry is still working at Crown Controls, but in a new capacity, in the Antenna Rotator Division. At this writing, Kathleen is still a housewife.

Kathleen remembers;

Jim and her fishing at the pond with a stick, a safety pin, and some worms and actually making a catch! Saving sales tax stamps, sugar rations; Phyllis and her yelling down through the register at Maurice and Joan during their courting days! Andy's blue Chevy; Lady, the family pet dog that Lester brought home, a gift from a girlfriend; Forgetting a line in the Junior class play; Strawberry picking along the railroad tracks; Carrying wash water in the heavy boiler on Sunday night; Andy and Jim collecting scrap iron; Playing kick-the-can; Paul, the handsome sailor being waited on by his sisters, running to the garden for rhubarb and serving saltines by the box! Her brothers and sisters helping move outdoor toilets as pranks on Halloween; Hitting Mom with a baseball bat and giving her a real shiner, accidentally; Lady, the family dog, being rescued from the dog pound by Jim and her; Ethel and Elmer living with the family at the Osterfeld home and Phyllis and her sneaking Elmer's record player for one more chance to hear "Blueberry Hill"; Dad's garden, especially corn on the cob; Lawn parties in August when the corn was harvested, chicken, watermelon, and lots of family fun; The many basketball games, especially when Jim played; Friends, fun times, Charlene, Nook, Marilyn, Ann, Mary Ann and Arlene; Mom singing "She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain" when she asked when the kids would be coming home from school in Cranberry; Family Rosary and May Alters in the home; When Easter baskets were made from shoe boxes and newspapers cut up in strips for the nest; Most of all, Phyllis, she remembers HER PURPLE Easter basket!

HUSBAND Pulskamp, Gerald Steven **HUSBAND:** Pulskamp
WIFE: Niekamp
 Born June 28, 1934 Place Celina, Ohio.
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Marr. June 13, 1959 Place St. Henry Catholic Church, St. Henry, Ohio.
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
 HUSBAND'S FATHER Victor Pulskamp HUSBAND'S MOTHER Loretta Winklejohn
 HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES _____

WIFE Niekamp, Kathleen Alma
 Born Sept. 24, 1936 Place St. Sebastian Mercer County, Ohio.
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
 WIFE'S FATHER Andrew J. Niekamp WIFE'S MOTHER Alma A. Bertke
 WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS _____

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|------------|----------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| F | 1 Pulskamp, Linda Jo | 19 | March | 1960 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| M | 2 Pulskamp, Steven Richard | 2 | Nov. | 1962 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
| F | 3 Pulskamp, Carol Ann | 29 | Sept. | 1967 | New Bremen | Auglaize | Oh. | | | |
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| SOURCE Information & Explanations | RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION The above Husband is a _____ of _____ |
| | _____ |
| | COMPILER OF THIS RECORD Name: <u>Thomas F. Niekamp</u> 571 Columbus St. Address: <u>St. Henry, Ohio 45883.</u> |
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Telephone: _____



MATTHEW



JAMES



MR. & MRS. JAMES NIEKAMP



RAMONA

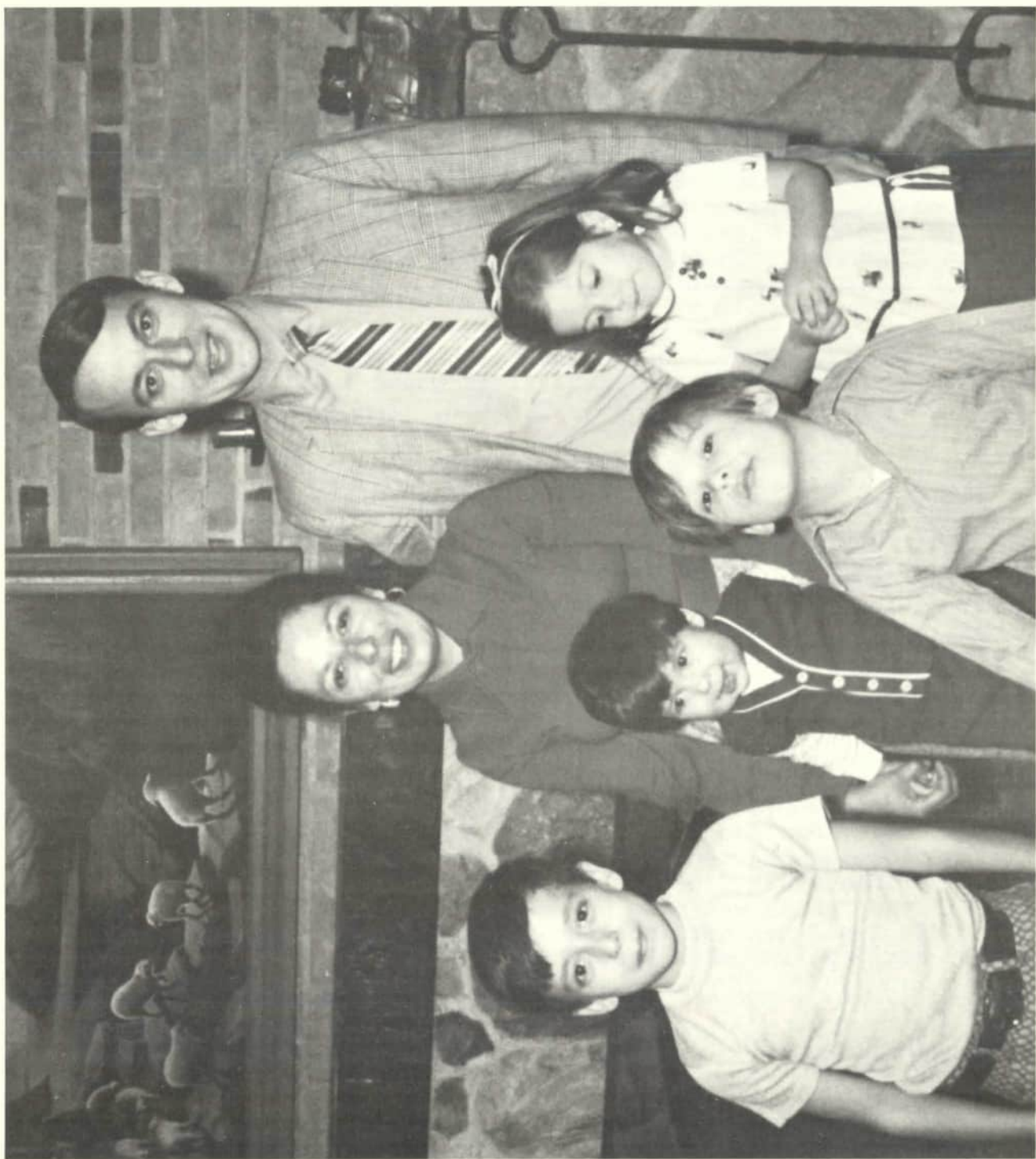


FRANK



SARA





James John Niekamp was born in Cranberry Prairie, Ohio on February 8, 1941, the ninth child of Andrew and Alma (Bertke) Niekamp. After a few years the family moved to the west end of St. Henry and remained in that town. Jim attended school at St. Henry, beginning the first grade in 1948 and graduating from St. Henry High School in 1959. After graduation Jim attended Miami University and in 1963 Jim received a B. S. Degree in Education. In August of 1963 Jim began working as a teacher on the Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico. Employed by the U. S. Government's Bureau of Indian Affairs, Jim was sent to a school called Pueblo Pintado in a remote area of northwestern New Mexico.

Also teaching at Pueblo Pintado was a recent graduate of Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, Texas. This young lady, Mary Margaret Morales, became Jim's wife on July 9, 1964. The wedding was held in San Antonio, Texas and vows were exchanged at Our Lady of Grace Parish. Mary Margaret is the daughter of Antonio (deceased) and Aurora Morales. Jim and "Margie" continued to reside on the Indian Reservation in New Mexico and two children were born to the couple; Matthew James Niekamp on April 1, 1965 and James John (Jaime) Niekamp Jr., on March 26, 1967. Both boys were born in Bataan Methodist Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In the summer of 1968 after 5 years of a sometimes adventurous and a sometimes lonely existence on New Mexico's Navajo lands, Jim and Margie both obtained employment in the public schools of that city. During the three years spent in San Antonio two more children, Ramona Margarita Niekamp, February 15, 1970 and Frank Antonio (Paco) Niekamp, July 7, 1971 were born to Jim and Margie. Also, Jim obtained a Master's Degree from St. Mary's University during this period.

After receiving the Master's Degree in American History, the Niekamp family moved to St. Mary's, Ohio where Jim taught two years at Holy Rosary elementary school. In 1973 Jim and Margie and their four children moved to their present residence, 201 E. Main St., St. Henry, Ohio. Jim is currently teaching and coaching at St. Henry High School and Margie is teaching at Immaculate Conception School in Celina, Ohio. The fifth child of the Niekamp family was born November 3, 1976. Sara Martina Niekamp, the 51st and final grandchild of Andrew and Alma Niekamp was born in Community Hospital in Coldwater, Ohio.

HUSBAND Niekamp, James John **HUSBAND:** Niekamp
WIFE: Morales
 Born Feb. 8, 1941 Place Cranberry, Ohio Mercer County,
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Marr. July 9, 1964 Place San Antonio, Texas.
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
HUSBAND'S FATHER Andrew J. Niekamp **HUSBAND'S MOTHER** Alma A. Bertke
HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES _____

WIFE Morales, Maria Margarita
 Born Aug. 31, 1940 Place San Antonio, Texas.
 Chr. Catholic Place _____
 Died _____ Place _____
 Bur. _____ Place _____
WIFE'S FATHER Antonio F. Morales **WIFE'S MOTHER** Aurora Guerra
WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS _____

| SEX M F | CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES | WHEN BORN | | | WHERE BORN | | | WHEN DIED | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|------|-------------|--------|------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| | | DAY | MONTH | YEAR | TOWN | COUNTY | STATE OR COUNTRY | DAY | MONTH | YEAR |
| M | 1 Niekamp, Matthew J. | 1 | April | 1965 | Albuquerque | Bernal | New Mexico | | | |
| M | 2 Niekamp, James J. | 26 | March | 1967 | " | dilo | " | | | |
| F | 3 Niekamp, Ramona M. | 15 | Feb. | 1970 | San Antonio | Bexar | Texas | | | |
| M | 4 Niekamp, Frank A. | 7 | July | 1971 | San Antonio | Bexar | Texas | | | |
| F | 5 Niekamp, Sara Martina | 3 | Nov. | 1976 | St. Henry | Mercer | Ohio | | | |
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SOURCE Information & Explanations _____

RELATIONSHIP INFORMATION
 The above Husband is a _____
 of _____

COMPILER OF THIS RECORD
 Name: Thomas F. Niekamp
571 Columbus St.
 Address: St. Henry, Ohio 45883.

Telephone: _____



ANDREW NIEKAMP SR. 1918 - 19



LESTER NIEKAMP 1943 - 45



ELMER RINDERLE SR. 1943 - 45



PAUL NIEKAMP SR. 1944 - 46



MAURICE RAMMEL 1946 - 47



JOSEPH MILLER 1952 - 54



ANDREW NIEKAMP JR. 1953 - 55



GERALD PULSKAMP 1957 - 59



ELMER RINDERLE JR. 1965 - 67

FLASHBACKS











