



Young love

Harold 'Bud' Schultenover, a sergeant in the U.S. Army; and Gertrude Wild met and fell in love in Germany during WWII. They worked together for a year; and then exchanged letters before Gertrude was able to come to America. The Schultenovers were married at Sacred Heart Church in Staples in 1947. Pictured above, the sweethearts sat on a stone fence near the Czechoslovakian border. (Submitted photo)

GERTRUDE continued from page 1a

Work as a translator led to her future husband

Jewish father was a medical doctor. She thinks the family left Germany and got to England before the Nazis herded them into concentration camps.

She managed to survive the war years, having been ordered to leave college classes and work in a mine where they liquefied coal, making it into fuel. Gertrude was 22 years old in early 1945 when she found herself in Ahweiler, part of the Rhineland, in western Germany. What was left of the German army was retreating, repulsed by the Americans and Gen. George Patton's Third Army as the Battle of the Bulge was pinched off and the American's crossed the Rhine at Remagen. Although not a nurse, she had been working in a hospital, treating wounded German soldiers. The hospital was ordered to pack up and move east. She tried to hitch a ride with retreating army units, but teenage German soldiers told her to stay. "The Russians are in the east, the Yankees are right behind us. Stay here, you will be better off," they told her.

"I wandered back into town and sat on my suitcase. You could hear their cannons. I hope those Yankees know how to shoot straight, I remember thinking."

A man tapped her on the shoulder and said for her to come home with him and his wife. They operated a hotel and gave her shelter. The next morning she remembers a huge American tank crossing the bridge into Ahweiler. Within a few days, the U.S. had a military government unit setting up offices in town. She went there and was sent upstairs, asking a G.I. coming down the stairs if they were hiring. When he found out she spoke excellent English, Sgt. Schultenover hired her. "They put me to work, I translated for the Americans and they treated me very well. I could pay the people who had taken me in."

Although safe, she soon worried about the rest of

her family, her parents and younger sister. She told an officer she was worried about them and didn't know where they were. She was provided with a jeep and driver and went to a relative's farm where they had fled due to the Allied bombing of Cologne, where they had lived most of the war. "See, I told you she'd come with the Yankees," her father exclaimed when she arrived. There home, like the rest of the city of Cologne, was destroyed by fire.

Shortly afterward, Schultenover's unit turned over their territory to the French, as post-war Germany was carved in four regions, each governed by one of the main Allied powers. The Americans were headed east, near the Czech border, and they took their entire German civilian staff with them.

Gertrude recalls dealing with famous people of that time, including Konrad Adenauer, who later became head of the West German government, and General Patton "I never saw a unit snap to attention like they did for Gen. Patton when he came through."

She and Bud had become good friends by this time when something happened that showed his character. There were many Ukrainians there, apparently Russian soldiers who had been taken as POWs by the Germans during the war. A Soviet officer showed up, announcing he was there to pick up all the Ukrainians. Bud and the Americans turned a few of the Ukrainians over to the officer. A day or two later they found several of the remaining Ukrainians had hanged themselves, Gertrude said.

They realized the Ukrainians were either headed for a firing squad or worse,

Siberian labor camps. Bud went to his commanding officer and said he could not hand over any more Ukrainians to the Soviets. The officer said, what if he was ordered to do so. Bud replied he would refuse to obey the order. When the Russian officer returned, the Americans sent him back alone.

Bud was discharged and sent back to the 'States. Gertrude said she first planned to return to the university at Cologne, where she had studied prior to the war. The Labor Office however ordered her to come to work for a British commander who needed a 'Girl Friday.' He had his office in an underground mine and was a taskmaster. "The American WAC's refused to work for this commander, but for me, it was the experience of a lifetime. I spoke my mind, he spoke his and I did what I told him I was going to do."

Officially, any fraternization between Americans and Germans was discouraged, communication forbidden by some of the officers. So Bud and Gertrude had to exchange letters through a 'go-between,' a Belgian lieutenant who Bud had met before he left.

It took the better part of two years to get her papers in order, get a passport and for Bud to send tickets, all their letters delivered by the friendly Belgian officer. She was afraid of the water and ships, so she flew from Frankfurt to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to New York on what must have been one of the first trans-Atlantic passenger services. She remembered the flight included a nurse on board, with everyone being seated by weight.

Arriving at New York, she was questioned extensively by U. S. Immigration. She was informed

she shouldn't be expecting any favors, she would need to find work and not qualify for any handouts. She's never asked for any, she said. Having met Bud when she was 22, she was 24 years old when they were married at Sacred Heart Church in Staples.

She gave up her citizenship in Germany, Gertrude said. "That was especially hard on my parents." Although she had hoped to be able to fly back and see them every couple of years, that didn't happen.

"I was able to see them a couple of times, but Bud and I didn't have a lot of money when we were first married and then we had our two boys. You know how it goes."

She and Bud, who like his father, was a railroad worker in both Staples and Brainerd, had two sons - Ronald and Mark. They both live in the Twin Cities area now and Gertrude now has three grandchildren. Her parents died when they were still in their 60's. Gertrude's younger sister, Ulrike, still lives in Germany.

Before Bud got sick and was moved to the Lakewood Care Center, Gertrude and he were able to travel, which she loved. "We traveled through all of the United States; we took six cruises; traveled to South America and Europe." Gertrude is especially fond of Ireland. "I love the Irish... they tell it the way it is."

CampFort Ripley military cemetery. "I honored him the best that I could; he was willing to give his life for that flag," she said, holding the flag that was given to her at his funeral.

Bud started as a private and was promoted several times, ending the war as a master sergeant - and a very lucky man.

4TH OF JULY BLOWOUT

Coors Light 18-pack plastic bottles \$15.99	Bud/Bud Lite/ Bud Select suitcases ... \$15.99
Miller High Life/ Miller High Life Light 18-pack bottles ... \$10.99	Check out our Firecracker Special Sale Items Section!

Staples '93 Lions Brat/Hot Dog Sale
Friday, July 3 - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
in the parking lot - proceeds for local food shelf.

LIQUOR DEPOT
1017 1ST AVE. NE,
STAPLES
RIGHT OFF HWY. 10
218-895-5710

Tri-County owner charged with cattle theft in South Dakota

The owner of the Tri-County Livestock Sales at Motley has been charged with the theft of cattle at a sales barn he owns in Watertown, South Dakota.



Joe Varner

Joe J. Varner, 52, of Pierz, who owns or co-owns 15 sales barns in three states, was arrested June 23, at the Fergus Falls Livestock Auction.

Varner posted bond shortly after his arrest and is scheduled to make an initial court appearance in Codington County District

Court in Watertown on July 14. Reached by phone on June 29, Varner said that the case would have to make its way through court. "I'm in the business of selling cattle, not stealing them," he said, adding that other than that, he had no comment.

The Todd and Ottertail County Sheriff's departments assisted an investigator from the South Dakota State Brand Board on June 23, in locating and arresting Varner, according to a Todd County news release. He had been the subject of an investigation for several months by the South Dakota Brand Board and the Codington County Sheriff's Department.

An arrest warrant

had been issued in South Dakota for grand theft, a Class Three felony in South Dakota. On March 3, 188 head of cattle with an average weight of 800 pounds, were reported missing from the Watertown Livestock Auction barn at Watertown.

At the time of the theft, the cattle involved were under the control of the U. S. Bankruptcy Court, pending the sale at the Watertown sales barn scheduled for that day.

The complaint alleges that sometime in the early morning hours of March 3, the cattle were taken from a pen on the grounds of the Watertown sales barn.

Minnesota dairy industry briefing

By Keith Olander, Farm Business Management Instructor, CLC, Staples

Minnesota's dairy industry, consisting of over 5,000 farms, contributed several hundred million dollars to the state's economy in 2009. Lately, the industry has been in a tailspin with the wholesale price of milk dropping below \$10 a cwt (100 lbs). The low price is especially shocking, after seeing that price top \$20 in 2008. More significantly, dairy farmers have seen most of that price drop occur from January to March, allowing for not much time to prepare for

such a situation.

To put perspective on this price, on the retail side, a gallon of milk in the store weighs 8.6 lbs and sells for around \$3. Those 100 lbs of milk computes to a retail income around \$36 for the grocery store. This retail income does not account for profit from other butterfat products, such as ice cream and butter that were removed from the milk during bottling.

According to the 2008 Farm Business Management Analysis, a dairy family spends \$12.50 to produce 100 pounds of milk. Furthermore, to pay loans, account for build-

ing and machine expenses the break even cost rises to \$15.75. If the farmer wants to feed and clothe his/her family the break even price rises to \$18.15. With milk currently around \$11.50 at the mailbox (wholesale price to producer), it creates a need for even more intensive management than ever. Minnesota's Farm Business Management instructors are actively participating in that process to assist producers in alleviating the cash flow problems that the dairies are experiencing. When a dairy producer knows the above numbers for his/her operation, they can better plan to "weather the storm" of low prices.

If you would like more information, contact a Farm Business Management Instructor in your area or call 1-800-959-6282.

Music in the Park

Beginning Sunday, July 12, 7 p.m. in the NP Park, next to the Government Center, 611 Iowa Avenue NE, between 6th and 7th Streets. Bring a chair or a blanket. In case of inclement weather, the concerts will be held in Centennial Auditorium.

July 12 - BRUCE AND ELAINE NELSON
They were named to "America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame" in 2009.

July 19 - SKILLY AND DUFF
Irish music and fun, with music like a twinkle in the eye and a touch of blarney!

July 26 - ERIK KIER
Erik is a singer/songwriter performing alternative folk and blues.

August 2 - STAPLES COMMUNITY BAND
Have a night out like it was years ago, with marches and patriotic music filling the air.

August 9 - KRISTI MORRIS
Kristi's music is best described as "country-mountain-Americana-roots-folk-rock."

August 16 - ERIC NEZNIK
A Staples native returns home from Nashville with his rich country voice.

The Series is made possible by a gift from the Staples Host Lions Club and is being organized by the Staples Motley Area Arts Council with the support of the Staples Motley Public Schools and the City of Staples.

FREE

SouthSide Mini Mart's 10th Anniversary
Celebrating July 2 & 3
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

6th St. SE, Staples 894-2757

Hot Dog, Pop & Chips ... \$1
Ice Cream Cone ... 25¢
Pepsi products ... 2/\$5.98 12 pks

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Submit events to dtime@staplesworld.com