



*A Special Christmas
Gift for Andy*

*Memories of
Days Gone By!*



*From Kathleen & Jerry
Christmas, 1996*

In Pious Memory of
Our Much Beloved Spouse and Mother

Katharina Bertke

Born at Cranberry Prairie, Ohio on 24 September 1869

Died at Cranberry Prairie, Ohio on 23 February 1911
after receiving the holy sacraments at the
age of 41 years, 4 months and 29 days.

The mournful survivors:

B.J. Bertke, spouse;
Frank, Andreas and Edmund, sons;
Sister Maria Evangelista, Eleonora, Rosa, Caroline,
Alma, Anna, Adelina, Henrietta, and Agnes, daughters.

Oh much too soon you left yours,
You were so good and they loved you so much.
Full of pain they stand here and cry.
They search for you and can no longer find you.
So rest well in your quiet place
You pure soul, too soon in final sleep.
No worries can sadden your current joyful state.
We will also come to this peace at some future time.

Prayer:

God, we implore you in your mercy and everlasting love,
to accept the soul of your servant,
Katharina Bertke whom you called from this world.
Graciously forgive her sins caused by human weakness.
Take her to the land of everlasting peace and
make her a part of the membership of your chosen ones,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Bernard J.
+
Katherine



Conley Bros., Celina, Ohio.

Rose, Mathilda + Nora

Alma, Carrie,
Bernard, & Rose



Alma's
Carrie



Alma, St. Everghiste
Rose's girl from Dayton
Baby Sister,
Ethel's
Marietta



Ethel,
Marietta,
Viola
Staugler



Crossroads Ohio

by Alberta Schumacher

Spotlighting Cranberry Prairie as our guest-town-of-the-week! (Next week send us a contribution of letters, ideas, essay, or brief story about something or someone in your town, so your people can have the "top-of-the-column!") A friend who claims Cranberry Prairie as her birthplace sends us a delightful little mystery of the past. Can anyone from Maria Stein, Chickasaw, Sebastian, Carthagena, St. Rose, Casella remember the storekeeper from the Cranberry Prairie of the past? He owned the huckster wagon that brought your supplies.

Now for the mystery. The good man had 13 children who helped load supplies into the huckster wagon. The youngsters were mystified to see safety pin boxes, tape boxes, spool boxes, and the like, covered with odd little markings. There would be four straight up-and-down lines with a slanted line crossing through them. "Oh, I know, I'll bet that's the way he counts eggs the farmers trade for supplies," one of the children decided. It was a mark of five all right, but much later it was discovered he was not counting eggs. As he drove from farm to farm he prayed decades of the Rosary and kept count of this childlike device of four "ones" with a slanted line crossing through them. He made spiritual use of the material he traveled for material profit to support his large family. My prayerful slow trip through countryside must have speeded on his way to heaven. It was interesting to see how many people remember this interesting figure from Cranberry Prairie past. Drop us a card or letter.

The same Cranberry friend who sent us the literary also sent these few value on the subject of Remember Most About Me. "I remember the big, pe inch holy pictures on One was of the Holy other of St. Cecilia, and

Crucifix for every room. What children from some of our modern homes remember in years to come?" What do you remember most about your home?

POST CARD

BRUNSWICK, VT
AUG 27
1919

Dear Cousin :-
Rose will be having Sept. 2. They will have the wedding dance in the Cadbury hall in the evening. Do you and Abner be out and count for that night and bring your friends along. Always your cousin Alberta

Miss Leona Knapke
Montague, O.
% John Knapke





John & Rose (Bertha) Kindler



Frank Staigler & Nora (Bertha)
Bridesmaid - Rose (Bertha) Kindler





THE Taylor Studio
NEW BREMEN, O.

Rich Klosterman
& Carrie (Bertke)
Bridesmaid -
Alma Bertke

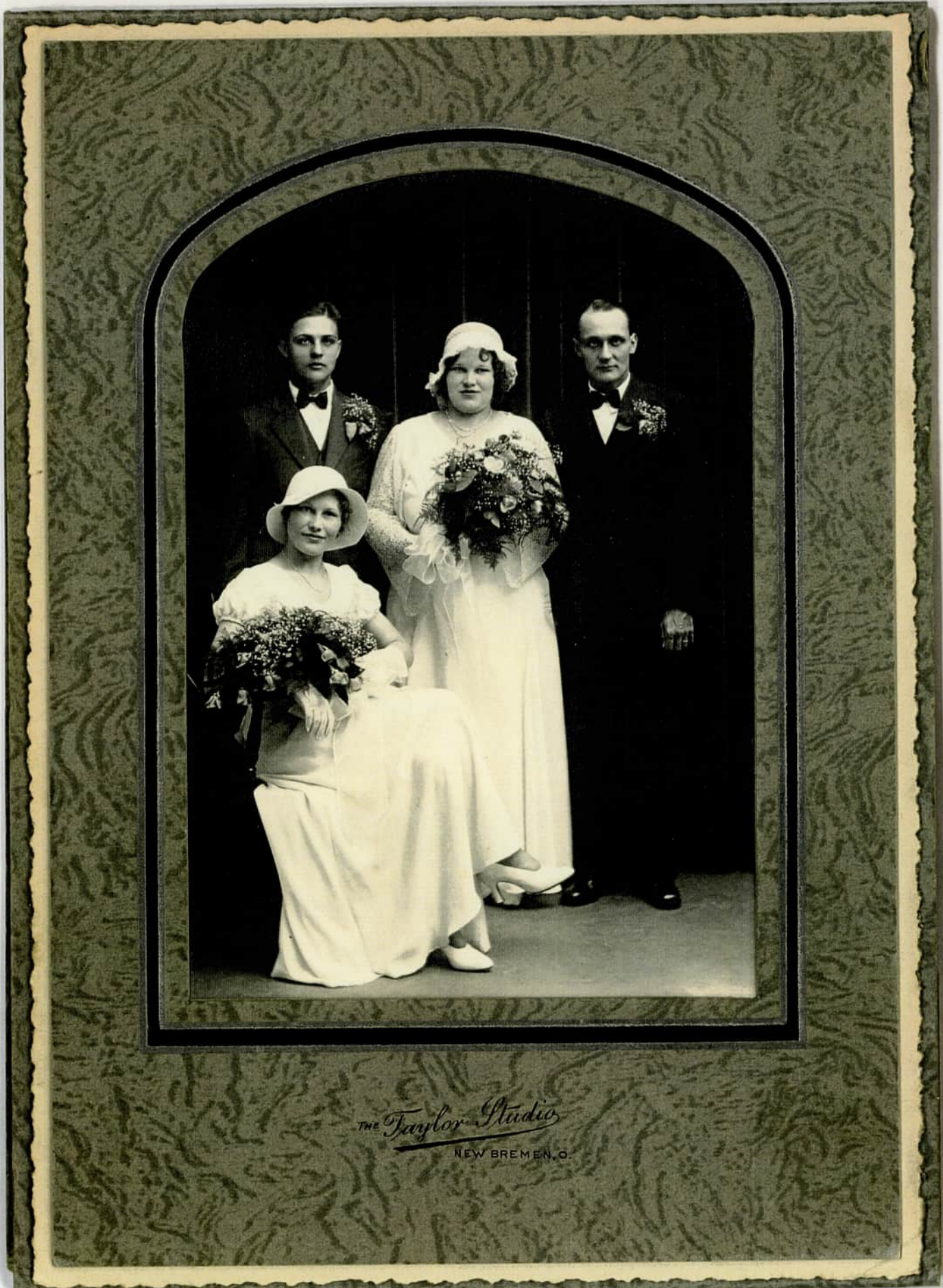




Andrew & Alma (Bertha) Niekamp
 Witness - Anne (Bertha) Dickerskuts
 Al Niekamp

Joe & Anne (Bertha) Dickerskuts
 Witness - Adeline (Bertha) Bellot
 Flower Girl - Alice (Lindley) Kronenberger





THE Taylor Studio
NEW BREMEN, O.

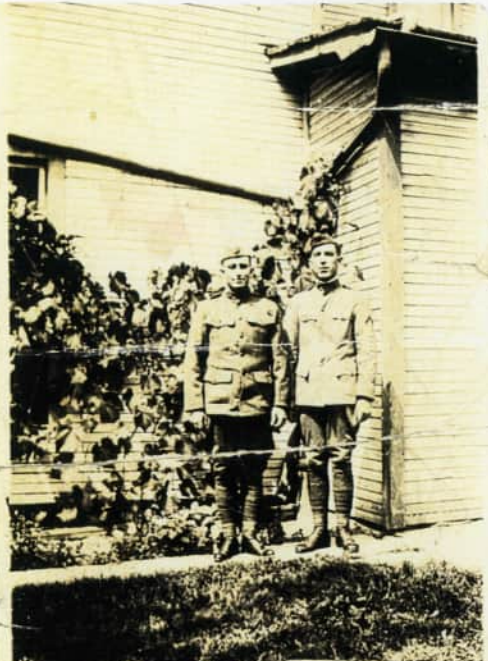






Al + Francis (Rindler) Niekamp
Witness - Bill Rindler
Anne (Berke)
Dickenskieta





Flashbacks - The Cranberry School of 1912

Editor's note: The Cranberry Local One room school (all 8 grades) pupils of 1912. The photo was brought in by Mr. Charles Huelsman of Chickasaw. Many of the students shown above are now deceased. The school building was located across from the Catholic Church in Cranberry and was torn down several years ago. The last classes held in the school were in May 1961.

FRONT ROW, left to right, Alma Seitz, Esther Stachler, Marie Link, Florence Hinders, Agnes Muhlenkamp, Francis Huelsman, Anna Bertke, Mary Dillhoff, Martha Dierkers, Helen Hinders, Lavon Dierkers. **Second row,** Verona Huelsman, Agnes Fiely, Augusta Muhlenkamp, Alma Bertke,

Rosa Hulsman, Gertrude Dillhoff, Cathrine Dierkers, Helen Nietfeld, Margaret Quinter, Mary Dierkers. **Third row,** Lawrence Reier, Charles (Karl) Huelsman, Fred Reier, Sylvester Stachler, Andrew Bertke, Benidect Quinter, William Stachler, Edmund Bertke, Cornelious (Kernel) Link, John Seitz, teacher. **Fourth row,** Albert Seitz (Visitor for the day), Edmund Fiely, George Hinders, Edward Reier, Henry (Happy) Dillhoff, William Huelsman, Jerome Link, Alfred Link. Some pupils walked 2 miles to school. In 1912 the Cranberry road was still a mud road from S.R. 119 to the Darke County Line. The only modern thing in the school building was steam heat (no electricity).



















CHURCH SERVICES
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

Pvt. Gustav Niekamp 33348042
 Company B
 303rd Inf
 U.S.O. 446
 Camp Swift Texas

Hello Father
 and just a few lines
 to let you know that
 I am just fine and to
 give you some love
 what this camp looks
 like. No. No. will be
 long answer soon.

Mr. Niekamp

CAMP SWIFT
 SEP 13
 10 AM
 1943
 TEXAS













Thanksgiving, 1951



Thanksgiving, 1951



NEW YEAR'S EVE AT MOE + JOAN'S



VILLA NOVA

1952



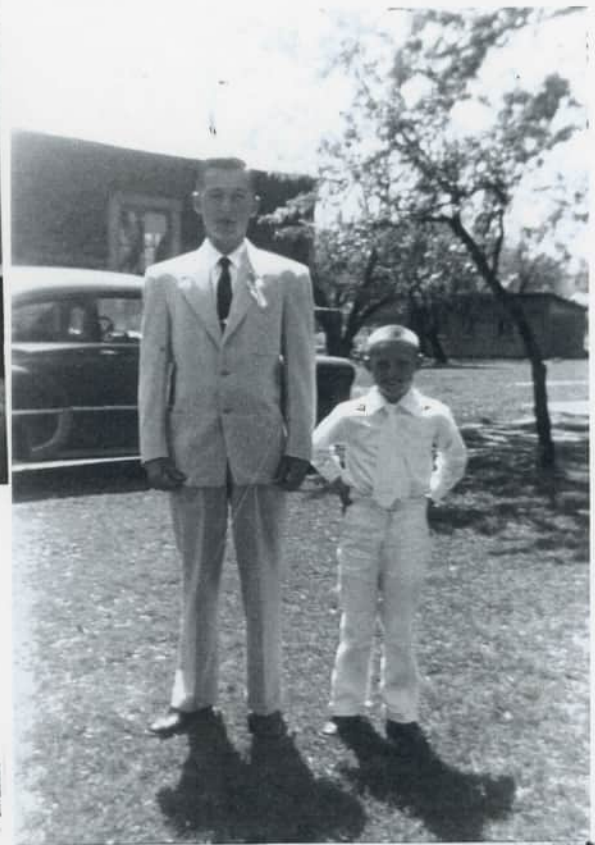
AT THE BALL GAME

1953



AT BALL GAME

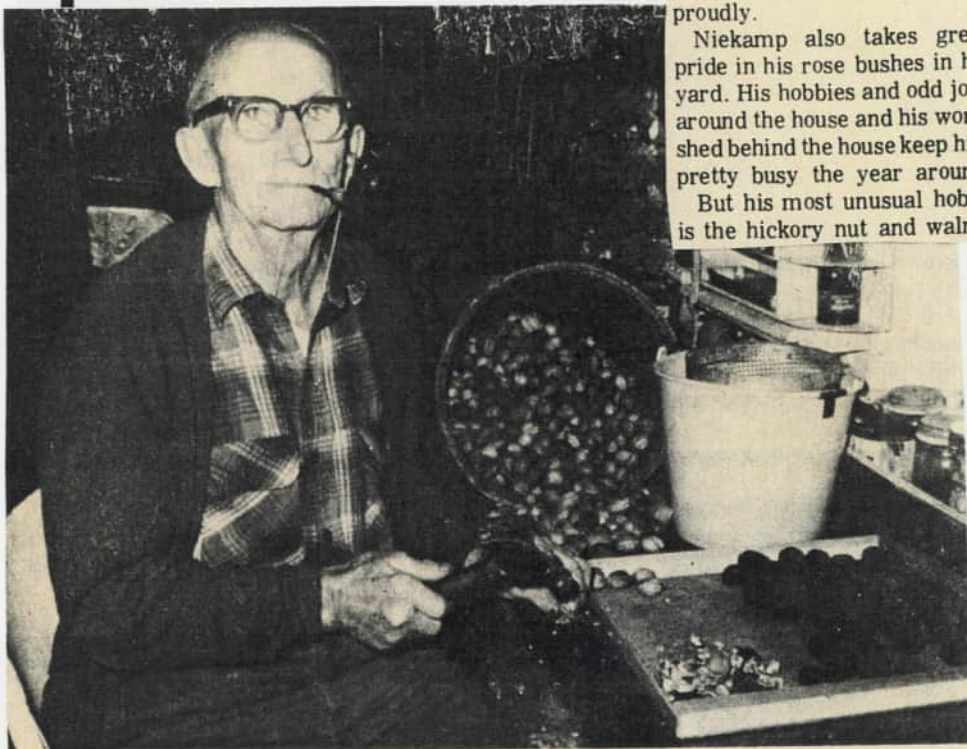
1953





Andrew Niekamp

(Continued from Page 1)



MOST PEOPLE gather hickory nuts and walnuts, crack them and eat them the same day or week, but not Andrew Niekamp of St. Henry who looks at it more like a science. And the results prove it.

Andrew Niekamp says drying key to hobby

Did you ever take a walk through a woods and come across a hickory nut tree or a walnut tree? You probably stopped and picked some up off the ground and took them home. But, did you pick up the best ones?

Andrew Niekamp, who is 81-years-old and lives in St. Henry

with his wife, Alma, says you should pick up only the green ones, whether it be hickory nuts or walnuts.

Niekamp worked at Avco New Idea for many years before later retiring from Mersman Brothers. He kept busy with odd jobs and approximately six years ago

began processing hickory nuts and walnuts as a winter time hobby.

During the warmer months he has a garden to grow vegetables and muskmelon. "I had over 200 melons this summer weighing up to six pounds each," he says

(Continued on Page 11)

processing. Most people gather, crack and eat their nuts within a very short time. This is not the case for Niekamp. His is more of a science.

For the past six years Niekamp has learned a great deal about his hobby. Like knowing which trees are the best for hickory nuts or walnuts. And where he can find those trees.

He doesn't do much of the gathering anymore, but his children, grandchildren and close friends eagerly keep him supplied with more nuts than he can process.

This year has been very good for hickory nuts, but not as good for walnuts. The trees seem to produce good nuts every other year, much like some apple trees.

The kernel of the nut is actually the fruit, he says. Just like other fruits, nuts have different varieties. Niekamp knows which trees in the area have the best nuts and which trees always have bad nuts.

"If I know a tree is not good, I don't even go near it. I can't tell you what makes a tree go rotten or wormy, but it is probably because they do not get sprayed," he said.

Hickory nuts and walnuts should not be gathered until after the first heavy frost. This year was a little unusual as the nuts were ready about Oct. 1.

Hickory nuts should be gathered after they fall and while they are green, not dark like you often see. Hickory nuts should be shelled, but not cracked at that time.

Walnuts also should be gathered green. Niekamp permits his nuts to dry in his heated workshop for six to

seven weeks before they are cracked. This is very important that the nuts are allowed to dry.

After they are dried, Niekamp cracks the nuts. Hickory nuts should be cracked edgewise for better and bigger kernels. Walnuts should be cracked while lying flat on the iron or brick.

Niekamp has a flat iron bar for cracking the nuts. He has made small drill marks in the center of the bar which enables him to handle the nuts while cracking them.

He has a net-type basket he puts the cracked nuts into. The net-type basket is put inside a plastic bucket and shook to allow the dirt and dust to fall through. Walnuts should not be allowed to dry in baskets. They should be spread out, otherwise, they would rot, Niekamp says.

Niekamp processes approximately 20 tomato hamper-sized baskets of nuts each year.

After the nuts are screened, they are taken into the house and again allowed to dry for one week. This lets the kernels contract and lose its moisture, therefore, permitting the kernel to be extracted intact and easily.

They are then put in cans or jars and refrigerated or put in the freezer. They will last for at least two years if processed properly.

Niekamp stressed that he does this as a hobby, or something to do. You can tell

he enjoys his hobby and puts a lot of work into it, but the results are very tasty.

So, the next time you find some hickory nuts or walnuts, remember how Andrew Niekamp processes his and try it yourself. Drying the kernels is the important ingredient. You don't have to struggle to get the kernel out if you let the nuts dry properly.





AUG 73



AUG 73



Society

Margaret Schmit, Society Editor

Saturday Evening, June 5, 1971



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Niekamp Sr.

St. Henry Couple To Celebrate Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Niekamp Sr., St. Henry, will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary with an 11 a.m. Mass of Thanksgiving Sunday, June 13, in St. Henry Catholic Church.

A family dinner will be served at the Coldwater VFW Hall where an open house reception will be held for relatives and friends from 2 to 4 p.m.

Andrew and Alma Bertke were married June 14, 1921, in St. Francis Catholic Church, Cranberry Prairie. The Rev. Othmar Knapke officiated at the ceremony which was witnessed by the late Al Niekamp of North Star and Ann Dickensheets of Dayton.

Mr. and Mrs. Niekamp are the parents of four daughters and five sons. They are Mrs. Elmer J. (Ethel) Rinderle, St. Henry; Mrs. Maurice (Joan) Rammel, St. Marys; Mrs. Joseph (Phyllis) Miller, Battle Creek, Mich.; Mrs. Gerald (Kathleen) Pulskamp, New Bremen; Paul and Thomas Niekamp, St. Henry; Andrew Niekamp Jr., Dayton and James Niekamp of San Antonio, Tex.; and a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Vernon (Beverly) Schulte, Celina. One son Lester is deceased.

They have 50 grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

The couple requests that gifts be omitted.

Congrats To Niekamps
A belated congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Niekamp Sr. of St. Henry, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary June 13. Among their 50 grandchildren are all those Niekamps who have kept St. Henry athletic teams so strong for so long — Pat, Ron, Bob, Paul, Tom, Jack and the other sons of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Niekamp.

50th Anniversary

Alma and Andrew
1921 1971

